



St. James Parish Sheriff's Office

Annual Report

2019



St. James Parish Sheriff's Office

Annual Report 2019



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 citizen of St. James Parish,

On behalf of the entire department, please allow me to welcome you to this report on a small portion of our many activities and programs we support in our constant effort to further enhance public safety.

Our workload continues to increase and in many ways, that's a good thing. The SJPSO handled 24,772 calls for assistance in 2018, an increase of more than 3,600 from the previous year, or 10 more each day. Not all calls to our 911 center require "hands-on" assistance and I am hopeful that more calls mean more citizen involvement and increased support of law enforcement.

Help us help you and keep St. James safe.

"Taxation without representation" was the battle cry of the Revolutionary War, also known as the War for American Independence. "Loose lips sink ships" was a mantra during World War II. In post-911 America, it's "If you see something, say something." That phrase is so fitting it was adopted by the Department of Homeland Security, the Transportation Security Agency, Amtrak and numerous cities around the world. I urge you to follow that direction and teach it to children so if they "See something they can say something," to an adult.

In this issue, you'll find articles detailing significant technological upgrades including body cams for officers, digital evidence documentation and storage for prosecutions and enhanced communication equipment. There's a story on a mobile phone app – the first-of-its-kind to be used in Louisiana – that will enhance school safety and our continuing efforts to keep our personnel among the best trained in the state.

I want to personally ask you in the strongest terms possible to contact us immediately if you see something that looks suspicious, witness a crime or hear someone make a threat against a person or public entity including a school or government agency. Dial 911 immediately and we will respond.

If you see something – you know what to do.

Please let me know if I or this office can ever be of service to you.

Sincerely,

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

Technology Upgrades



Captain Anthony Joseph oversees SJPSO Field Ops technology. The program allows command staff to see the status of units and locations.



Field Ops

The SJPSO has deployed a new phone app that allows deputies to more efficiently gather evidence and file reports. A leading developer of law enforcement software, Zuercher developed the application that can be used to photograph evidence, record a statement and upload the information to our server, where it is authenticated as evidence.

“Every deputy is using this app and it is saving our department valuable time by streamlining the investigation of traffic accidents, property damage and other crimes,” Sheriff Martin said. “It organizes the reporting process and uploads the information to our server in the proper form so it is available later for prosecutions.”



New Radios

A grant obtained through the Port of South Louisiana helped fund the purchase of new radios for our office. The Motorola units provide better coverage and enhanced communication capabilities with other first responders.



Sergeant Mike Dufrene and Sheriff Martin review the new bodycams worn by all SJPSO patrol deputies.

Bodycams

All SJPSO patrol deputies are now equipped with body cameras that can record several hours of audio and video. About the size of a deck of cards, the cameras will provide our office with a clear record of exactly what took place during a traffic stop, arrest or public interaction with a deputy.

“We thoroughly tested these cameras in harsh South Louisiana heat and rain conditions and they passed with flying colors,” Sheriff Martin said. “With actual footage of an incident, the camera will help protect the public as well as deputies as we eliminate ‘their word against mine’ situations.”

Images and sound from the cameras are automatically uploaded to an online data management system while charging. Deputies cannot edit footage.



Tornado

For the fourth year in a row, a tornado touched down in St. James Parish. The June 6, 2019, twister briefly came through about six miles north of Convent, downing trees and powerlines. No injuries were reported.

"Our part of the country is as vulnerable to tornadoes as any other," Sheriff Martin said. "It is important to know what to do when we are threatened by these violent storms."

Tornado Safety Tips

(If your home or place of business is threatened by a tornado:)

- Avoid windows.
- Go to the lowest floor and get in a small center room, such as a bathroom or closet under a stairwell, or an interior hallway.
- Crouch low to the floor, face down and cover your head with your hands.



Jury Subpoena

If you receive a jury summons in the mail from our office, it's the real thing. We are now mailing these subpoenas to selected individuals, freeing up deputies to complete more pressing tasks. Failure to appear for a jury summons can result in consequences. For questions, call 225.562.2214.

stjamessheriff.com



Visit our Facebook page and web site for the latest happenings and easy interaction with our office. Numerous items that once required an in-person visit can be handled online. While at our site, consider signing up for Email and text alerts by clicking on the 'Nixle' tab.



St. James Parish Sheriff's Office



@StJamesSO



School Guard

Protecting you is our job and we take it very seriously. We also do everything we can to ensure that children can attend school in the safest possible environment. Working in partnership with the St. James Parish School Board, we are deploying a mobile phone app to keep schools secure.

