

# SJPSO

ST. JAMES PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE



**2023** ANNUAL REPORT





### **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.*



# St. James Parish Sheriff's Office Annual Report 2023

Dear fellow citizen of St. James Parish,

Welcome again to our annual report where we present a short summary of our activities throughout the past year.

Our office exists to maintain public safety and to do it, we implement the latest law enforcement practices and procedures. I firmly believe that if you're not moving forward, you're going backward. It's been said that even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there!

As part of this continuing effort to advance and improve, we have acquired significant new equipment and technological upgrades. Please, read the details in this issue.

You'll also find a story on the substantial effort we make to be prepared to respond to a threat to the public's well-being. Keeping schools safe has always been a top priority and our Special Response Team trains hard and frequently in school buildings to stay ready. And, speaking of schools, another article inside gives the details of our new outreach program "Eat on the Beat" that allows deputies and other representatives of our office to interact with students at lunch.

Success lies in constantly moving forward.

Looking back on when I first became your sheriff in 1992, it is amazing how many advances this office has made not only in crime-fighting efforts and technology, but our giant increases in community involvement. We have always kept order at fairs, festivals, and athletic contests but now we go to schools, churches, civic organization meetings, senior citizen gatherings and help sponsor all sorts of events.

Keeping our parish safe has and always will be a team effort. We cannot do it alone and I ask that you help us in any way you can. If you see something that 'just doesn't look right' dial 911 immediately. If you have a tip that may solve a crime, contact us. Teamwork always works.

Please contact me personally if there is something that I or this office can do to be of service to you.

Sincerely,

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

# NEW EQUIPMENT

A \$1 MILLION, ONE-TIME APPROPRIATION FROM THE STATE TO THE SJPSO ALLOWED US TO PURCHASE MUCH-NEEDED EQUIPMENT TO KEEP OUR PARISH SAFE.

## Bearcat

We acquired a Bearcat G3, an armored personnel carrier that can be used in situations where deputies would be at risk. "The Bearcat can transport a dozen fully equipped officers should they need to respond to an active shooter or other extremely dangerous incident," Sheriff Martin said. "This model has increased ground clearance and a special suspension should we need to go off road to respond to a threat to public safety."



*Captain Keith Brooks and Deputy Ronald Brown with the 22,000 pound Bearcat.*



## Sleeper Trailer

A trailer that houses eight people was also purchased. The vehicle, which includes shower and bathroom facilities, will allow first responders to clean up and rest should they be deployed for an extended period.



*Deputies on extended deployment will use the new trailer.*

## Crime Cameras



*A SJPSO crime camera in Lutchter keeps watch above Main Street.*

We are upgrading and adding to our crime camera network with new software and equipment that will allow us to monitor activity across St. James. "With about 20 cameras operating now, we have been very successful in capturing evidence that led to convictions," Sheriff Martin said. "More cameras are coming as well as license plate readers at every entry to the parish, allowing for faster identification of vehicles with warrants or that may be fleeing from another jurisdiction."

It only takes a few minutes to register your home or business security cameras with us at [stjamessheriff.com](http://stjamessheriff.com). Your video may help us solve a crime in your area.

## Rescue Boat

Our search and rescue operations have been enhanced by the acquisition of a new boat. Comparable to U.S. Coast Guard equipment, it is more suitable for use in the Mississippi River.



*Lieutenant Aron Hastings readies the new 24-foot SJPSO rescue boat.*



## Special Use Drone

Weighing less than one pound, a new, tiny drone can fly exceptionally well indoors and in very small spaces to provide high-definition video to operators.

*About as big as a salad plate, the new drone can fly inside buildings and in very small spaces.*

## Command Aware and Smart Connect



Dependable communication equipment is essential to law enforcement. Two software upgrades, Command Aware and Smart Connect have taken our communication abilities to the next level. Command Aware provides a real time GPS location of every vehicle and portable radio and allows body and in-car camera video to be viewed in real time. Smart Connect allows portable radios

to automatically access Wi-Fi, so deputies can communicate when inside structures that inhibit radio signals.



# TRAINING/SAFETY

## Active Threat Preparedness



*Each year, SRT members simulate responding to a threat at each parish school. They also train monthly, bringing new ideas and procedures into response plans.*



The SJPSO Special Response Team, or SRT, trains diligently and remains fully prepared to respond to any situation posing a threat to the public.

“Protecting schools and students is one of our most important responsibilities and we take it very seriously,” Sheriff Martin said. “We regularly meet with education personnel, review emergency plans and practice response procedures at each school every year.”

By conducting exercises at individual schools – usually during the summer – SRT members are familiar with a building’s layout. “Knowing how a door opens or where a hallway goes can make a difference,” Sheriff Martin said. “We maintain 3-D maps of schools, stadiums, and other public buildings, allowing views of the structure and terrain from every angle. Knowing the location of things such as dumpsters, air conditioning units and even landscaping is vital to carry out a response.”

