

St. James Parish

Annual Report



Sheriff's Office

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St. James Parish Sheriff's Office

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

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 again to our annual report, a summary of just a few of the programs and activities undertaken by your sheriff's office to keep our parish safe.

In the last year, we have made substantial upgrades to our crime-fighting technology. A visible one is the installation of video cameras in certain areas of the parish. New, automatic license plate recognition systems instantly scan plates and alert deputies to potential illegal activity regarding that vehicle. We have also put in place a text and email-based notification system that can target very small areas affected by emergency situations.

A recent challenge we faced was Hurricane Isaac and our department performed admirably. We were prepared, managed the situation during the storm and helped the parish quickly return to normal activities afterwards. Our training and investments in quality equipment and a solid communications network allowed us to effectively manage emergency operations. I commend the citizens of St. James for their conduct during Isaac as we responded to very few reports of criminal activity.

As part of our continuing efforts to interact with young people and lead them towards productive lives, we have expanded our summer camp to include a session for girls. This camp will grow each year with your continued participation and backing.

We remain deeply involved in our community and remain committed to doing whatever we can for you or an organization in which you hold membership to help fight crime. Let us know how we can help. As always, I ask you to please use our outstanding 9-1-1 system at any time to report suspicious or potentially criminal activity in your neighborhood. We will respond.

Thank you for all you do and for your continued support of our efforts to keep St. James safe.

Sincerely,

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

Trustees and volunteers filled some 10,000 sandbags, SJPSO personnel worked 12-hour shifts and homeowners scrambled to protect property from wind and water as Hurricane Isaac crawled across St. James Parish in late August.

With sustained winds of 50 miles per hour and gusts of 73, Isaac was not an unusually strong storm, but it was a wet one. 10.4 inches of rain fell on St. James, causing flooding in some homes. Power was lost, shelters were opened, roads closed and a curfew put in place.

“Our biggest threat was rising water after the storm passed that didn’t subside until days later,” Sheriff Martin said.

SJPSO assisted the St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff’s Office with search and rescue efforts when rapidly rising water flooded thousands of homes there, stranding some residents.

“Numerous agencies sent assistance to our parish including sheriff’s offices in Orleans, Iberia, Iberville, Vermilion and Ascension” Sheriff Martin said. “The Pontchartrain Levee District Police, Hunt Correctional Center and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries helped out and I thank them all on behalf of the people of our parish.”

Hurricane Isaac

Photos Courtesy of St. James Parish Government



Louisiana Bicentennial Badges



2012 marks 200 years of Louisiana statehood and to observe the event, the SJPSO has commissioned special badges for deputies.

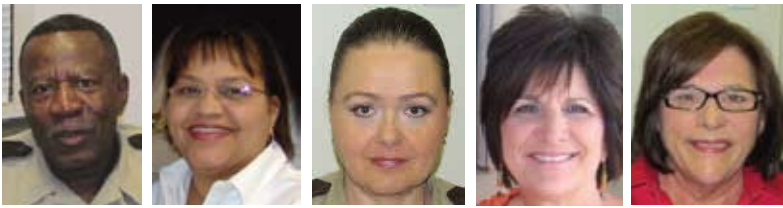
Besides the commemorative design, the badges bear the officer’s name, a privilege usually reserved for a sheriff. Deputies purchased their own special badges and will be allowed to keep them when the department reverts to its traditional hardware in January of 2013.

stjamessheriff.com



We search for and work to enhance any method of communicating with the public about our activities and efforts to keep St. James safe. Please visit our web site, stjamessheriff.com for news updates and crime-fighting information. We also invite you to interact with us on Facebook, where you can find us at “St. James Parish Sheriff’s Office.” We look forward to your feedback on how we may better serve you.

Employee News



Moving On

Five longtime SJP SO employees have retired after decades of devoted service to the people of our parish. Thank you for a job well done!

L-R: Larry Fletcher, Joycelyn Steib, Greta Melancon, Tana Brazan, Karen Tramonte



Department Changes

Sheriff Martin has announced new responsibilities for several employees. L-R, Deputy Dee Batiste works with our S.A.L.T. – Seniors and Lawmen Together and T.R.I.A.D. programs, coordinating operations between law enforcement and senior services. Our criminal investigation division has a new Detective as former patrol officer Cody Hoorman moves to that department. Lt. Claude Louis, Jr. sees an expansion of his responsibilities as the new Supervisor of Criminal Investigations and Sid Berthelot, formerly a Captain, has been promoted to Major and oversees the general workings of the department as Chief of Operations.



