



St. James Parish Sheriff's Office

Annual Report 2017



St. James Parish Sheriff's Office Annual Report 2017

Dear fellow citizens of St. James Parish,

As part of our continuing efforts to keep lines of communication open and you informed on our activities, I present this report highlighting a few of the efforts we undertake to help keep our parish safe.

We've all heard the phrase "Call the cops!" But, where does the word "cop" come from? There are several interesting theories. One maintains that "cop" stands for "Constable on Patrol" while another says the word originated as slang for the highly polished buttons – reportedly made of copper – worn on London police officers' uniforms in the early 1800's. The most likely explanation is that it comes from the verb "to cop" meaning to seize or capture as that is a part of what we do.

Where actual "cops" come from is even more varied. Our law enforcement professionals represent all walks of life. The unifying factor is each of our employees heard and answered the call to be of service to their fellow citizens. Ours is often a very difficult job requiring extensive training, discipline and patience. I ask you to join me in thanking the dedicated men and women of this department for their work to keep St. James safe.

We continue to make technological advancements and inside you'll find a story about a new way to keep track of inmates in the parish jail. Our fight to rid the parish of illegal drugs goes on as well as our efforts to stop numerous scams that are being perpetrated on unsuspecting citizens. Also in this issue are instructions on how you can turn your video security system into a powerful tool to help us investigate crimes.

As I always do in these reports, I ask you to join us in working to keep our parish safe. Don't hesitate to dial 911 if you need help or see something that looks suspicious. Your call may make the difference in stopping a crime or allowing us to get to the scene of an incident quickly and potentially save a life. We are here 24/7, 365 days a year and ready to serve you.

Please let me know personally if I or this office can be of any assistance to you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Willy J. Martin, Jr." in a cursive script.

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



Lemannville Tornado

Injuries from a tornado that touched down in the Lemannville community in February of 2017 killed one person, injured others and destroyed houses and property. This was the second consecutive February in which St. James was struck by a tornado. A 2016 storm caused two deaths and some 30 injuries in Convent.

"This was a powerful tornado that totally destroyed some eight homes and damaged another 20 or so," Sheriff Martin said. "Sadly, an elderly man trapped in his damaged home was freed by his neighbors but succumbed to his injuries at a local hospital."

Entergy reported more than 45 utility poles were knocked down by the storm that skipped across the Mississippi River to the East Bank and damaged several houses before dissipating.



Set a Good Example

Don't text and drive.

Children learn how to do things by watching adults. If you are texting while driving with young people in the car, they will think it's OK to do the

same. It's not. "Texting and driving don't mix, no matter the age," Sheriff Martin said. "16 to 19-year-old drivers are three times more likely to be involved in a fatal mishap than any other age group and texting while behind the wheel increases the odds of a disaster even more."

The National Safety Council reports that each year:

- Cell phone use while driving leads to 1.6 million crashes
- Nearly 330,000 injuries occur from accidents caused by texting while driving
- 1 out of every 4 car accidents is caused by texting and driving



If it sounds suspicious, it is.

Stopping Phone Scams

St. James Parish is certainly not a large metropolitan area but we are still vulnerable to "big city" crimes and scams.

"Today's criminals are much more sophisticated and often use technology to try and steal your money," Sheriff Martin said. "We frequently hear of swindles perpetrated on a citizen, but usually not until it's too late. If it sounds fishy, let us know immediately."

A few of the latest rip-offs to avoid include:

IRS/Utility Scam

Someone calls saying you owe the Internal Revenue Service or utility company money and they need your credit card number to settle the debt. Never give this information to a stranger.

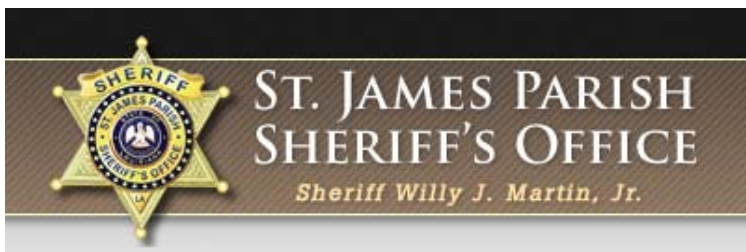
Skimmers on Gas Pumps

Identity thieves attach devices to ATMs and gas pumps that steal account information. Give a credit card reader a quick examination before using it. If it is loose, it could be a fake.

