

St. James Parish Sheriff's Office

ANNUAL REPORT

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Welcome to the St. James Parish Sheriff's Office Annual Report

Like all of you, I'm happy to see hurricane season wind down. The anxiety of watching a tropical wave – somewhere out in what seems to be the middle of the Atlantic Ocean – become a tropical storm and then become a hurricane and then take aim at the Gulf Coast is a worrisome experience.

Fortunately, we were well-prepared for Hurricane Gustav and his brother Ike who showed up two weeks later.

The St. James Parish Sheriff's Office takes our training for just such an emergency very seriously. We prepare for "worst case scenarios" in many different circumstances and immediately take action when the time comes.

As during Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the SJPSO was again put to the test with the hurricanes of 2008. I am once again proud of the performance of the men and women of the St. James Parish Sheriff's Office during these challenging events. Certainly, there are some things we can do even better and that is exactly what we intend to do – use this experience to further enhance our procedures and equipment to serve you.

I thank the law enforcement and public safety agencies who sent officers to help us out during Gustav and deeply appreciate the local businesses and citizens who came forward during our parish's time of need to lend a helping hand. I also commend the great people of St. James Parish for preparing themselves and behaving in an orderly manner during and after the storm.

In this issue you'll find articles about Gustav and Ike, our partnership with Crimestoppers, improvements to our web site, new technology and an interesting graphic pointing out just how much money it takes to outfit a SJPSO deputy.

Looking after and protecting you is our job and we are staying busy. Arrests, as well as calls for assistance remain constant. The number of automobile accidents continues to rise with more than 900 in the parish in 2007. On average, every other day we make an arrest for the possession of illegal drugs.

Let's all continue to work together as we recover from the storms of 2008.

Please let me know if I or this office can ever be of service to you. In any emergency, dial 911.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Willy J. Martin, Jr." in a cursive script.

WILLY J. MARTIN, JR.
Sheriff, St. James Parish

Gustav

St. James Parish received two unwelcome guests in early September when Hurricanes Gustav and Ike blew through.



Governor Jindal and his staff met with Sheriff Martin and other local officials to discuss Gustav's effect on St. James Parish.

In preparation for Gustav, a recommended evacuation was issued. A curfew initiated Sunday, August 31 continued through the week. SJPSO deputies worked 12-hour shifts during the storm, with as many as 40 patrolling each evening.

“Sheriffs’ offices in Caddo, DeSoto and Ouachita Parishes sent deputies to lend a hand.

The Louisiana Office of Probation and Parole, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, State Police and the National Guard also sent help. The State of Arkansas stepped up and provided 26 wildlife agents to assist our efforts,” Sheriff Martin said. “We teamed loaned officers with our personnel to patrol the parish with two persons in each unit.”

Estimates put the sustained winds from Gustav at 88 miles per hour with gusts much higher. Trees and utility lines were downed, knocking out power. Several businesses, homes and parish buildings sustained major damage. Parish jail trustees were used to clean up debris in many public areas. Governor Bobby Jindal personally surveyed the damage after the storm.



The courthouse served as headquarters for East Bank operations while the Range/Training Facility on LA Highway 3127 was the West Bank command post. A 100KW generator allowed the facility to house officers. Many local businesses and citizens donated food, supplies and their time to help out.

“Fortunately, people were more ready for Gustav and there was no loss of life in St. James,” Sheriff Martin said. “Hurricane Katrina provided us many lessons in 2005 and our training, emergency procedures and special equipment kicked in.”

Less than two weeks later Hurricane Ike passed well south of St. James. No significant damage was reported but rain and winds from the storm increased already high water levels on both sides of the river.

