

# In and about Washington

March 2023  
FREE—TAKE ONE

## Music, food, crafts set for community festival March 25



### Theme promises A Hot Time in the Old Town

Preparations are well in hand for the second Washington Community Festival planned for March 25. The event, a revival of one that was replaced a dozen years ago by a short-lived Catfish Festival, drew hundreds of people to Washington's historic Main Street last year and is expected to be even bigger this year.

Activities will begin at 9 a.m. Organizers anticipate about 50 booths offering food and crafts made by local people.

Four bands are scheduled throughout the day, including Chubby Carrier and the Bayou Swamp Band (10 a.m. to noon), The Don Fontenot Band (1 p.m. to 3 p.m.), Shotgun Lillie (4 p.m. to 6 p.m.), and Travis Matte (7 p.m. to 9 p.m.). Dee jays will provide music between bands.

Booth spaces are available at \$75 for food and beverage vendors and \$50 for other booths. Anyone interested should call Town Hall at 337-826-3626. Festival shirts are available at the Town Hall for \$20.

First, second, and third prizes will be awarded in a car show held in conjunction with the festival, and vintage cars will be displayed along Main Street. The registration fee is \$25. For information call Greg

Doucet, 337-945-1531, or Ricky Ducote, 337-945-3426.

The events are put together by community volunteers working through the Steamboat City Association, a nonprofit organization formed more than a decade ago to facilitate events and activities for the betterment of Washington and its people.

Inquiries about the festival or the association can be made at [steamboatcityassociation@gmail.com](mailto:steamboatcityassociation@gmail.com).

**IT'S A GOOD TIME IN THE OLD TOWN**

COMMUNITY FESTIVAL  
MARCH 25, 2023

LIVE MUSIC  
CHUBBY CARRIER 10:00 A.M. TO NOON  
DON FONTENOT 1:00 TO 3:00 P.M.  
SHOTGUN LILLIE 4:00 TO 6:00 P.M.  
TRAVIS MATTE 7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.

**Second Annual Car Show**

COMMUNITY FESTIVAL CAR SHOW  
MARCH 25, 2023  
IT'S A GOOD TIME IN THE OLD TOWN.

**CATFISH COOK-OFF  
FOOD VENDORS  
LIVE MUSIC**

**CAR SHOW**

**VENDOR BOOTHS, FOOD & BEVERAGES**

**CATFISH COOKOFF**

337-826-3626  
STEAMBOATCITYASSOCIATION@GMAIL.COM  
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Registration - 8AM - 10AM Registration Fee \$25  
Awards at 2PM

Class 1 - 1989 models and older  
Class 2 - 1990 models and newer  
1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each class

Additional Awards  
TOP 25  
Mayor's Choice  
Best-In-Show

ON MAIN ST. WASHINGTON, LOUISIANA

Trailer parking at Steamboat Restaurant  
CONTACT INFORMATION  
GREG DOUCET 337-945-1531 • RICKY DUCOTE 337-945-3426

## 2-In and about Washington, March 2023

### Of Note

**AMERICAN LEGION** Post 209 will hold a Wild Game Cookoff, Saturday April 1, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the American Legion Home. Proceeds will help maintain the home. Entry fees are \$35 for an individual, \$50 for a team, Contact Don Simoneaux (337-290-1661) or Dale St. Cyr (337-344-0469).

**THE STEAMBOAT CITY** Association is accepting provisional applications for two \$750 scholarships for graduating high school seniors who live in or near Washington. Contact Jim Bradshaw, P.O. Box 1121, Washington 70589, or jimbradshaw4321@gmail.com

**THE WASHINGTON BAPTIST** young people's program each Wednesday at 6 p.m. offers Bible study and pizza.

**THE HEALTH BUGGY** provides free screening for blood pressure, blood sugar, and cholesterol from 8 to 11 a.m. each third Friday. on the Immaculate Conception parking lot.

**AN ELDERLY AWARENESS** event is planned for the Washington Community Center from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on April 26.



### Cedar Hill planting

The Washington Cemetery Foundation donated 12 cedar trees to be planted in Cedar Hill Cemetery, most of them along the fence line on the east side of the cemetery. The northern red cedar trees are the same variety that are already growing in the cemetery.

### Hazardous waste day March 4

St. Landry Parish recycling centers will accept household hazardous on March 4. The event is open to parish residents only, who must show proof of residency, and to households only.

Collection will be from 8 a.m. to noon at the Opelousas center, 2717 W. Landry St

Accepted waste includes paints, automobile batteries, motor oil, antifreeze, household cleaners, household chemicals, pesticides, flammables, corrosives, tires (limit 5 per vehicle), fluorescent tubes and bulbs, electronic waste, cell phones, and cell phone batteries.

Prohibited items include medications, infectious and medical wastes, biological and radioactive materials, compressed gas cylinders, ammunition, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, and explosives.

### Antique fair third weekend

The Antique Fair and Yard Sale at the Old Schoolhouse Antique Mall will be held this year on April 14 through 16.

