



St. James Parish Sheriff's Office

2018

Annual Report



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Dear fellow citizen of St. James Parish,

Welcome again to our annual report on some of the activities of your sheriff's office.

Although we continue to do all we can to ensure that our personnel are well-trained and provided with the latest equipment and technology to assist them in doing their important work, we can't do this job alone. I am personally asking you to get involved in keeping St. James safe by reporting criminal activity when you see or suspect it. If you have information about a crime, let us know and we will take action. The formula is a simple one: If you see something – say something.

Speaking of seeing things, upgrades to our video monitoring system in the parish jail has eliminated blind spots, allowing us to monitor and record all activity 24/7 in high definition. An Internet connection lets doctors visit inmates without them ever leaving the facility. Read the details on these improvements inside.

We all saw a tornado touch down in St. James for the third year in a row, emphasizing the importance of having supplies and a plan in place for such emergencies.

Also in this issue is a story on how we are using infrared technology to let us see in the dark. New hand-held and aerial thermal cameras significantly enhance our ability to locate suspects and evidence and even find an outdoorsman who may have run into some trouble in the woods.

We see that our 911 operators are staying busy, answering more calls for assistance than at any time in our parish's history. No matter the situation, do not hesitate to call us if you need help or wish to report suspicious activity.

Lastly, I invite you to take a look at our new, greatly improved web site, stjamessheriff.com. It's easier to navigate and even simpler for you to contact us and stay in touch.

On behalf of all the dedicated men and women of this office, I appreciate your continued support for law enforcement and our mission. Please let me know if I or our department can ever be of service to you.

Sincerely,

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



Captain Julie Scioneaux, Sheriff Martin and Colonel Sid Berthelot

Magnus Command Training

Two SJPSO veterans are among the first class of 34 police officers in the nation to complete the intensive Magnus Training Program in Leadership and Law Enforcement, overseen by the National Command and Staff College. Magnus is Latin for "greatest." Colonel Sid Berthelot and Captain Julie Scioneaux graduated after eight weeks of concentrated online and classroom instruction, dozens of case studies and composing a research paper.

"We are as good as our leadership and this rigorous program promotes excellence," Sheriff Martin said. "Our entire department is proud of these graduates as they will lead the way for others to develop high individual standards while continuing to ensure the effectiveness of this office."

The SJPSO plans to send additional personnel to Magnus training in the future.



Photo courtesy of The News Examiner-Enterprise

Tornado Times Three

For the third year in a row, St. James Parish was struck by a tornado when a twister touched down in April of 2018, uprooting trees and damaging property.

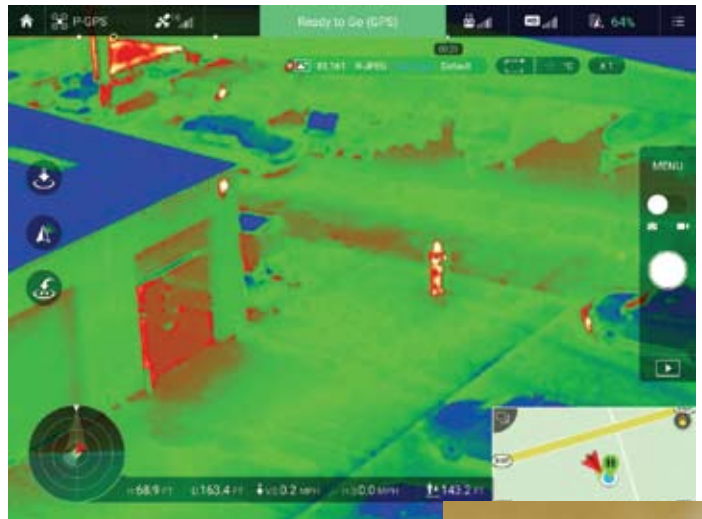
"Meteorologists determined that the storm formed near Hester, tearing up a metal building and causing damage to homes there and then touched down in Grand Point, damaging vehicles and several homes before flattening another," Sheriff Martin said. "Fortunately, no one was injured despite some close calls including a two-year-old child found safe under debris in the destroyed home."

Sheriff Martin said the tornado highlights the importance of planning for disasters, including having on hand what is needed if utilities are interrupted and an up-to-date communications plan for checking on loved ones.



stjamessheriff.com

Our web site, stjamessheriff.com, has been totally re-designed to make it simpler to navigate and, most important, easier to communicate with us. All personnel now have email addresses ending with stjamessheriff.com. Please take a few moments and update your address book to reflect this change. While visiting our site, sign up for timely Email and text alerts by clicking on the 'Nixle' tab. Keep up with the latest happenings on our Facebook page; St. James Parish Sheriff's Office and on Twitter @StJamesSO.