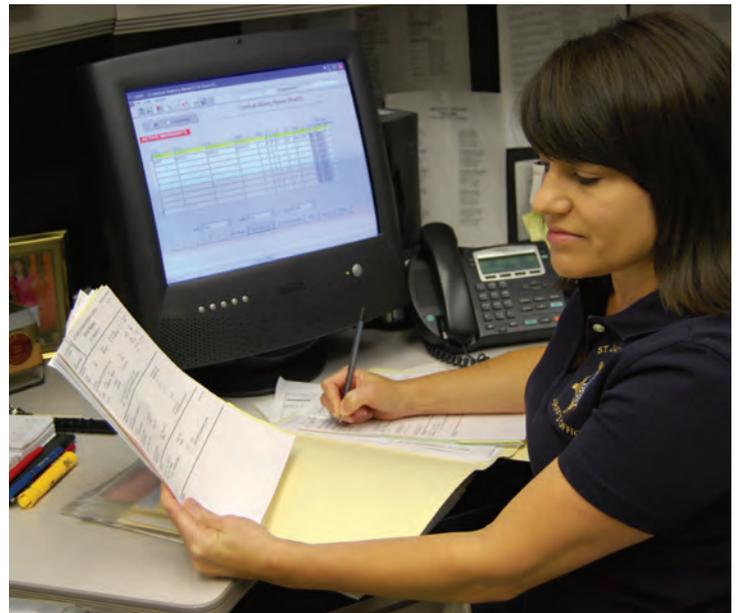


West Bank Courthouse Annex

Crews work to restore utilities on LA Highway 3125



Technology Update



Deputy Rhonda Rodrigue coordinates all records and ARMMS reports. A 25-year veteran of the SJPSO, Deputy Rodrigue sees to it that all data is backed up daily on our system and the parish's computer server.



First put into use by the SJPSO in 2003, the Automated Records Management & Mapping System, or ARMMS, allows us to employ computer technology to keep track of crimes and identify problem areas. Now, the SJPSO has become the first law enforcement agency in the state to submit monthly data on crime electronically.

“We are required to turn in crime statistics every month to specific reporting agencies. Before going electronic, reports were done in writing, increasing the chance of error.” Sheriff Martin said. “With the ARMMS program, the SJPSO can pinpoint the time, location and nature of disturbances, project patterns of criminal activity and stop it by taking pro-active steps.”

ARMMS allows a SJPSO dispatcher to see in an instant a complete history of calls for assistance from the phone number dialing in. Besides the location, we can determine which deputy handled each call and the result of the visit.

Faster Video Transfer

We are currently installing a system that will speed up data transfer time from SJPSO patrol units to our main computer. Audio and video files are currently saved to a recorder in the vehicle's trunk. This new process will use a memory card instead of a DVD recorder, conserving space and providing reliable file storage. When data is transferred, supervisors and deputies are able to mark sections of the video for evidence.

Once transferred, memory cards are wiped clean, ready to be used again on the next patrol. Download ports are being installed at our motor pool and at the West Bank office in Vacherie. Other transfer points may be added throughout the parish.

Camille "Meal" Carnaggio 1950 – 2008



The SJPSO lost a dear friend with the passing of Camille "Meal" Carnaggio in Mach of 2008.

For 30 years, "Meal" served as a reserve deputy. He was a charter member of the Paulina, Grand Point and Belmont Volunteer Fire Departments for 38 years and served as chief for 30 years. A true public servant, "Meal" will be sadly missed.

Four Wheelers and Golf Carts

We respond to calls for assistance. That's our job. When someone contacts us about irresponsible riders of four-wheelers, dirt bikes or golf carts on residential streets, we send a deputy to investigate. Despite stricter enforcement, writing citations and repeated warnings, these vehicles are still being used on parish roads.



"When we ticket a golf cart, dirt bike or ATV rider we always hear, 'Don't you have anything better to do? Shouldn't you be arresting criminals?'" Sheriff Martin said. "The fact is yes, we do have better things to do. But the law is the law and it is illegal to operate four-wheelers and golf carts on parish roads unless they meet certain safety requirements and have a permit."

Golf carts in particular must be equipped with brake lights, turn signals and a list of other items for street use. Four-wheelers can be similarly outfitted. "Before you invest in customizing these vehicles, check with us for a list of what you need to lawfully ride on parish roads," Sheriff Martin said.

"We understand that if you own a four-wheeler or golf cart, you want to use it," Sheriff Martin said. "All we ask is that you comply with the law by making your vehicle street-legal and operate it responsibly."

stjamessheriff.com

We continue to improve our web site, stjamessheriff.com, to better serve you.

At our Internet home, you can access tips to prevent crime, a list of "most wanted" fugitives, employment opportunities with the SJPSO, activities for children and contact information for our divisions.

Dates and times of upcoming community events are listed. Please, visit us often at stjamessheriff.com and give us your ideas on how we can make the site even better.

