



**St. James Parish
Sheriff's Office**

**Annual
Report**

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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.

Dear fellow citizens of St. James Parish,

Welcome to our annual report. In this issue, you will find summaries of a few of the many activities of your sheriff's office as we work to keep our parish safe.

When I'm out in the community, I'm often approached by citizens with concerns and questions. I welcome these opportunities. In an effort to address some of the more frequently asked questions, here are some answers.

I know that 4-wheelers and golf carts are a concern. I'm often asked if we don't have better things to do than chase children "of all ages" around. We would prefer to be responding to situations requiring our urgent attention, but, we will not ignore requests from law-abiding citizens to address the issue of unlicensed and non-permitted vehicles and drivers on 4-wheelers and golf carts. It is illegal to operate these vehicles on parish or state roads unless they have the proper equipment required by state law. Contact us for information on what you need to do to make these vehicles "street legal."

Not only is texting while driving illegal, it is also an extremely dangerous practice that has caused numerous accidents. Law enforcement officers will cite drivers for this violation.

Many people would argue that cell phones are out of control. They could also make a good case that distracted drivers are very dangerous drivers. But, we still have the right to use cell phones while driving in Louisiana. We should all use good judgment as to when and how we use our phones so we don't end up with laws limiting their use while operating a vehicle.

You can and should dial 9-1-1 to report any unusual activity. Use it if you suspect a driver of being drunk or a road menace. Use it if you see a young child left in an unattended vehicle who may be in danger from excessive heat. Call us if you see anything that looks even the least bit out of the ordinary.

It's part of our mission to keep the community informed of and involved in our activities. Let us know if your group would like a speaker from our department for your next meeting or if you would like a tour of our operation.

Please do not hesitate to let me know how this office or I personally can ever be of service to you.

Very truly yours,

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

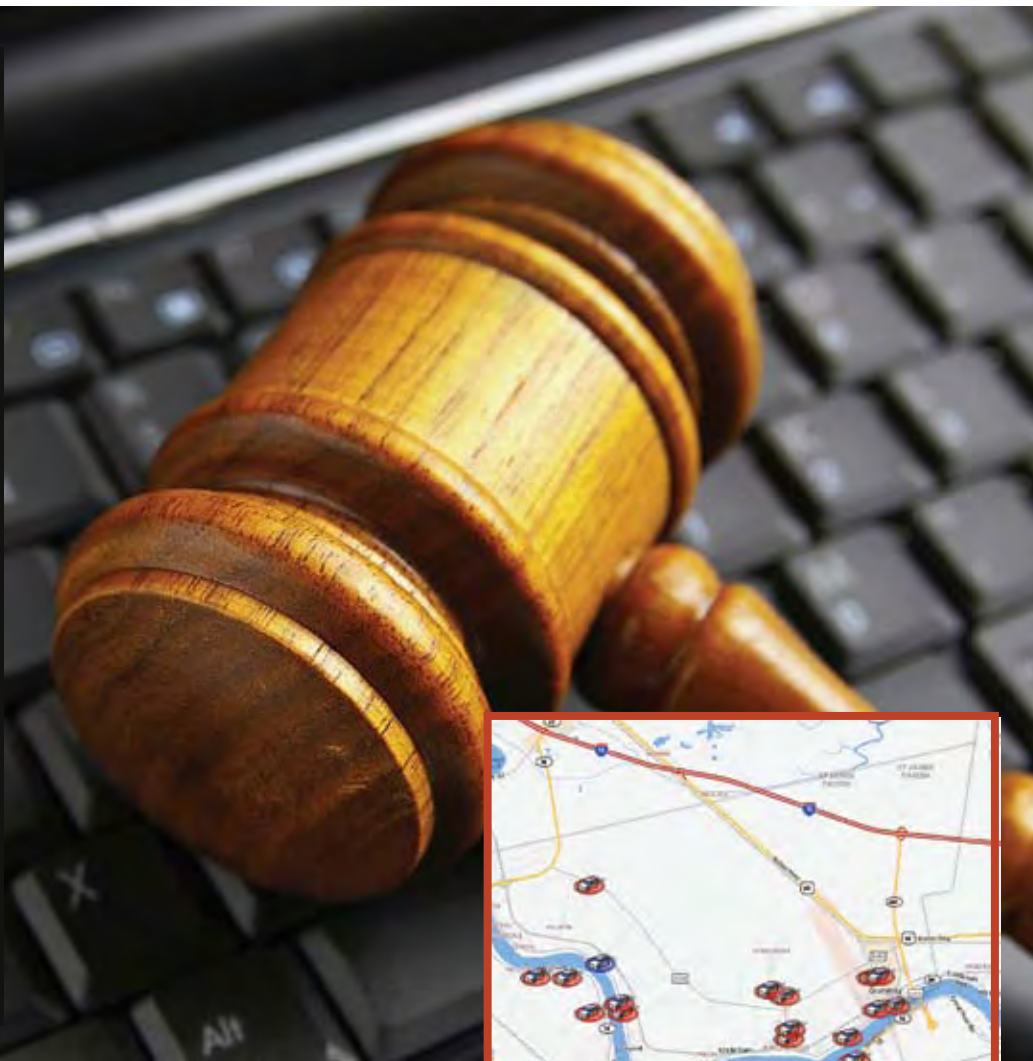
Vsigner

Acquiring a warrant in St. James Parish for a search, arrest, release order or preset bond used to take anywhere from three to five hours. These days, thanks to a new, web-based electronic system, it takes about 17 minutes.