Computer Fraud

Someone calls saying your computer has a virus and they can fix it if you pay them or allow them to remotely access your machine. Don't give account info or consent for this.

Emergency Dial 9-1-1



stjamessheriff.com

Connect with us. Visit stjamessheriff.com, like us on Facebook at St. James Parish Sheriff's Office and follow us on Twitter @StJamesSO. Sign up for Nixle alerts at our web site and receive Email and text notifications on emergencies and traffic issues. Join us in keeping St. James safe.



Parish youths have fun riding four-wheelers at our annual summer camp. Contact us for information on how your child can participate in this free event.

Range/Training Facility

The SJPSO Range/Training Facility serves many purposes in addition to being a site for our continual training exercises. Concealed carry weapons classes, rape aggression defense, hunter and boating safety instruction and our annual summer youth camp are held at 29449 Sheriff Range Road, right off Highway 3127 In Vacherie. The range is also home to the St. James 4-H Shooting Sports team.

Our facility is also available for residents to use when sighting in hunting rifles. Contact us or check our web site and local news outlets for available dates.



Security Camera Registration

As more home and business owners install security cameras with recording devices, the opportunity arises for these citizens to take a more active role in fighting crime.

“Your surveillance system may record footage of a suspect or a vehicle we have reason to believe was involved in a crime in that area,” Sheriff Martin said. “If we know you have cameras and if you consent, we can come to your location and download video that may help our investigation.”

If you have a system, please consider visiting stjamessheriff.com and clicking on the “camera registry” tab to sign up and help us keep St. James safe.



Guns, scales, drugs and the phones used to traffic them were confiscated during a recent bust in St. James.

Sheriff Martin with a recent D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) class.



Fighting Illegal Drugs

Drug use is undeniably linked to criminal activity and we continue our fight to stop the illegal drug trade in our parish.

“When we make an arrest, it is likely that person uses or is on drugs,” Sheriff Martin said. “National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence statistics show that about 80% of offenders abuse drugs or alcohol, some 60% will test positive and nearly half are clinically addicted.”

Overdoses around the country from heroin laced with fentanyl, a narcotic that eases extreme pain in the final stages of fatal diseases, have surged, with numerous deaths in our area of South Louisiana.

“St. James is not immune to this epidemic and the drug problem facing our nation,” Sheriff Martin said. “We are making arrests for possession of fentanyl and will continue our efforts to educate the public and in particular young people to the dangers of drug use.”

Technology Upgrade



New technology from Guardian RFID helps keep our jail, inmates and the community safe. Radio Frequency Identification allows correctional deputies to scan a chip in a bracelet worn by a prisoner – similar to those used in hospitals – and access multiple levels of information.

“Rather than continually writing reports, this technology allows us to digitally track the location of every inmate as well as view visitor and medical records,” Sheriff Martin said. “It also stores booking records, significantly reducing the chance that an inmate would be accidentally released.”

Endorsed by the National Sheriffs’ Association for jail management, Guardian RFID brings our correctional facility to a new level of automation and inmate management. Neighboring sheriff’s offices in St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, Ascension, Assumption and Lafourche Parishes also use this platform, allowing us to share data on offenders in seconds.

People News

Retirees

Ending a collective 81 years of service to St. James Parish, three members of the SJPSO have retired. We thank them for their dedication to keeping our parish safe.



