

# SJPSO



St. James Parish Sheriff's Office



Annual Report 2021



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## St. James Parish Sheriff's Office Annual Report 2021

### **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,

It is my pleasure to provide you once again with our annual report on some of the activities of the St. James Parish Sheriff's Office. Much has happened in the last year to further enhance our ability to provide you with the finest law enforcement possible. The biggest event of course, was our shared experience with one of the worst hurricanes anyone can remember inflicting severe damage to parts of our parish.

In this report there's a short accounting of our important work before, during and after Hurricane Ida. During any natural disaster, our community always comes back stronger than before. Let's all continue to have that "St. James Proud" spirit and do what we can to support and help one another as we continue our recovery from this storm's wrath.

Our office continues to make significant strides towards further improving our cyber security, crime-fighting technology, community outreach and training. A new, free mobile app makes communicating with our office easier than ever and our web site, [stjamessheriff.com](http://stjamessheriff.com), allows you to transact business with our office with a few keystrokes.

I have often asked you to get and stay involved with our office's efforts to keep our parish safe. These days, everyone has a phone in their pocket so there is no reason not to let us know if you see something that looks suspicious. We will respond to your call.

This office is very good at doing all it can to prevent and stop criminal behavior. We are even better when we work together with you.

Please let me know if I or the St. James Parish Sheriff's Office can ever be of service to you.

Sincerely,

WILLY J. MARTIN, JR.  
Sheriff, St. James Parish  
[willy.martin@stjamessheriff.com](mailto:willy.martin@stjamessheriff.com)





# Ida

## Hurricane Ida

St. James Parish continues to recover from Hurricane Ida, a Category 4 storm packing winds of some 150 miles per hour when it made landfall on the Louisiana coast.

"We activated our emergency plan for Ida before it hit St. James, doubling the number of deputies working days and nights throughout the storm and afterward," Sheriff Martin said. "Entergy reported that 100 per cent of the parish was without power with more than 30,000 utility poles damaged or destroyed and close to 36,000 spans of wire ripped from poles in St. James and St. John the Baptist Parishes. Our people literally worked 24 hours a day, doing all we could to maintain public safety and help anyone in need."

Our training facility on the West Bank served as an Incident Command Center, housing and deploying law enforcement personnel from across the state. Regrettably, one person was killed in Vacherie when a shed he was trying to secure collapsed.

## Cyber Security

We have significantly enhanced our software, procedures and protocols to more completely defend our computer system from attacks. In November of 2019, St. James as well as numerous other parishes and municipalities across the state were hacked, causing major disruptions to government and law enforcement.

With assistance from federal, state and local Internet technology experts, we have totally re-built our system to shield vital data and limit access.

It is equally important that you take steps to safeguard your home and business networks. Hackers work tirelessly to break into systems, individual computers, tablets or mobile phones. Protect yourself and your personal information.



# Cyber



# New

*Deputy Ashley Lawless is shown how to use the SJPSO's new pepper ball gun by certified instructor Sergeant Lex Sweeney.*

## Pepper Ball Gun

A new less-than-lethal weapon is now available to SJPSO deputies that will help keep them safer in confrontations. Similar to a paint ball gun, it uses compressed air to fire a ball of potent pepper mix at a non-compliant suspect.

"Our number one goal in these situations is to de-escalate it without the use of excessive force," Sheriff Martin said. "Tasers and pepper spray can still be used in these settings, but this weapon allows officers to control a subject from a distance, as these situations can turn violent."

Deputies receive extensive training and must be certified before using the pepper ball gun. Two guns are available per shift and one is kept in the jail.

## Drone Detection System

Many people enjoy flying drones and it's estimated that there are more than three million in use in the United States for business, news gathering, agricultural and recreational interests. But there are numerous areas where it is illegal to fly a drone, such as over certain industrial and governmental areas.

New technology acquired by the SJPSO detects when a drone is in use in the parish and if it is being flown over a restricted spot.

"We receive calls from businesses and private citizens as well as industry about drones being used in sensitive areas. Some plants use exclusive processes that must be protected," Sheriff Martin said. "It's one thing to fly it in a field or on the levee, but when you pilot it over your neighbor's fence or other private property and photograph people and things, it can potentially lead to criminal charges and confiscation of the drone."

Drones are required to be registered with the Federal Aviation Administration. Signing up is simple and easy at [faadronezone.faa.gov](http://faadronezone.faa.gov).