Drone and hand-held infrared images

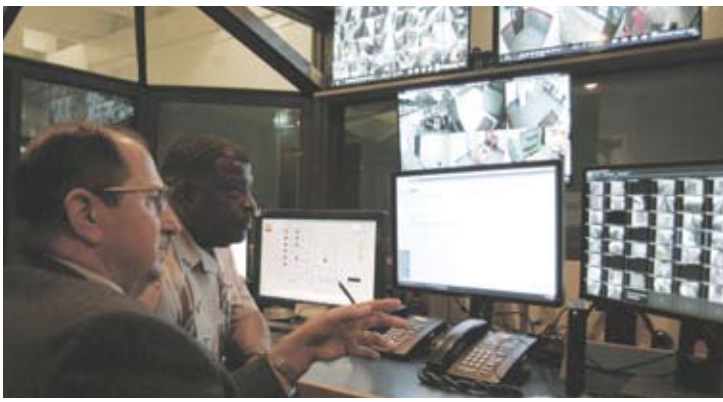
Infrared Technology

SJPSO deputies and a new drone are equipped with infrared tracking devices that can aid in locating suspects as well as help in search and rescue operations.

"This compact piece of equipment allows deputies to see a suspect's heat profile in the dark without a flashlight and even through walls in some cases," Sheriff Martin said. "It could prove invaluable when searching for or tracking a dangerous suspect who could cause harm if they see us first."

Tossed evidence retains a temporary heat signature, allowing deputies to recover weapons and drugs discarded by criminals. The drone camera can provide surveillance and search capabilities while transmitting images to a remote location.





Sheriff Martin and Warden Edward Scott monitor activities in the parish jail.

Jail Upgrades

Upgrades to security and surveillance systems are complete at the parish jail, enhancing protection of the public, guards and inmates.

“We have added more high-definition video cameras to our system to monitor all jail activity 24/7,” Sheriff Martin said. “Inmates now wear special bracelets that utilize a radio frequency. Jailers, equipped with special hand-held devices, can create electronic accountability and event reports to document interactions with the inmates.” A new Internet-based system allows a doctor to assess a prisoner’s heart/respiration/blood pressure remotely to diagnose ailments and prescribe medication. This will save taxpayer money and deputies’ time that would be used to transport inmates to a medical office.”

The St. James Parish Correctional Facility undergoes an annual inspection and meets or exceeds American Correctional Association standards.



Crimestoppers

As citizens, we all have a responsibility to help keep our community safe. If you have information about a crime or criminal activity, let us know. You can provide an anonymous tip that may help solve a crime by contacting Crimestoppers or going to our web site. Cash rewards are offered for information.

We need your help. If you see something – say something.

Stop Car Break-Ins

One of the most common crimes is one of the easiest to prevent.

“We often get calls reporting a vehicle was broken into and items stolen,” Sheriff Martin said. “Most of the time, the cars doors were left unlocked and valuables were in plain sight. Lock your car, take your keys and hide your items. It’s just that simple.”

If thieves doesn’t see anything worth their effort and a door is locked, they likely won’t waste their time.

**DON'T BE
A VICTIM!**

**LOCK
YOUR CAR
TAKE
YOUR KEYS
REMOVE
YOUR BELONGINGS**

Milestones

We extend our congratulations and give a big “Thank You” to three long-time employees of the SJPSO who recently retired. Collectively they helped keep St. James safe for some 70 years.



Detective William “Billy” Jordan



Sergeant Matthew Randle



Deputy Rhonda Rodrigue

Several employees are marking 30 years of service to our department and the people of our parish. Their dedication is appreciated.



Deputy Janee Hales



Deputy Joanne Nassar



Deputy Deiderie Steib



Sergeant Sonja Taylor

The SJPSO is a Great Place to Work!

We offer many different career opportunities in the exciting field of law enforcement. Our employment package includes a competitive salary, excellent benefits, medical insurance and an exceptional retirement plan. Visit stjamessheriff.com, download an employment application and return it to one of our offices. Come work with us!



