



St. James Parish

Sheriff's Office

ANNUAL REPORT

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Dear friends,

Welcome again to our annual report, a part of our continuing efforts to strengthen the lines of communication between you and your sheriff's office.

In your opinion, which is more important; stopping crime before it starts or responding to a call for help as quickly as possible? My answer is "both," as each is a vital component of our sworn mission to protect you and keep our community safe.

Football fans often disagree on whether it's better to have a good offense or a good defense. The truth of course, is you must have players on both sides of the ball who are good when they have to be good. In other words, a good offense is the best defense.

Our good offense includes many community outreach programs and constant efforts to prevent crime and accidents. In this report are stories about our traffic safety checkpoints, training for deputies, a senior citizen driving course and the distribution of free firearms safety kits.

Our good defense is highlighted in articles about our constant training for deputies, DWI enforcement and a new look for our patrol units which makes them more visible.

Just as a good football team, the St. James Parish Sheriff's Office (SJPSO) works hard on offense and defense. We constantly strive to provide you with the highest quality of service possible. You deserve no less.

Join our team. Help the linemen, running backs, receivers, kickers and defensive specialists in your sheriff's office by reporting a crime when you see one. Dial 9-1-1 if something doesn't look right in your neighborhood or if someone approaches or telephones you with a "too-good-to-be-true" opportunity.

We will respond. With teamwork we will continue to keep our community safe.

Please, let me know how I or the St. James Parish Sheriff's Office can further assist you.

Very truly yours,

Willy J. Martin, Jr.
Sheriff, St. James Parish

ST JAMES PARISH

SHERIFF

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New Look

Sporting a redesigned logo and fresh decals, St. James Parish Sheriff's Office patrol units have a new look. Not only are the new cars more attractive, they actually increase the visibility of SJPSO vehicles on the streets of the parish.

The new decals and striping reflect light, making units more detectable at night and allowing residents to more easily see an officer patrolling their neighborhood.

The new decals will also help protect deputies. Motorists coming upon a sheriff's office vehicle at a nighttime accident scene or call for assistance can see it from farther away, allowing them more time to stop or slow down.



Deputy Training

Accident Reconstruction and Investigation

Specialized training allows deputies to quickly and safely review a motor vehicle accident. Each sheriff's unit is equipped with unique accident investigation tools such as cameras, measuring wheels, tape measures and marking paint which aid deputies in their analysis of what happened.

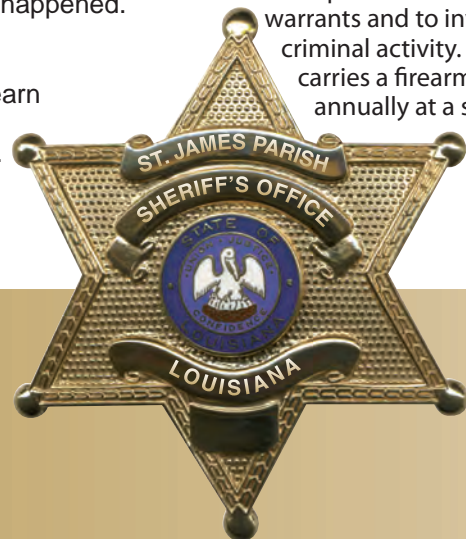
Evidence Gathering

The old saying, "You learn something every day," can be applied to the St. James Parish Sheriff's Office. Deputies

and our administrative staff continue to undergo training to stay abreast of changes in the law and new office procedures for handling paperwork necessary to prosecute cases.

Recently, SJPSO deputies completed training on evidence collection. Deputies must follow strict guidelines for these procedures, as evidence not gathered exactly as the law states may be thrown out of court.

All deputies are trained to carry out warrants and to investigate potential criminal activity. Each deputy who carries a firearm must train annually at a shooting range.



Lieutenant Earl Geason and Sheriff Martin look over the new logo design and decals on a SJPSO patrol unit.

RIF

DWI Enforcement

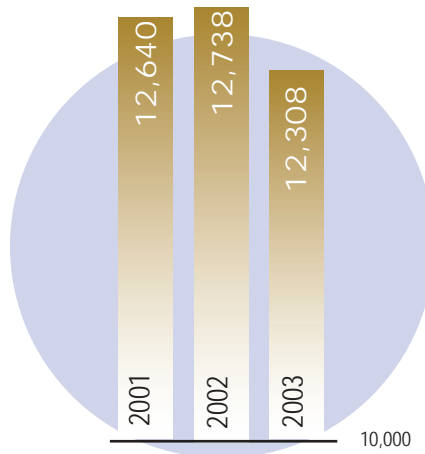
Keeping drunk drivers off our roads remains a top priority. "More deputies are certified by the state to administer breathalyzer tests than at any time in our history," said Sheriff Martin. "Once a person is brought in on DWI charges, we can process the suspect faster and don't have to take a deputy off the road to come in and run the machine."

The Intoxilyzer 5000 machine represents some of the latest technology in detecting drunken driving. It precisely measures blood alcohol levels, the limits of which have recently been lowered to .08 from .10 to be charged with DWI. The machine is linked via computer to Louisiana State Police Headquarters, where a database of all DWI arrests is kept.

