

# St. James Parish Sheriff's Office



ANNUAL REPORT  
2015



# St. James Parish Sheriff's Office Annual Report 2015

Dear Fellow Citizens of St. James Parish,

It is my pleasure to welcome you once again to our annual report on some of the activities of your sheriff's office. We continue to work on your behalf to keep St. James Parish safe.

Ours is a dangerous job. Recently, several of our deputies were involved in a gunfight right here in St. James Parish which could have resulted in serious injury or death. Thankfully, our officers' training kicked in, they handled the situation expertly and were not injured. The shooter was not so fortunate and is now awaiting trial.

We strive to stay ahead of the technological curve, keeping equipment and training programs as up-to-date as possible. We rely on input from people who would actually use new products or protocols before acquiring or instituting them. Recently, this "hands-on" method led us to choose the Ford Explorer 'Interceptor' as our new patrol vehicle. Similarly, after much research, we acquired new electric carts to enhance patrol and crowd management operations and have also recently purchased a drone to provide aerial views of any situation.

The number of calls for assistance we receive has remained somewhat constant through the past three years, hovering around 10,200. Bookings into the parish jail also average out to about 1,200 yearly. Disturbingly, the number of automobile accidents in the parish has spiked some 13%, going from 801 in 2013 to 925 in 2014. Just like you, I'd like to know why.

I cannot pinpoint the reason for more car crashes, but perhaps it's all that technology I just spoke of. More and more distractions in automobiles inevitably lead to more and more accidents. Every day we see drivers on cell phones that are not paying attention, or worse, texting while behind the wheel. At highway speed, a five second text can take your eyes off the road for the length of a football field. Fiddling with an electronic device can do the same.

Set a good example for young passengers in your automobile by practicing good driving habits. Our children watch what we do and learn from us.

Speaking of watching, although we try hard to see everything, we cannot be in all places at all times. Help us by being another pair of eyes and ears. If you see something suspicious, dial 911. If you know of a crime, call our tip line or Crimestoppers. Let's continue working together to keep St. James safe.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I or this office can ever be of service to you.

Very truly yours,

**WILLY J. MARTIN, JR.**  
Sheriff, St. James Parish  
willy.martin@stjamesla.com



## New Vehicle Storage Pavilion

A covered storage area has been constructed at the fleet operations facility in Vacherie. The structure protects various pieces of equipment including boats, high water/rescue vehicles, generators and four wheelers from the elements. Servicing all vehicles and equipment at one location saves money and increases efficiency.

## It's a Bird... It's a Plane... It's a Drone!

As part of our continuous efforts to employ the latest technology to ensure public safety, we have acquired an unmanned aerial vehicle, more commonly known as a drone.

"In a tactical, emergency response, or hazardous materials situation, we can use the drone to survey the scene and enact the appropriate response," Sheriff Martin said. "No personnel would be put in harm's way as we can see everything from a safe distance. The drone will also be very useful in a search and rescue operation."

The Phantom II drone is equipped with a high definition camera that transmits live video and photographs.



*Deputy Gordon Fenley, a licensed pilot, operates the SJPSO drone. This aerial view of the fleet maintenance facility, including the new storage pavilion at rear, was taken from the drone.*



*Crimestoppers President Darlene Cusanza (L) and Cynthia Lee Sheng, (R) daughter of the late Jefferson Parish Sheriff Harry Lee present Sheriff Martin with the Lifetime Achievement Award.*

## Crimestoppers Lifetime Award Presented to Sheriff Martin

Sheriff Willy Martin was recently honored for his decades of service to St. James and his commitment to keeping our community safe. At the 30th annual Crimestoppers gathering, Sheriff Martin received the Sheriff Harry Lee Criminal Justice Lifetime Achievement Award.

More than 15,000 felonies have been solved through Crimestoppers, which offers cash rewards for anonymously submitted tips to law enforcement investigations. Visit [crimestoppersgno.org](http://crimestoppersgno.org) or phone 504.822.1111 if you have information about a crime.





