

St John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office

Annual

Report





**Need a
Speaker
For Your Next
Meeting?**

Let us know if your organization would like to have a representative of the St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office address your group. With numerous experts on a variety of topics, our department will gladly put together a presentation on a subject of your choosing. Call us at 985-652-7058, extension 186 for information.

Dear fellow citizens,

I'm pleased to present you with this report from your sheriff's office.

Each and every day, deputies protect you and keep our parish safe. In an average 24 hour span, we answer 122 calls for assistance, make nearly ten arrests and respond to five traffic accidents. Criminals do not work set hours and it's our job to always be there for you.

This year, deputies will receive a much-deserved and well-earned pay raise. An additional 15 officers will be added to our force in the coming year.

As our parish continues to grow, we are working hard to upgrade our training programs, equipment and crime-fighting technology.

We are stopping Internet predators. In the past 18 months, we seized 60 computers for evidence and are arresting perpetrators for computer solicitation. For advice on keeping your child safe online, contact us or visit our web site, stjohnsheriff.org.

Major narcotic operations continue, particularly addressing methamphetamine, or 'meth.' Automobile traffic is still a concern as we responded to 1,883 accidents in the past year. New equipment allows us to make more DWI cases and we are planning to install 'red light cameras' at busy intersections. Covert video surveillance will be used in areas where crime remains a problem.

A third inmate work crew has been added. New Dodge Charger units as well as sheriff's office motorcycles and electric patrol vehicles are on our streets.

We still need your help. Pick up your phone and call us to report anything suspicious. Please, do not hesitate to contact me personally if there is anything that I or this office can do for you. In an emergency, dial 911.

Very truly yours,

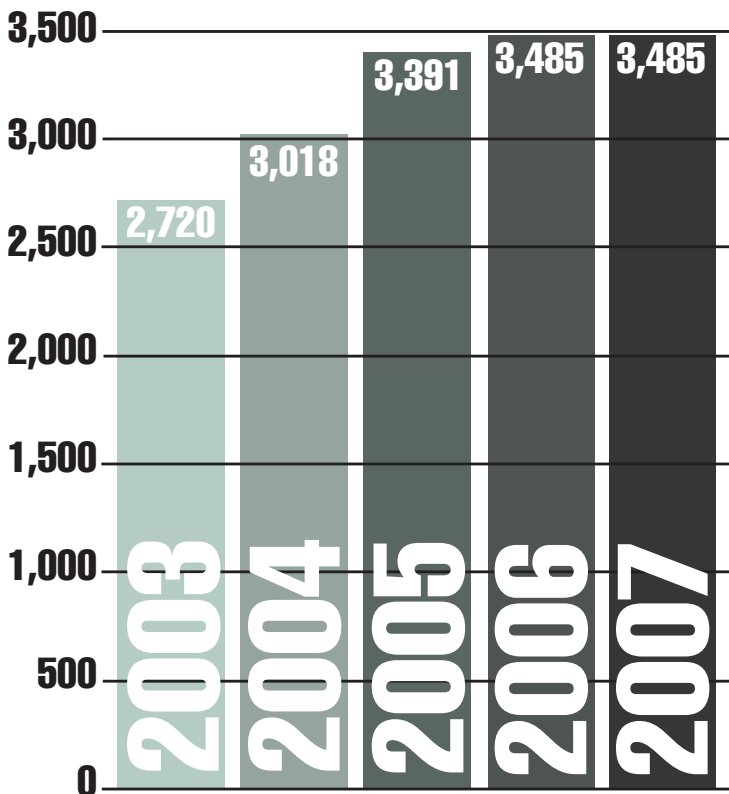
WAYNE L. JONES
Sheriff, St. John the Baptist Parish

stjohnsheriff.org

Visit our web site for the latest news from your sheriff's office, access many services and even register for E-mail bulletins.