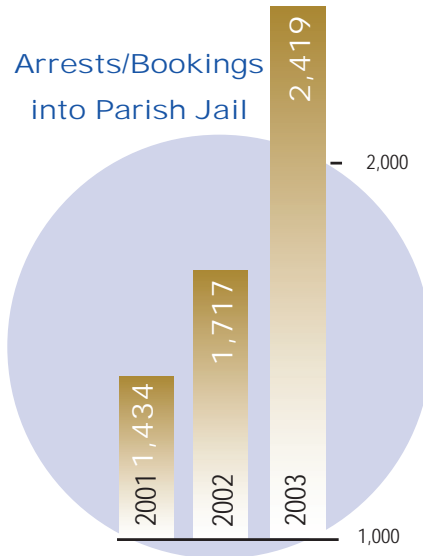


Sergeant Mike Kirby simulates a sobriety test with the Intoxilyzer 5000 machine. The computerized equipment uses a suspect's breath to analyze blood alcohol content.

Calls for Assistance



Arrests/Bookings into Parish Jail



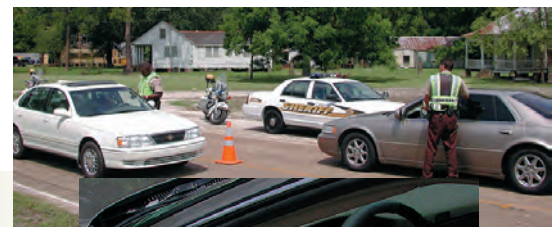
Traffic Checkpoints

If you drive, there are several things you must have in your possession or on your vehicle; your driver's license, vehicle registration, proof of insurance, current inspection sticker and a valid license plate. To ensure compliance, the SJPSO routinely sets up traffic safety checkpoints.

"The majority of people we inspect have everything in order," said Sheriff Martin. "Enforcing traffic laws protects the public. Plus, it's not fair to those obeying the law to allow those breaking it to drive."

At these roadblocks, deputies also observe drivers and passengers for hints of drug or alcohol use. "If someone acts suspiciously, we may have a problem on our hands and act accordingly."

Deputies verify the use of seat belts and if applicable, child restraint devices. Children who are less than specific weights and heights must be restrained in an automobile. For information on using a child seat or for help installing one, contact the SJPSO.



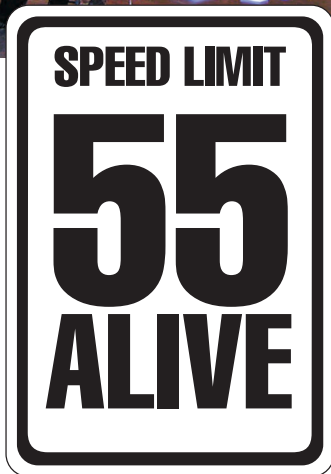
55 Alive

As part of our efforts to assist senior citizens, the St. James Parish Sheriff's Office is conducting "55 Alive" driving courses. These seminars, in cooperation with the American Association of Retired Persons, (AARP) help older drivers improve their skills while avoiding accidents and traffic violations.

"The course centers on problems seniors encounter as they grow older such as changes in vision, reaction time and other physical factors which can influence their ability to drive," said Sheriff Martin. "This course helps older motorists stay safe on our roadways."

The "55 Alive" course includes updates on traffic laws and defensive driving skills. Planning trips, taking less demanding routes and adjusting driving for different road conditions are among the dozens of topics covered. Those completing the course may be eligible for a reduction in auto insurance rates.

The eight-hour program is usually taught in two, four-hour sessions on successive days, scheduled to accommodate participants. Contact the SJPSO at 225-562-2211 for more information.



Project ChildSafe

We pay particular attention to protecting children. As a participant in the nationwide campaign Project ChildSafe, the SJPSO is distributing free gun locks as part of an effort to reduce accidental firearms deaths.



Sponsored in part by the National Shooting Sports Foundation, a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice and the firearms industry, Project ChildSafe has handed out some 15 million firearms safety kits in all 50 states throughout the past year. The packets include a safety brochure with a variety of options for firearms storage and a free cable-style gun lock.

"In Louisiana, we take great pride in and enjoy our heritage of hunting and outdoor pursuits and owning a gun is a tremendous responsibility," said Sheriff Martin. "These free locks will help keep firearms safe, but, no gun lock can substitute for safe, careful gun handling and storage. Ultimately, it's the gun owner's obligation to keep the home safe."

Look for SJPSO deputies handing out free gun safety kits at numerous locations throughout the parish.

Sheriff Martin and Detective Darek Jones demonstrate the use of a free gun lock available through Project ChildSafe and the St. James Parish Sheriff's Office.



Awards & Honors



Sheriff Willy Martin recently completed his term as president of the Louisiana Sheriff's Association. The group represents some 17,000 deputies and 65 sheriffs in the state and is one of the leading voices in Louisiana on issues relating to law enforcement.



Captain Gufielle Keller received a "Drum Major for Justice Award," which is presented in memory of Dr. Martin Luther, King, Jr., from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Captain Keller recently retired from the SJPSO with 36 years of service. He continues to work with us part time.

Three representatives of the St. James Parish Sheriff's Office were recently honored by the Louisiana Housing Council and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for their work with the St. James Parish Housing Authority.



Detective Nora Steib has been cited for "best support of a housing authority by a law enforcement officer." Detective Steib is a 13 year veteran of the SJPSO.



Captain Craig Poché was honored for his continued work with the local housing authority. Captain Poché has been with the SJPSO for 24 years.



Chief Deputy Heria "Butch" Williams was noted for his efforts to aid the local housing authority. Chief Deputy Williams, a 27 year veteran of the SJPSO, was cited for his continued support of the local agency.