Deputy DeWayne White (L) and Sergeant Dustin Jenkins familiarize themselves with a new SJPSO electric vehicle.

## Electric Carts

They may look like golf carts, but that's where the resemblance ends for two new electric vehicles joining the SJPSO fleet. Totally street-legal, the vehicles have headlights, taillights, turn signal indicators and a state-issued license plate. "These vehicles have strong motors, extended range and heavy duty frames and add to our ability to patrol and interact with citizens," Sheriff Martin said. "They will be especially helpful at fairs, festivals and sporting events where maneuvering through crowded areas would be difficult with a traditional unit."



## The Interceptor Patrol Unit

After much research, miles and miles of road tests and input from deputies, the Ford Explorer will be the new flagship vehicle of the SJPSO. When compared to a stock version, the special police "Interceptor" unit has a larger engine, increased electrical capacity and special suspension tailored for law enforcement. Interceptors fit the size, cargo capacity and ease-of-use requirements for our department. Some 16 new units will be on parish streets soon with more to come as older patrol vehicles are gradually phased out.

[stjamessheriff.com](http://stjamessheriff.com)

## People News



Claude Louis has been promoted to Captain and is now Chief of Detectives.



Matt Randle has been promoted to Lieutenant and serves as Assistant Warden for the jail.



Captain Faron Scioneaux is the new Supervisor of the SJPSO training facility/range in Vacherie.



Edward Scott has been promoted to Captain and is the new Warden for the detention center. Captain Scott is also marking 30 years of service with the SJPSO.

## Retirees

After decades of dedication and hard work, several employees have retired. Thank you for your service to the SJPSO and the people of our parish!



Ann Duhé



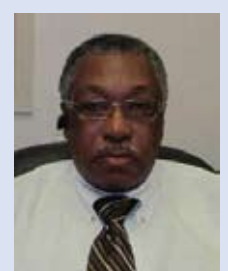
Marva Dumas



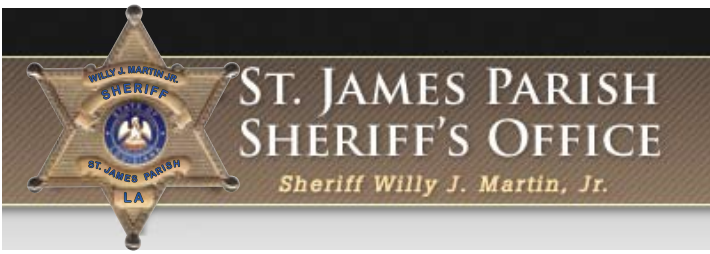
Barry LeBlanc



Karl Mélançon



Willie Taylor



[stjamessheriff.com](http://stjamessheriff.com)



St. James Parish Sheriff's Office



@StJamesSO

To make it even easier to use and further strengthen the lines of communication, our web site, [stjamessheriff.com](http://stjamessheriff.com) has been totally redesigned, with simpler navigation and quick access to popular items. Many transactions can be completed through the site and an anonymous tip line is also available to help us solve crimes. Please visit soon and give us your feedback on making our online home even better.

While at [stjamessheriff.com](http://stjamessheriff.com), sign up for timely alerts via the NIXLE system. You can also text SJPSO to 888777 and begin receiving emergency and useful information from our office.

Follow us on Twitter. Our handle is @StJamesSO.

## Summer Camp

The SJPSO continues to host its annual summer camp for parish girls and boys at the training facility on the West Bank. The Wednesday through Friday program features numerous activities and promotes a sense of community as parish youth interact with peers and law enforcement from different parts of St. James. Contact us about having your child participate.

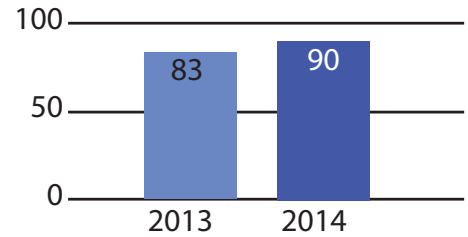
Sheriff Martin helps local girls catch fish at the annual summer camp.