Two deputies have moved up in rank as Dustin Jenkins (L) and Duran Steib (R) are now SJP SO sergeants. Both men are assigned to our patrol division.

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Camping Out

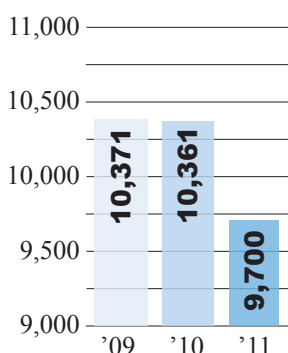
The SJP SO's Summer Youth Camp has expanded to include a session for parish girls to enjoy activities at our training facility on Highway 3127 in Vacherie.

The boys and girls camps' feature physical fitness programs, public safety demonstrations, fishing and games. Please contact us for more information on these free programs.

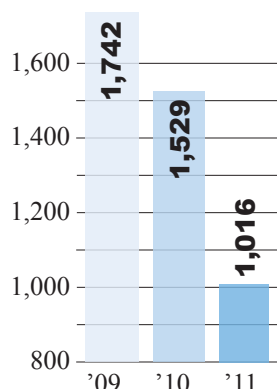


The Numbers

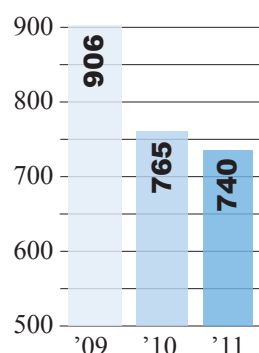
Calls for Assistance



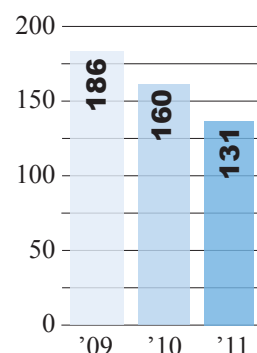
Bookings Into Parish Jail



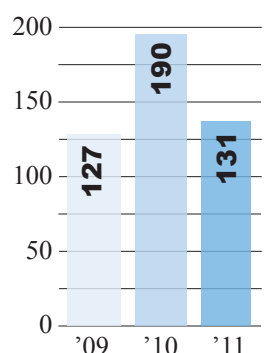
Automobile Accidents
Worked by SJP SO



Drug Arrests



DWI Arrests



Technology Upgrades

We're watching!

The first of many video cameras to observe and record activity has been installed on the East Bank of the parish. Soon, other cameras will join an initial planned network of 20 units, allowing surveillance of areas with historically high vehicle and/or pedestrian traffic.

A grant from the Port of South Louisiana helped with the \$6,000 price tag for each remotely controlled camera, which instantly broadcasts images to the SJPSO, where they are preserved.

"These cameras will help us keep St. James safe, providing evidence that could be used in court to get convictions," Sheriff Martin said. "They give us an extra eye, but can't see everything. Please, if you observe something suspicious, call 9-1-1 immediately. We will respond."



nixle

A new avenue of communications between the SJPSO and citizens is open with the implementation of the Nixle (nick-sull) service for delivering text and email messages.

"Nixle gives us the ability to target messages to residents registered for the service in an area as small as a quarter of a mile," Sheriff Martin said. "For events such as emergency road closures, an incident at a nearby residence or business or a shelter-in-place order, we can now contact only those residents affected, making our efforts more efficient and reducing inconvenience to others."

Sheriff Martin said that unlike online social networks, "Information from Nixle can be totally trusted because it comes from your sheriff's office." Sign up for the free Nixle service today at stjamessheriff.com so we can begin sending important community and emergency information directly to you.

License Plate Recognition

A state-of-the-art system for capturing license plate images allows the SJPSO to instantly check the status of a vehicle for warrants or other potential law enforcement issues.

"Unique, dual lens cameras on specially equipped units can scan thousands of license plates per hour in parking lots and even as a vehicle passes one of our patrol units at high speed," Sheriff Martin said. "The system instantly checks the plate with law enforcement databases including the F.B.I.'s National Crime Information Center, allowing a deputy to take immediate action if the vehicle has been stolen or involved in criminal activity."

Paid for in part by a grant from the Metropolitan District Law Enforcement Planning and Action Committee, several of the \$15,000 cameras have also been inconspicuously mounted on utility poles in high traffic areas of the parish.

Sheriff Martin and Deputy Evans Joseph go over the operations of the automatic license plate recognition system. Each shift has a unit with this new technology.

