

St. James Parish Sheriff's Office **Annual Report** 2014





St. James Parish Sheriff's Office Annual Report 2014

Dear Fellow Citizens of St. James Parish,

Please allow me to point out some of the many efforts we make and community activities we engage in to keep our parish safe.

■ This annual report will provide a quick glance into how we spend our time.

■ We average 10,000 calls a year for assistance.

■ The SJPSO makes close to 1,200 arrests in a 12-month period.

■ We investigate about 800 traffic accidents a year.

Of all the numbers we can discuss, the most important ones to keep in mind are 24, 7 and 365. We are here for you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year.

In this issue you'll find an article about our efforts during the high water episode of 2014. There's also a story featuring our new Special Response Team or S.R.T., which can be activated to handle a situation that imperils the public or law enforcement. You can also read about new patrol units, the relocation of our fleet services division, and our effort to honor the military veterans who serve with the SJPSO, plus see highlights of some of our community outreach programs.

As always, I ask for your continued assistance in fighting crime. Do not hesitate to dial 911 if you witness a crime or motor vehicle accident. If something doesn't look right in your neighborhood, pick up a phone. Call us immediately if you are approached by a potential scam artist.

Please let me know how I or our department can ever be of service to you.

Very truly yours,

WILLY J. MARTIN, JR.
Sheriff, St. James Parish
sheriff@stjamesla.com



Polar Plunge at Cabela's Lake

Raising Funds for Special Olympics:

Torch Run through St. James



New Patrol Units

For decades, the Ford Crown Victoria has been a favorite of law enforcement agencies across the country. Now that Ford has decided to discontinue manufacturing it, the SJPSO is testing two vehicles to determine which better suits our needs and proves to be more economical.

The Interceptor and Taurus, both made by Ford and equipped with special police packages featuring bigger engines, stronger brakes, increased electrical capacity and sturdier suspensions are being checked out. All units have a new "in car" video system allowing us to view a scene from our office or another remote location. Stay tuned to see which vehicle makes the cut.

Sheriff Martin and Sergeant Duran Steib look over one of the new Ford Interceptor units being tested by the SJPSO.



Weather radar shows intense rainfall over St. James in May.

A vehicle is partially submerged near the intersection of LA 3125 and 641.

High Water

With National Weather Service reports indicating as much as 17 inches of total rainfall, approximately 130 parish homes and businesses experienced flooding in late May. Some areas of the East Bank of the parish took on more than eight inches of rain in less than one hour.

"We deployed every available unit and deputy to be of assistance wherever we could and do whatever was possible to minimize water damage," Sheriff Martin said. "Our high water vehicles were particularly useful in getting residents to their homes on flooded streets in Gramercy, Lutcher and Paulina."

On the West Bank, the Magnolia area of Vacherie as well as the St. James community were particularly hard hit. Deputies worked around-the-clock there to close streets with high water and to stop sightseers from driving through and pushing water into homes.

stjamessheriff.com



Click over to stjamessheriff.com for the latest information from your sheriff's office. You can view crime reports, access a directory of our personnel, take care of many transactions with our office online and sign up for important text notifications. We continually update our site and Facebook page at "St. James Parish Sheriff's Office."



Special Response Team – S.R.T.

We stay prepared to handle anything that poses a threat to public safety. Recently, we formed a Special Response Team or S.R.T., consisting of 18 deputies who practice unique operations and tactics each week at our Shooting Range and Training Facility.

“The special equipment and clothing to outfit an S.R.T. costs thousands of dollars,” Sheriff Martin said. “Much of the gear for our team was purchased through a generous donation from Magnolia Holdings and we thank them for supporting law enforcement.”

The SJPSO has five, state certified crisis negotiators. “We will always work to resolve any situation peacefully, only using our S.R.T. should a situation escalate to the point where it endangers the public or our personnel,” Sheriff Martin said.

New Motor Pool Facility

Making sure that SJPSO vehicles are ready to respond at a moment's notice is part of our mission to keep St. James safe. “We outgrew our cramped quarters at the rear of the Convent Courthouse and recently moved our fleet activities to a former auto repair shop we purchased, which will save considerable taxpayer dollars,” Sheriff Martin said. “We'll save money by doing more maintenance ourselves and now have the space to store 1,000 gallons of gasoline and 500 gallons of diesel if a hurricane threatens.”