"SchoolGuard lets administrators, teachers and support personnel instantly alert law enforcement to a school incident," Sheriff Martin said. "It instantly notifies everyone on that campus of the situation, contacts our office and all law enforcement personnel in the area so they can respond. The faster we get there, the faster we can secure the school."

Sheriff Martin said deputies are trained to engage an active threat as quickly as possible. "This app gives us the exact location of the call and that's where the first deputy on the scene and others arriving later would immediately go. Every second we save could save lives."

Besides notifying law enforcement of an intruder, SchoolSafe can also alert first responders to a disturbance or medical emergency. St. James is the first parish in the state to use the app.

It's No Joke

Making a comment about harming someone or causing damage to a public building can get you in big trouble. "Whether the threat is made in person, on a phone or on social media, we will investigate and treat it very seriously," Sheriff Martin said. "This is a felony and the perpetrator could face fines and prison time."

Don't Do It!



Texting while driving kills.

Magnus Command Training



Major Claude Louis



Captain Duran Steib



Captain Dustin Tomlinson



Sergeant Brett Forsythe

Four SJPSO officers have completed the Magnus Training Program in Leadership and Law Enforcement, overseen by the National Command and Staff College. Major Claude Louis, Captains Duran Steib, Dustin Tomlinson and Sergeant Brett Forsythe finished the eight-week course featuring intensive online and classroom instruction, case studies, detailed situational assessments and composing a research paper. Magnus is Latin for "greatest."

"Graduates share leadership procedures and management techniques with our department," Sheriff Martin said. "By enhancing our overall professionalism, we will continue to provide the exceptionally high level of service the people of our parish have come to expect and deserve."

Additional personnel will be attending Magnus training in the future.

Come Work With Us

Law enforcement is more than a career – it's a calling. If you'd like the opportunity to help yourself and your community, visit stjamessheriff.com and click on the 'employment' tab. Download an application and bring it in. We'd welcome the chance to visit with you and tell you more about working in law enforcement.



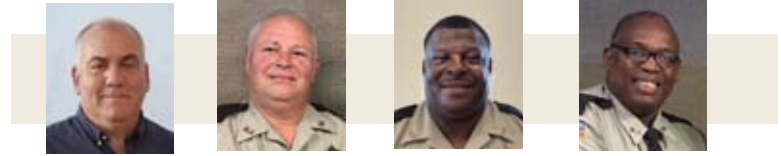
The Numbers

Calls for Service	Drug Arrests
2018 24,772 2017 21,141	2018 189 2017 213
Bookings into Parish Jail	DWI Arrests
2018 942 2017 1,069	2018 88 2017 76
Motor Vehicle Accidents Investigated	
2018 963 2017 1,074	

People News

Retirees

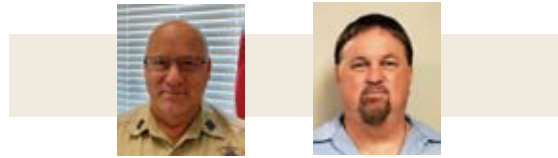
With 121 years of combined service, four long-time SJPSO employees recently retired. Thank you for your dedication and enjoy the time off!



Deputy John Dunn 30 years Capt. Andrew Duhé 32 years Capt. Edward Scott 34 years Lt. Prentiss Woodfork 25 years

On Duty for Decades

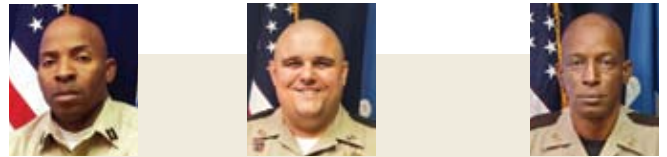
Captain Faron Scioneaux and Deputy Aaron St. Pierre have reached the 30-year mark in their work to keep St. James safe.



Scioneaux St. Pierre

Promotions

Numerous SJPSO employees have assumed new responsibilities and been promoted to a higher rank. Congratulations!



Capt. Anthony Joseph Capt. Dustin Tomlinson Warden Capt. Derrick Washington



Capt. Duran Steib Lt. Keith Brooks Lt. Dustin Poche Asst. Warden Lt. Keith Guerin



Asst. Warden Lt. Catherine McKarry Sgt. Charlene Breaud Sgt. Mike Dufrene



Sgt. Patrick Hall Sgt. Vernel Manuel Sgt. Allen Stark



In Memory

The SJPSO lost a long-time member of our department with the passing of Deputy Mathew Randle, who faithfully served the people of our parish for 21 years. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family and many friends.



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
------	---------	-----------	--------

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

CRIMESTOPPERS
504-822-1111 GNO
crimestoppersgno.org 

Emergency Dial 9-1-1

Submit an anonymous crime tip at stjamessheriff.com.