

St. James Parish SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ANNUAL REPORT 2013





Our Mission
The St. James Parish Sheriff's Office is committed to providing quality law enforcement to the residents, businesses and visitors of our parish. We strive to establish safe and secure communities so that our residents can live, prosper and have peace of mind. Our primary goal is to serve and protect while exhibiting honesty, integrity, fairness and concern to all. By committing ourselves to the citizens of St. James Parish, we recognize the importance of our duty to make our parish a safe and secure place to live and grow.

St. James Parish Sheriff's Office 2013 Annual Report

Dear Fellow Citizens of St. James Parish,

Thank you for taking the time to review this report, highlighting some of the initiatives and activities of your sheriff's department. As one of the many available avenues of communication between us, one of the goals of this publication is to keep you informed, involved and on the team that works together to fight crime and keep St. James safe.

When looking back on the past year, one thing definitely stands out; we stayed busy.

Through the past twelve months the dedicated men and women of this office responded to more calls for assistance, made more arrests, booked more suspects into the parish jail and worked more automobile accidents than the previous year. We made fewer drug and DWI arrests, so perhaps the anti-drug-and-alcohol-abuse message we constantly repeat is getting through. You can help by taking a few moments to visit frequently with young people you know. Talk honestly with them, explain the consequences of their actions and steer them away from a life of crime and violence.

Again, communication is the key.

Speaking of keys, there are a few new sets around here as several vehicles have been added to our fleet. The details are inside as well as stories on recognition for our personnel, technological upgrades, the expansion of services available through our web site and a new weapon that gives officers a less-than-lethal alternative to control unruly suspects.

As communication options continue to expand, it's easier than ever to stay in touch with us. Emails, text messages, cell phone or land line calls to our office all get the same result; we respond. I urge you to dial 911 immediately if you see anything that looks suspicious and do not hesitate to let me know personally if our department can ever be of service to you.

Very truly yours,

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

New Equipment

Being prepared to handle any situation that threatens public safety is the top priority of the SJPSO. To fulfill that mission, we've acquired some new equipment, making us even more ready to respond to your call for assistance.



Deputies Lex Sweeney and Marshall Budd, along with Sheriff Martin, examine three of the latest additions to the SJPSO fleet of vehicles.

Humvees

A monetary donation from Marathon Petroleum has funded the purchase of three military-surplus High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV) or Humvees and a special, shallow-water boat.

"Much of our parish consists of low-lying areas, vulnerable to high water," Sheriff Martin said. "These vehicles will be very useful in such situations, whether delivering sandbags and supplies when rising water threatens, or evacuating residents in the event of flooding. They can also carry personnel and heavy pieces of equipment wherever needed."

The Hummers found their way to St. James through Fort Polk and are equipped with snorkels that can attach to the engines, allowing them to easily travel through up to three feet of water.



Cell Phone Safety

It is illegal and very dangerous to text while driving. Studies show that a texting driver is 23 times more likely to be involved in a crash and the average text takes your eyes off the road for five seconds. If you are driving 55 miles per hour, that's the equivalent of traveling an entire football field without looking at the road.*

**Virginia Tech Transportation Institute and US Department of Transportation*

Calling All Campers

Our summer camps for parish youth grow in popularity each year. Separate sessions for boys and girls feature numerous activities and positive interaction with law enforcement officers. If interested in having your child participate in this free event please contact us.

Surface Drive Boat

A specially designed, shallow-water boat and engine are ready to assist citizens when needed. "This Gator-Tail rig can ride on a few inches of water and just about go through a mud puddle," Sheriff Martin said. "It will be useful when we need to move people or supplies through shallow water as well as augmenting search and rescue operations, as it can go where conventional boats can't."

The Gator-Tail is extremely maneuverable and has a full, non-skid floor, allowing it to carry more cargo. It sports high-intensity lights in a protective housing.

"On behalf of our department, our personnel and the people of our parish, I thank Marathon for this generous donation."



Captain Karl Melancon, our Training Director, pilots the new watercraft.



stjamessheriff.com

The latest information from your sheriff's office is at your fingertips – literally! Our web site, stjamessheriff.com, is available 24/7 to provide you with an Internet link to our department.

We continue to make more services available through the site, including recently adding a portal where traffic tickets can be paid using a credit or debit card. While at our site, sign up to receive important text notifications. Let us know how we can make our site even more convenient for you and find us on Facebook at "St. James Parish Sheriff's Office."

stjamessheriff.com

Body-Worn Video Cameras

The old saying "Seeing is believing," can now be applied to a new video system being used by SJPSO deputies.