Vsigner allows a deputy to type up a warrant and E-mail it to a judge who can approve it by attaching an electronic signature and e-mailing it back. Formerly, warrants had to be written, taken to judges and then brought back to the scene of an investigation.

"Vsigner saves us valuable time and it can be a great aid in investigations," Sheriff Martin said. "If a deputy carrying out a warrant sees evidence of another crime, he can get another warrant without leaving the premises. We can make stronger cases against criminals who commit multiple crimes and free up personnel to perform other duties."

Besides law enforcement agencies, Vsigner is used by district attorneys, clerks of court, justices of the peace and parish/municipal governments.



Automatic Vehicle Locators pinpoint the position of SJPSO units. By merging this technology with our computer-aided dispatch system, the history of calls from a particular address can be relayed to the laptop in a patrol unit.

Bookings Into Parish Jail

2008 1,550
2009 1,742
2010 **1,529**

Calls for Assistance

2008 11,575
2009 10,371
2010 **10,361**

Automobile Accidents Worked by SJPSO

2008 985
2009 906
2010 **765** - 12 were DWI-Related

Drug Arrests

2008 195
2009 186
2010 **160**

DWI Arrests

2008 118
2009 127
2010 **190**

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Vehicle Tracking System

New technology allows the SJPSO to respond even more quickly to your call for assistance as sheriff's office vehicles are now equipped with an AVL - Automated Vehicle Locator. The device provides vehicle location to 911 operators, allowing them to dispatch the deputy closest to a request for help.

"These AVLs allow us to pinpoint where our vehicles are at all times and to send the right type of help to a particular call," Sheriff Martin said. "Our response times will decrease as dispatchers automatically see a display of available units when a call for assistance comes in."

Besides location, AVLs provide data on unit speed, distance covered in a certain time period and information to help schedule regular vehicle maintenance. In

the event a deputy is involved in an accident and cannot call for help, the AVL will provide that unit's location.

"We can tell exactly what areas are being patrolled, when they are being patrolled and when units are inactive," Sheriff Martin said. "AVLs will help us get to you faster."



Rape Aggression Defense

It's a simple idea: Everyone has a right to learn to defend themselves, particularly women in situations of imminent or actual assault. That's the basic premise behind R.A.D., or Rape Aggression Defense classes.

Created in 1989, the R.A.D. course begins with instruction in awareness, prevention, risk reduction and risk avoidance. It then progresses to teaching the basics of carefully selected, realistic self-defense tactics by certified instructors, including special techniques for fighting back, attracting help and escaping a threatening situation. Being prepared to deal with an attack can be the best tool to fight off a potential assailant.

Please contact us if your organization or school is interested in hosting a R.A.D. class.



Sergeant Mary Rita Kliebert and Deputy Vernal Manuel lead a recent R.A.D. class for high school-aged women. The course teaches self-defense techniques and methods to escape from a threatening situation.

Report

Summer Youth Camp

The first annual SJPSO Summer Youth Camp attracted young men from across the parish to the three-day, two-night event. Held at the SJPSO Range and Training Facility in Vacherie, the camp taught participants about self-esteem, ATV safety, dangers of drugs, online safety, seatbelt usage, physical fitness, firearm safety and marksmanship.

"Campers, deputies and sponsors had a great time. This is a wonderful opportunity to interact with youngsters in a friendly, non-threatening manner," Sheriff Martin said. "They need to know that we are 'the good guys,' and they can always go to a deputy with a safety issue that needs addressing."

Sheriff Martin plans to expand the camp and its programs each year. Special thanks go out to those who helped make it such a success: The North and South Vacherie Volunteer Fire Departments, St. James 4-H, LA State Police, LA Wildlife and Fisheries, LSU AG Center and professional football player Corey Webster of the New York Giants, a St. James High School graduate.

The SJPSO Summer Youth Camp participants enjoyed many activities and, of course, great food!



Child Safety Seat Check-up

Louisiana law requires every driver who transports a person less than 13 years old to have the child properly secured. The fine for not using an age and/or size-appropriate passenger restraint system is \$170.50.

The SJPSO recently held a Child Safety Seat Check-up to help motorists ensure that the restraints they are using are safe and installed correctly.

With dozens of child safety seats on the market, it's vital that the one you use is installed correctly. If you would like to arrange for a free examination of your safety seat, please telephone us at 225-562-2374 and make an appointment with Sergeant Anthony Joseph or Deputy Dustin Poché.

Automobile accidents are the number one cause of death for children more than six months old. The simplest and most effective thing anyone can do to protect a young child in an automobile is to properly use the restraints.

Visit our website, stjamessheriff.com for more information on the proper use of child safety seats.



Deputy Dustin Poché (L) and Sergeant Anthony Joseph (C) give advice on the proper use of a child safety seat.



2011

30 Years and Counting!

Captain Amos Woods recently marked 30 years of continuous service with the SJPSO. Thank you, Captain Woods, for your dedication to the people of St. James.



Captain Amos Woods



Buckle Up – It's the Law!

Wearing your seatbelt can save your life and your money! The fine for not using one is \$25 for the first offense and \$50 the second time. All occupants of a vehicle are required to buckle up.

stjamessheriff.com

Visit stjamessheriff.com for current news on the activities of your sheriff's office. A department directory, information on sheriff's sales, a schedule of traffic fines and much more information are all just a computer click away. One tab even allows users to check the status of prisoners in the parish jail.

While you're online, consider going to the St. James Parish website, stjamesla.com, and signing up to receive text messages in the event of an emergency.

Visit stjamessheriff.com frequently and let us know what we can do to make our website even more helpful to you.