The event is usually held on the second weekend in April except on it is Easter weekends, when it is moved to the third weekend of the month.

The twice-yearly event is also held on the second weekend in October.





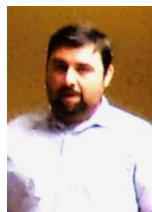
### Police station repairs

Long-needed repairs are being made to make the police station behind town hall serviceable again. Grant money is being used to fix a leaky roof, remediate mould infestation, and redo the interior of the building. It has not been used in at least a year because mould issues forced the department to move to temporary quarters in town hall.

### Wilson picked mayor pro tempore

Beau Wilson, Town Council member from District 1 since 2014, was elected mayor pro tempore to serve in the absence of the mayor. He is the first to be formally elected by his peers, although the town charter calls for an election.

Since the charter was adopted in November 2010, the member at large has usually run town meetings and performed other duties when the mayor could not attend, although that was never formalized. Wilson was nominated by at-large council member Erick Fontenot.



Washington's Home Rule Charter provides: "The Council shall elect one of the Council Members to be Mayor Pro Tempore who shall preside at all meetings in the absence of the Mayor, have the same power, and perform all duties of the Mayor in the absence or disability of the Mayor, except the veto power of the Mayor."

### Dog ordinance hearing March 20

A public hearing will be held before the regular Town Council meeting March 20 to discuss an ordinance to prohibit dogs running loose in Washington.

The ordinance would, among other things, require that dogs are confined in such a way they cannot get off owner's premises, and makes it illegal to allow a dog to chase vehicles, harass or attack passers-by, or "continuously bark, howl or otherwise disturb the peace."

### From Town Hall

#### THE TOWN COUNCIL

accepted donation of a used police vehicle from the St. Landry sheriff's office and approved a resolution to sell old police vehicles requiring substantial maintenance as surplus property.

#### GLORIA NEWMAN

was approved by the Town Council as a part-time police dispatcher for evening coverage.

#### THE MAYOR

was again named the town's representative to the board of the Louisiana Municipal Natural Gas Purchasing and Distribution Authority. Council member Mary Ann Lavergne will be the alternate, replacing former council member Bobby Ledet.

#### THE WEATHER

##### February 1-26

High: 81, Feb. 23  
Average High: 66.2  
Low: 30, Feb. 4, 18  
Average Low: 46.5  
Feb. Rainfall: 4.61  
Avg. Feb. Rain: 5.26  
Rain for 2023: 11.40  
Avg. Yearly: 8.71

#### 4—In and about Washington, March 2023

## Bayou was first named for Opelousas Indians

Bayou Courtableau is called the Opelousas River on early maps, for the Indians who lived on its banks. It was probably named for the early settler Jacques Courtableau in the late 1700s.

According to tradition, the Opelousas recognized a natural bluff near where Bayou Boeuf and Bayou Cocodrie join to form the Courtableau as a place to launch their boats into a stream that, with its branches, could take them to practically any place they needed to go. That junction is just north of the present town limits.

The Opelousas were not related to the larger Attakapas tribe that once occupied most of southwestern Louisiana, but are frequently identified with them because they shared the Attakapas language and because of the proximity of the two peoples. The principal Opelousas village was at the edge of the Atchafalaya Basin, about fifteen miles east of Opelousas. There were still some tribal members in the area in the middle 1800s. An item in the *Opelousas Patriot* noted in 1844 that “an Indian lad, the grandson of the head of the Opelousas tribe, was thrown from his horse . . . and was so severely injured that he died . . . a few hours afterwards.” Census documents indicate that a few may have remained into the early 1900s, but no tribal members were identified after the 1920 census.

Joseph Blanpain and Joseph LeKintrek, who came here from New Orleans, were almost certainly the first traders in the area. They formed a partnership on December 11, 1738, to trade for pelts, horses, and such exotic commodities as bear grease, and set up a post near the Boeuf-Cocodrie junction, probably in early 1739. They were certainly in the area in April 1740, when they signed a new partnership contract “aux Houpelousas” (at the Opelousas River).

Jacques Courtableau, who gave the bayou its current name, was in the area at least by 1756. A baptism recorded on May 16, 1756, by the visiting priest Father Pierre Didier was held at Courtableau’s home, which was used for religious ceremonies before a church was established. Courtableau probably came to the area several years earlier.

He was born in 1723, the son of Jacques Courtableau (père) and Catherine Menu, who were married in New Orleans in 1721. The senior Courtableau was described as “a cooper who migrated to New Orleans in 1719,” probably from Biloxi.

The bayou was still known as the Opelousas River on May 31, 1763, when Courtableau received a grant for land stretching for 100 arpents on the southern bank of the stream and another twenty arpents fronting on the northern bank. His grant of nearly nine thousand acres, stretched to the site of present-day Port Barre and included the junction of bayous Teche and Courtableau.

Jacques built upon that grant to become one of the largest landowners on the bayou. According to his succession, he lived on the southern bank, raised cattle and grew indigo, and “accumulated much land and property” before his death in 1772.



*Looking Back*

In and About  
Washington

Member  
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