# Drones





# Register

*Captain Duran Steib issues St. James' first UTV permit to District 7 Councilman Donald Nash.*

## Your Golf Cart or UTV

Golf carts and UTVs (Utility Terrain Vehicles or Side-by-Sides) can now be operated on parish roads providing the owner completes the permitting process. The vehicles must have standard safety features such as headlights, taillights, side mirrors and turn indicators. Additionally, owners must carry liability insurance and the UTV may not be operated by anyone without a valid driver's license.

Once the permit is approved, the owner will receive a sticker from our office that must be displayed on the vehicle. It is illegal to operate UTVs on state highways and four wheelers are not eligible for permitting. Contact our office for more information.

## Your Bicycle

If your bicycle is registered with the SJPSO and it gets stolen, we can easily search our database and get it back to you when it's recovered. Many bicyclists, especially children, don't carry identification and in the event of a crash, we can identify the owner if the bike is registered at stjamessheriff.com.

## Your Cameras

If your home or business has a video surveillance system, please register it with our office. Should something happen in your area, we may be able to gather important information from the recording. Visit our web site and sign up.



## St. James Sheriff App

Keeping St. James safe is a two-way street as we cannot possibly be in all places at all times. But, concerned citizens are indeed everywhere. Besides emails, texts and phone calls, a new, free app from the SJPSO gives you even greater opportunities to communicate with us.

At your fingertips, you can have a simple, instant method to contact us, get the latest information on public safety issues, check the status of inmates, send us a tip, get a crime report or interact with our office.



*Scan this code and download our app to get connected.*



# Support

The SJPSO proudly supports many community activities and organizations. We would be happy to help you with your event or attend your meeting. Please let us know how we can assist you.

## School Supply Drive

The SJPSO conducted a school supply drive for our local elementary schools. "Thank You" to everyone who donated to help our hardworking students and dedicated educators.

## Torch Run

SJPSO personnel participated in the Torch Run for Special Olympics to raise money for this worthy cause.

**stjamessheriff.com**





### Edwards Honor Guard

Deputies from the SJPSO joined members of law enforcement agencies from across the state to form the honor guard at the funeral of former Governor Edwin Edwards.

### Martin on POST Council

Sheriff Martin has been appointed to the Council on Peace Officer Standards and Training, or P.O.S.T. The panel is responsible for developing and evaluating the curriculum for training municipal officers, deputy sheriffs, state police, wildlife agents and all commissioned Louisiana peace officers.



# Retirees



Annette Butler 15 years



Gordon Fenley 15 years



Claude Louis 18 years



Vernal Manuel 16 years

*Thank you for your service and for helping to keep St. James safe.*

# Staff

Numerous SJPSO personnel are continuing their careers by being promoted to new positions while several others have retired after years of work.

### Juvenile Division



Detective Allen Brown



Detective Dennis Lynch

### Patrol Shift Supervision



Lieutenant Devon Dabney



Lieutenant Jason Doucet

### Assistant Patrol Shift Supervisor



Sergeant Aron Hastings



Sergeant Lex Sweeney

### Assistant Warden



Lieutenant Keith Guerin

### Corrections Shift Supervisor



Sergeant Kerry Louque

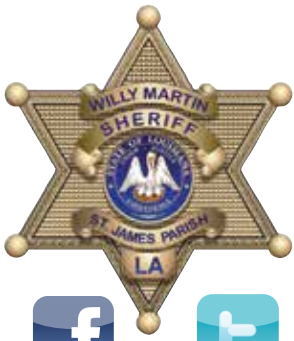


Sergeant Trent Mallard



Sergeant Mickey Morris





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St. James Parish  
Sheriff's Office

@St.JamesSO



stjamessheriff.com



## Join Us

The St. James Parish Sheriff's Office is a great place to work and serve your community. We offer a competitive salary, a benefits package with a retirement plan, health, dental and vision insurance with paid vacation and sick leave. If you've ever considered a career in law enforcement, download a job application at [stjamessheriff.com](http://stjamessheriff.com) or stop by any of our offices to pick one up.

## St. James Parish 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?

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

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Any suggestions on new community outreach efforts we could undertake?

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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.

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Name	Address	Telephone	E-mail
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# Emergency Dial 9-1-1

**Submit an anonymous crime tip at [stjamessheriff.com](http://stjamessheriff.com).**