What It Costs

Outfitting a St. James Parish Deputy is an expensive proposition. Here's a breakdown of some equipment issued and approximate costs.

Hat & Hat Press & Hat Badge, \$148

Badge, \$55

Collar Insignias & Name Tag, \$20

Short Sleeve Uniform Shirt, 5 @ \$50

Long Sleeve Uniform Shirt, 3 @ \$55

Weapon, \$500

Holster, \$120

Magazine & Pouch, \$48

Inner Belt, \$35

Outer Belt, \$42

Belt Keepers, 3 @ \$6, \$18

Radio, Charger & Holder, \$4,200

Handcuffs \$25 & Pouch \$40

Freeze Spray \$11 & Pouch \$15

Pants, 5 @ \$44 each

Not Shown

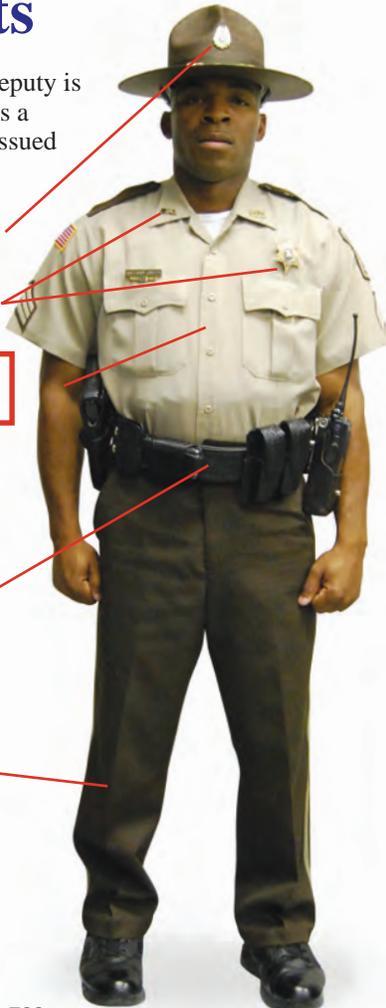
Jacket, \$170

Bullet-proof Vest, \$500

Traffic Vest, \$25

Raincoat, \$30

Flashlight & Charger, \$120



Sergeant Anthony Joseph

Approximate Cost of Supplies: \$6,739

30 Years and Going Strong!



2008 marks at least 30 years of continuous full-time service for four SJPSO employees. Shown here being congratulated by Sheriff Martin are (L-R) Deputy Greta Melancon, who joined the SJPSO in 1978, Deputy Rita Stewart, on duty since 1971, Sheriff Martin, Deputy Rhonda Roper, service since 1977 and Chief Deputy Butch Williams, who also signed up in 1977.

Thank you Greta, Rita, Rhonda and Butch for your dedicated service to St. James Parish!

CRIMESTOPPERS



Sheriff Martin is interviewed by a local television reporter after a bank robbery in the parish. A tip to Crimestoppers helped lead to the arrest of a suspect in this case and earned a reward for the anonymous caller.

Crimestoppers of Greater New Orleans has partnered with the SJPSO to offer rewards for information leading to the arrest of suspected criminals. Formed in 1981, the non-profit organization has helped solve more than 9,500 felony crimes in the eight-parish area and paid out more than \$1,400,000 in cash rewards.

“If you see something, know something or want to say something, call us at 562-2200, or Crimestoppers at 504-822-1111 or 877-903-STOP,” Sheriff Martin said. “This program lets citizens help law enforcement and make our community safer. All tips are anonymous. We want your info, not your name.”

Rewards up to \$5,000 are offered in murder cases. “Tips about other crimes also earn cash, including those that lead to the recovery of weapons used in a crime,” Sheriff Martin said. A person calling Crimestoppers is assigned a code number by an operator. The information is given to law enforcement to investigate. If the information was useful, the caller qualifies for a cash reward when checking back in.

To receive the reward, a Crimestoppers volunteer meets the tipster in a public place and pays in cash, no matter the amount. You can also provide a tip online, at crimestoppersgno.org.