Barran's Bears

When Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Deputy Turner Barran noticed that a teddy bear had a calming effect on a child involved in a traumatic situation, he began carrying them in his patrol unit to give away. Seeing the need for the outreach, he asked local citizens and businesses to collect new or gently used teddy bears and the program took off. Hundreds of stuffed animals have been donated to police, fire and EMS agencies across the state.

"Our deputies have vacuum-packed teddy bears in their units, ready to be given to children involved in a serious situation such as an automobile accident, house fire, domestic dispute or illness requiring transportation of a family member," Sheriff Martin said. "Giving them a stuffed animal can help soothe these youngsters and reassure them that law enforcement personnel are their friends in traumatic situations."

Four Wheelers

Living in St. James Parish, we all know people who own or enjoy riding four wheelers. They are very useful to outdoor enthusiasts and people with a large piece of property to look after and there's no problem when they are operated lawfully.



Problems arise when people ride these vehicles on parish and state roads without proper equipment. We receive frequent calls from property owners about four wheeler riders tearing up their land. Yes, we do have better things to do than police the illegal operation of these vehicles and ask your help in curbing improper use.

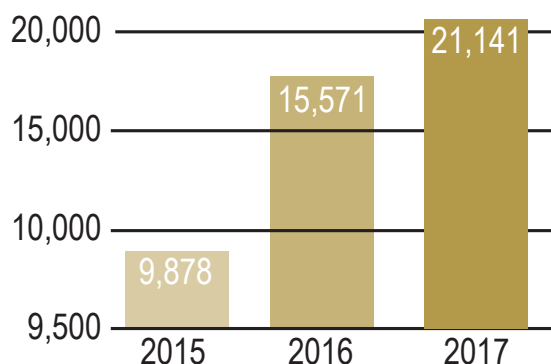
We're Here to Help

The SJPSO sponsors numerous classes at our shooting range/training facility at 29449 Sheriff Range Road off of Highway 3127 in Vacherie. Required instruction to obtain a concealed weapon permit, as well as hunter and boater safety certification, is offered regularly. The shooting range is also open periodically for public use. The facility is also home to our annual summer camp for parish youth. Check our web site or contact us for the schedule.

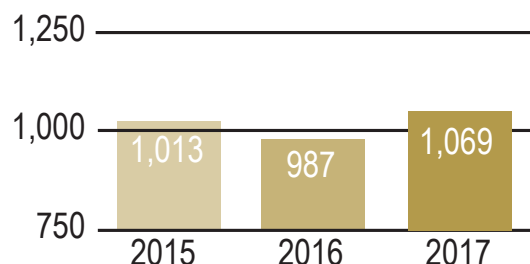


The Numbers

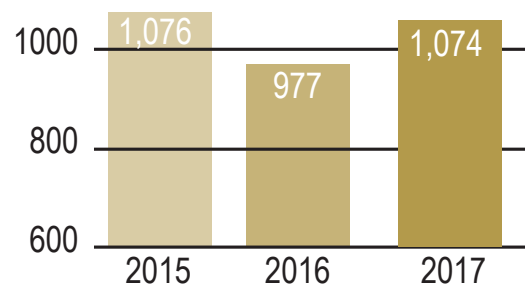
Calls for Service



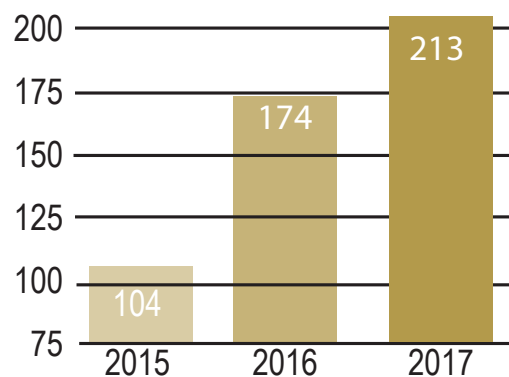
Bookings into Parish Jail



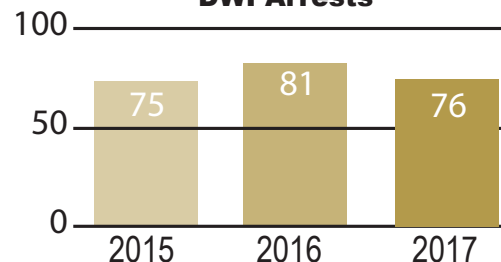
Motor Vehicle Accidents Investigated



Drug Arrests



DWI Arrests





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@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:

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

Submit an anonymous crime tip at stjamessheriff.com.