Sergeant Mary Rita Kliebert
34 years



Deputy Bonnie Poché
29 years



Deputy Evans Joseph
18 years

Promotions



Andrew Duhe
Captain, Uniformed Patrol Division



Julie Scioneaux
Captain, Criminal Investigations Division



Anthony Joseph
Lieutenant, Information Technology



Dustin Jenkins
Lieutenant, Shift Supervisor



Derick Washington
Lieutenant, Assistant Warden



Prentiss Woodfork
Lieutenant, Shift Supervisor

Carvell Bright – Sergeant, Corrections Shift Supervisor

Devon Dabney – Sergeant, Assistant Shift Supervisor

John Falgoust – Sergeant, Corrections Shift Supervisor

Keith Guerin – Sergeant, Assistant Shift Supervisor

Cody Hoormann – Sergeant, Criminal Investigations Division

Cathlyn McKarry – Sergeant, Corrections Shift Supervisor

Latanya Sterling – Sergeant, Corrections Shift Supervisor

Sonja Taylor – Sergeant, Supervisor of Juvenile Division

In Memory of Earl Geason

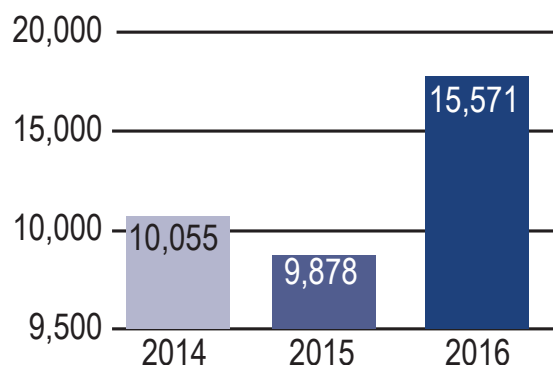


The SJPSO said farewell to a 28-year dedicated employee in late 2016 when Captain Earl Geason passed away. A graduate of St. James High School, Nicholls State University and the LSU Law Enforcement Basic Training Academy, Captain Geason served as deputy, sergeant, lieutenant and Supervisor of our Uniformed Patrol Division. In his spare time he enjoyed participating in car shows. The SJPSO extends its deepest sympathies to Captain Geason's family and many friends.

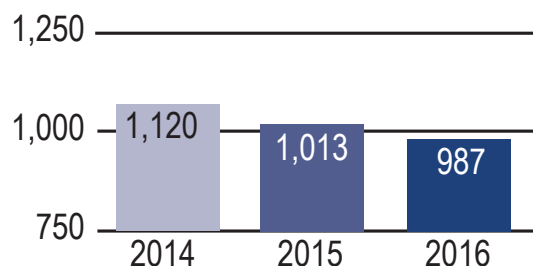
The Numbers

Submit an anonymous crime tip at stjamessheriff.com.

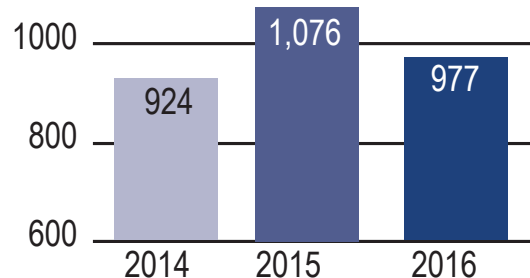
Calls for Service



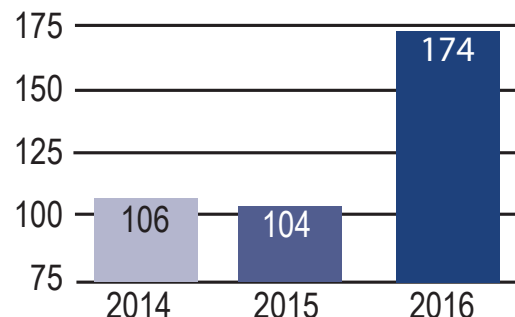
Bookings into Parish Jail



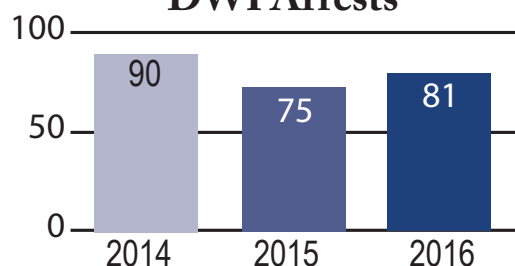
Motor Vehicle Accidents Investigated



Drug Arrests



DWI Arrests





St. James Parish Sheriff's Office



St. James Parish
Sheriff's Office



@St.JamesSO

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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St. James Parish Sheriff's Office
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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