Sheriff Martin Appointed to State Panel

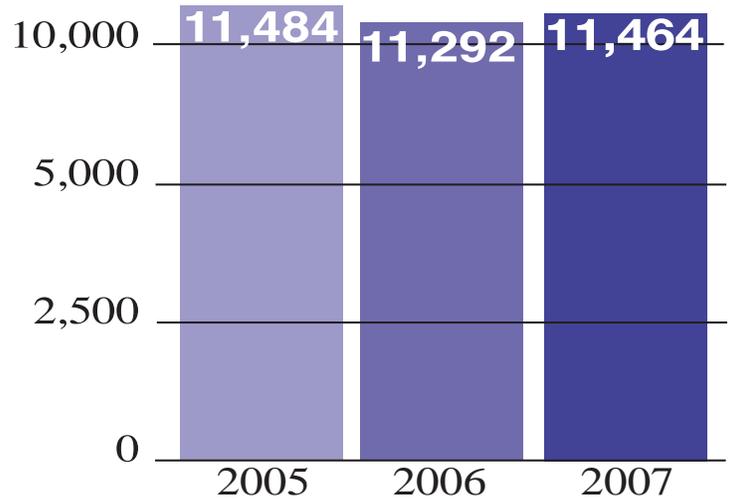


Governor Bobby Jindal has appointed Sheriff Willy Martin to the Louisiana Emergency Response Commission, LERC. The 20-member panel is charged with establishing, coordinating and reviewing emergency response plans.

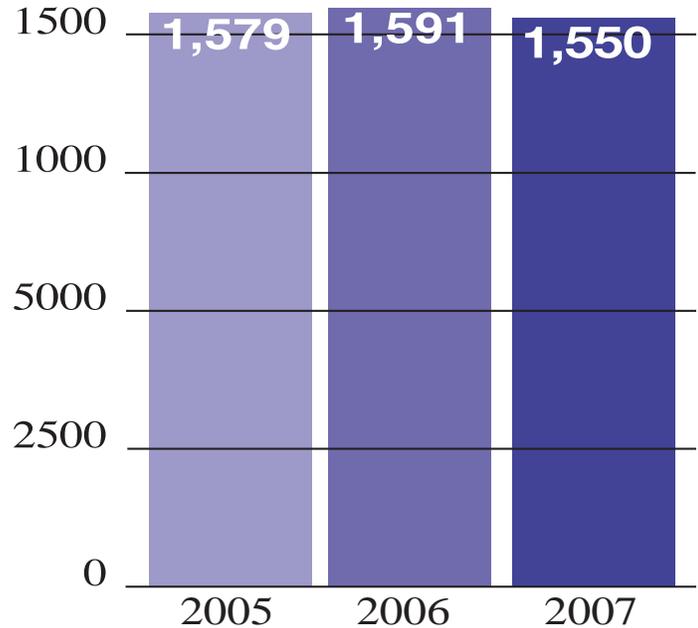
The LERC also acts as the central advisory body for state and federal Right-to-Know activities with regard to hazardous substances. Appointees come from the military, chemical industry, agriculture, law enforcement, government and environmental interests.

The committee also works with the Environmental Protection Agency to provide information concerning hazardous material releases, develop reporting procedures and suggest substances which should be defined as hazardous.

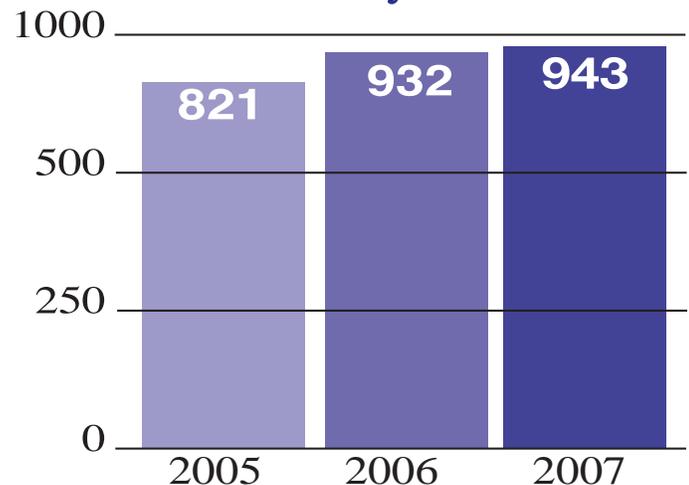
Calls for Assistance



Bookings into Parish Jail



Automobile Accidents Worked by SJPSO



2007 Drug Arrests 184