"Some of our officers, particularly those who interact with the public frequently, are wearing small, two inch by three inch video cameras on their uniforms," Sheriff Martin said. "These tiny units make a record of interactions between an officer and the public, whether that's a traffic stop, serving a warrant, making an arrest or responding to a call for assistance."

The waterproof cameras, which are password protected to prevent erasures, record hours of video and audio that is downloaded to our computer system for easy retrieval. "The public, as well as our officers, are protected from getting into a 'his word against mine' situation."

The tiny video camera worn by deputy Dustin Poché records the actions of Deputy Gordon Fenley, who oversees our motor pool, during a simulated traffic stop.



What We See

stjamessheriff.com

Less-Than-Lethal Weapon

When we are called to restore order to a situation, the use of force is always a last resort. Deputies now have a new, less-than-lethal tool to protect themselves and the public in such instances; the JPX Pepper Spray Gun.

"Traditional pepper spray is an effective deterrent, but can contaminate an entire area and make our job even harder," Sheriff Martin said. "The JPX allows a deputy to deliver with pinpoint accuracy a highly concentrated, irritant gel that sticks to a suspect, disabling him for a minimum of 20 minutes."

Deputies armed with the JPX have undergone special training in the use of the weapon, which has a laser sight and delivers the irritant – which is twice as hot as traditional pepper spray – at 450 feet per second. For now, the JPX will be used primarily by deputies in our corrections center.



The JPX Pepper Spray Gun shoots a precise portion of concentrated pepper spray.

Thank You RTC!

Reserve Telephone Company "RTC" recently donated a used bucket truck to the SJPSO. The vehicle allows our technology department to access raised cameras on our ever-expanding network of video surveillance outposts. Having our own truck saves money and allows installation, repairs and maintenance to be done when needed – not when we can arrange to get the necessary vehicle.





L-R; Detective Derick Washington, Sheriff Martin, Detective Keith Guerin and Detective Julie Scioneaux with Certificates of Appreciation from the US Drug Enforcement Agency.

Officers Honored

Three SJPSO detectives have been honored for their continuing efforts to rid our parish of illegal drugs. The United States Drug Enforcement Agency recently commended our personnel for their work that led to the arrests of multiple drug pushers while gathering solid evidence for their prosecution.

Paying Respects

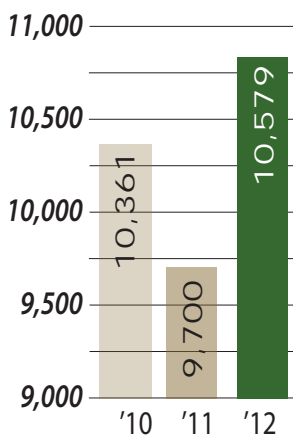
L-R; Sergeant Dustin Jenkins, Sergeant Anthony Joseph, Sheriff Martin, Sergeant Duran Steib and Sergeant Travis Lawless recently attended events in Washington, D.C., during National Police Week. The delegation also visited the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, where the names of four Louisiana sheriff's deputies killed in the line of duty in 2012, including two from neighboring St. John the Baptist Parish, were added to the list of nearly 20,000 law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty.



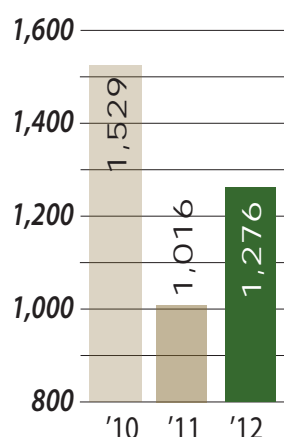
Percy Luke

Deputy Percy Luke recently retired after many years of dedicated employment with the SJPSO. Deputy Luke worked primarily in our corrections division. Thanks for your service, Percy!

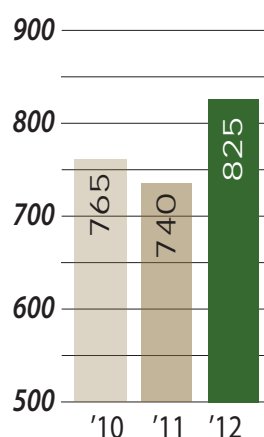
Calls for Assistance



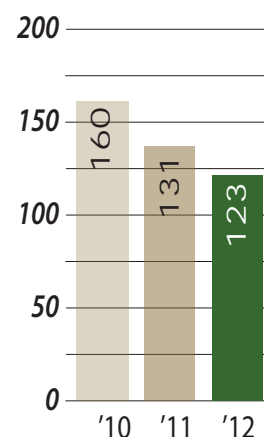
Bookings Into Parish Jail



Automobile Accidents
Worked by SJPSO



Drug Arrests



DWI Arrests