The school resource officer program has been expanded with two more deputies being assigned to elementary schools. An officer has been allocated full-time to each high school for many years.

## The Numbers

	2023 to Date	2022	2021
Calls for Service	19,704	20,171	20,207
Bookings Into Jail	458	592	571
Drug Arrests	175	197	131
DWI Arrests	50	66	31
Vehicle Accidents	502	818	884



Colonel Sid Berthelot, Deputy Anthony Cox and K-9 Fibi, Sheriff Martin, Lieutenant Michael Dufrane with K-9 Rex and Deputy Ty Hebert with K-9 Sox accept checks to our K-9 Division.

## K-9 Donations

The SJPSO’s K-9 division has grown and through a monetary donation from the Deputy Jeremy Triche Fallen Hero Foundation, our dogs will get additional training and equipment. The fund honors Triche, a St. John the Baptist Parish K-9 officer killed in the line of duty in 2012. A donation from Vested Interest, a non-profit group that gives away police dog protective gear provided body armor for one K-9.

Our newest K-9 officer, Fibi, an 18-month-old Belgian Malinois joins two other dogs in the patrol division where they detect drugs and assist with criminal apprehension.

For more information on these worthy causes, visit [jeremytrichehero.com](http://jeremytrichehero.com) and [vik9s.org](http://vik9s.org).



## Golf Carts/ATVs

Making your golf cart or ATV (side-by-side) street legal is easy by following the instructions on our web site. It is illegal for anyone without a valid driver’s license to operate these vehicles on parish streets and it is against the law to ride a four-wheeler at any time on a roadway.



Scan the code and download our app now.



**Our free app** provides even more opportunities to communicate with us as it updates you on road closures, crime reports, inmate status and many more topics. Scan this code and download our app now.



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

We participate year-round in many activities and gatherings in St. James. If you'd like us to be involved in your event, want to take a tour of our facilities, or need a speaker for your organization's next meeting, please let us know by calling 225.562.2203.



4-H Day - Distracted Driving Demonstration



St. Peter Chanel



Cypress Grove Montessori



Special Olympics



## Eat on the Beat

A partnership with the school board is building stronger relationships between the SJPSO and parish youth. The Eat on the Beat program allows representatives of our office to have lunch with students in each parish school at least one day a week.

"When students visit with law enforcement personnel in a friendly situation, bonds are formed and trust is built," Sheriff Martin said. "Our officers answer questions while reminding them that we are the good guys and are here to protect them."



# AWARDS/HONORS/MILESTONES



Detective Hall

## MAGNUS Graduate

Another veteran member of our department has completed the rigorous Magnus Training Program. Detective Patrick Hall graduated from the fourteen-week course that further develops leadership, communication, and management skills of law enforcement personnel. Detective Hall's achievement further enhances the professionalism of our entire department.



Sergeant Flot



Detective Smith

## Promotions

Deputy Quenneshia Flot has been promoted to sergeant and assumes the responsibilities of shift supervisor in our corrections division.

Deputy Tamarius Smith has moved up to detective and works in the Criminal Investigation Division.

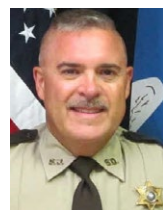
## 30+ Years of Service



Sergeant  
Roxie Batiste



Chief Civil Deputy  
Janelle Millet



Lieutenant  
Jeff Moran



Payroll Specialist Deputy  
Tanya Peytavin



Sheriff Martin with  
Major Scioneaux

## Deputy of the Year

Major Julie Scioneaux, our Chief of Operations, was recently recognized by CrimeStoppers as the SJPSO's Deputy of the Year for her unwavering commitment and service to her community, department and parish. She often leads our outreach programs and speaks to groups on juvenile matters, crime prevention and victims' assistance. Major Scioneaux is also an attorney, serves as our in-house legal counsel and advises young officers and frontline supervisors.



Deputy  
Aaron St. Pierre  
34 Years



Lieutenant  
Derick Washington  
18 Years

## Retirees

Congratulations to two long-time employees who have retired with a combined 52 years of dedication to keeping St. James safe. Thank you for your service.

**Sheriff Willy J. Martin, Jr.**

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

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St. James Parish  
Sheriff's Office



@St.JamesSO



stjamessheriff.com



## JOIN US!

Answer the call to serve and protect your community by joining the St. James Parish Sheriff's Office. With starting salaries up to \$41,500 and a generous benefits package including health, dental and vision insurance with paid vacation and sick leave and a retirement plan, the SJPSO is a great place to work! Download a job application at [stjamessheriff.com](http://stjamessheriff.com) or stop by any of our offices and pick one up.

*Be the difference! Join the SJPSO today.*

## St. James Parish Sheriff's Office Survey

*Please fill out and return to any of our offices. Thank you.*

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

**Emergency: Dial 9-1-1**

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