Community Involvement

Senior Citizen Crime Expo

McGruff the Crime Dog and friends at Kids Fun Day

Sheriff Martin speaks on the dangers of drugs and crime at a recent D.A.R.E. event.



The former Brothers Tire and Lube in Vacherie, near the intersection of LA Highways 20 and 3127, provides more space to store oil, equipment, filters and other items. Six vehicle lifts allow multiple units to be serviced at once. The building also has a special area where we can work on computers, radios and other special equipment in our patrol units.

“A visible police presence deters crime,” Sheriff Martin said. “We want as many of our units as possible on the road at all times.” The SJPSO fleet consists of some 80 vehicles, three boats, four motorcycles, four 4-wheelers, three hummers and several generators.



Deputy Aaron St. Pierre, SJPSO Motor Pool mechanic, checks the maintenance schedule of a unit at the recently acquired fleet operations facility.

People News

Three SJPSO employees have retired after long careers in service to the people of our parish. Thank you for your dedication!



Deputy Lionel Nelson,
Corrections
15 years



Detective Willie Taylor,
Criminal Investigations
20 years



Deputy Louis Watson,
Corrections
17 years

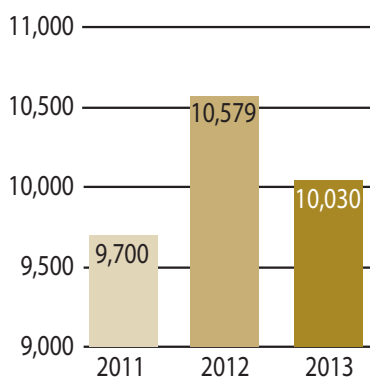


Deputy Rhonda Rodrigue marks 31 years of service in 2014 to the SJPSO and our community. Rhonda works as the administrative assistant to the warden as well as the systems administrator for our records division, ensuring that important information is available when needed.

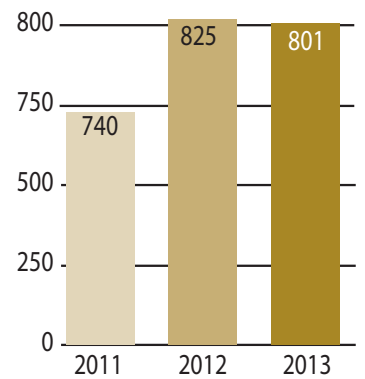


Lt. Claude Louis, Supervisor of the SJPSO Criminal Investigations Division, was recently elected president of the Louisiana Forgery and Fraud Investigators Association. LAFFIA coordinates efforts between the private sector, law enforcement and the judicial system regarding crimes involving fraud and forgery.

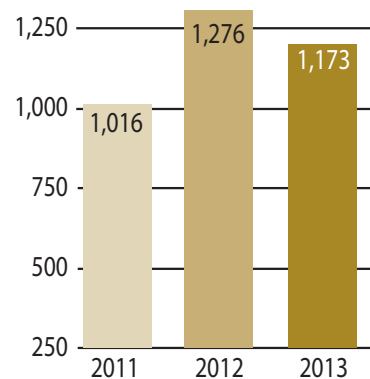
The Numbers



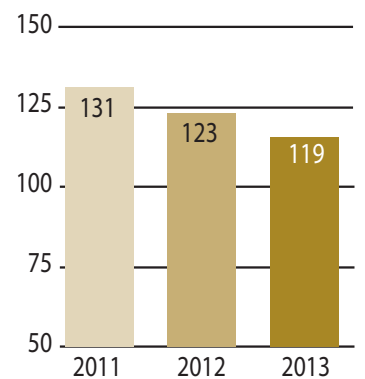
Calls for Service



Motor Vehicle Accidents
Worked by SJPSO



Bookings into Parish Jail



Drug Arrests

DWI Arrests: 2013 – 83

Honoring SJPSO Veterans

Eighteen members of our department are veterans of our nation's armed forces. We owe these men our gratitude for their service to our country and for their continued dedication to keeping St. James safe. As a way of saying "Thank You," Sheriff Martin recently presented each SJPSO veteran of the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines and Navy with an Honorable Service Commemorative Medal.



"Honor the soldier and sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause. Honor also the citizen who cares for his brother in the field and serves, as he best can, the same cause."

– Abraham Lincoln



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?

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

Any suggestions on new community outreach efforts we could undertake?

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:

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Convent, Louisiana 70723
225.562.2200 Fax: 562.2380

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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



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