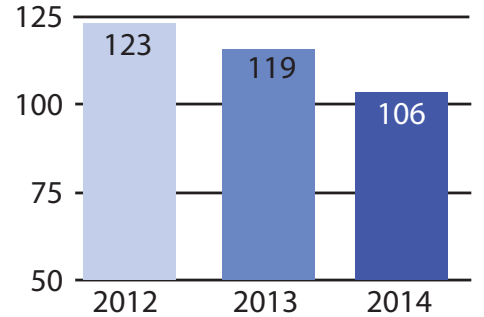
They were biting!



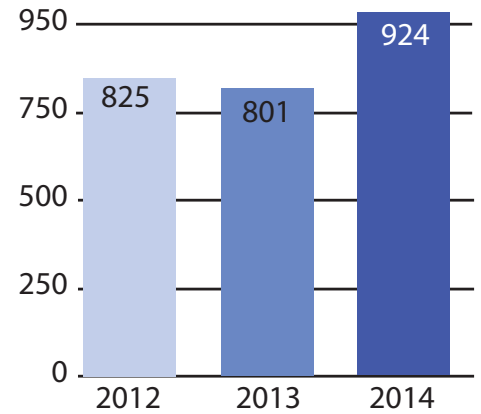
### DWI Arrests



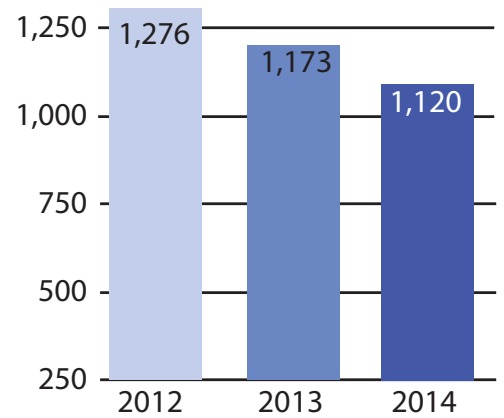
### Drug Arrests



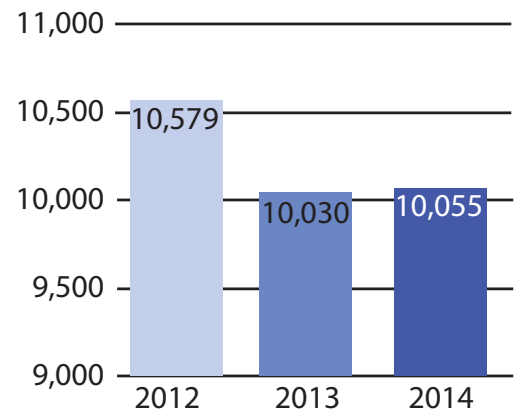
### Motor Vehicle Accidents Worked by SJPSO



### Bookings into Parish Jail



### Calls for Service





# St. James Parish Sheriff's Office

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St. James Parish Sheriff's Office



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## Sheriff's Office Survey

In the last year, did you call the sheriff's office for assistance?  Yes  No

If yes, did you dial the office number or 911?  Office  911

In your neighborhood, what's the most important issue we can address?

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What programs currently sponsored by the SJPSO would you like to see expanded?

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Any suggestions on new community outreach efforts we could undertake?

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How long have you lived in St. James Parish and what is your zip code? \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to be contacted personally to discuss law enforcement issues in our parish, please provide your contact information.

Name	Address	Telephone	E-mail
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Please return to:

Sheriff Willy J. Martin, Jr.  
St. James Parish Sheriff's Office  
5800 Louisiana Highway 44  
Post Office Box 83  
Convent, Louisiana 70723  
225.562.2200 Fax: 562.2380

Post Office Box 27  
Vacherie, Louisiana 70090  
225.562.2510 Fax: 562.2512

### 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.*

**Emergency Dial 9-1-1**