Arrests

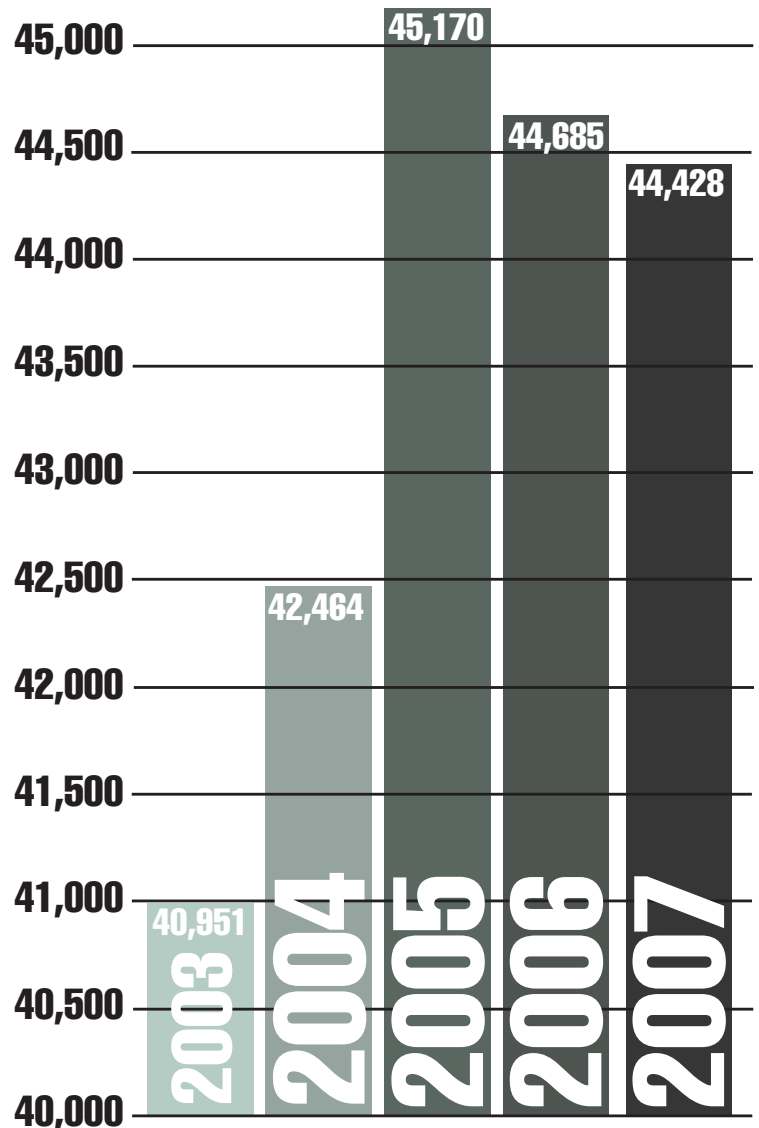


Amazingly, we made the same number of arrests in 2007 as we did in 2006.



2007 Traffic Accidents 1,883

Calls for Assistance*



*Calls to Acadian Ambulance and fire departments are included as SJBPSO also responds to these.



Corporal Daryl Turner helps Staci Bertucci check the safety seat of her 4-year-old son Bryce. The SJBPSO has certified child seat technicians on staff. Citizens may contact us to ensure their seat is appropriate and that it is installed properly.

Traffic Safety

As part of an \$80,000 Occupant Protection Grant from the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission, deputies are manning checkpoints to ensure motorists' safety.

"Besides seat belt and DWI enforcement, we are paying special attention to child safety seat usage," Sheriff Jones said. "Children must be properly restrained when riding in a vehicle and an improperly installed seat can be the difference between life and death."

There is a \$50 fine for failing to use a child restraint. Not wearing a seat belt will cost you \$25 for the first offense and \$50 for the second time you get caught.

Child Passenger Seat Checklist

- Children are safest in the back seat.
- Children less than 13 must be restrained with a seat belt or an appropriate child restraint.
- A rear-facing infant seat or convertible seat should be used for children weighing up to 20 pounds and at least 1-year-old. Use it until the seat is outgrown based on the manufacturer's limits.
- A belt-positioning booster seat should be used for children weighing at least 40 pounds and up to at least age 8 unless they are 4 feet 9 inches tall.
- A lap-and-shoulder seat belt should be used for children more than age 8 or 4 feet 9 inches tall.



Surveillance cameras will be appearing in the parish soon.

We're Watching!

The SJBPSO is working to install video cameras at high volume intersections and areas with continuing crime problems.

'Red light cameras' allow law enforcement to issue citations to drivers running the light. These cameras can also be used to monitor traffic flow in an evacuation.

"If we can use technology to enhance public safety, we will do it. Too many people are going through red lights and endangering others," Sheriff Jones said. "It's not a money-making deal for our office, we just want people to obey traffic laws."

Another type of surveillance will be used in St. John with the installation of 'crime cameras' that can record video and audio.

"Certain parts of the parish, despite our constant efforts, have repeated crime problems," Sheriff Jones said. "Strategically-placed visible and covert cameras will stream live data to our 911 center, allowing us to keep an eye on these areas."

Recordings from the cameras can be used as evidence in criminal proceedings. Hidden cameras recently taped a man illegally dumping tires in St. John. He was arrested and faces a \$25,000 fine.

Besides fixed locations, cameras can be set up in unmarked sheriff's office units to monitor traffic problems or suspected illegal activity.



Detective Sergeant Monty Adams and K-9 officer 'Scoobie' search a vehicle for illegal drugs

K-9 Again Among Tops in Nation

Two minutes. That's all the time a police K-9 has to find as much illegal drugs as possible at the National Narcotics Drug Dog Association competition. But, it was all SJBPSO's 'Scoobie' and his handler Detective Sergeant Monty Adams needed to finish 15th out of 160 such animals at the event in Jackson, MS.

A 65 pound, 10-year-old chocolate Labrador, Scoobie is used strictly for narcotics searches and according to Detective Adams "Can sniff out any illegal drug, even tiny amounts. Ecstasy, marijuana, cocaine, you name it – he can find it."

At the competition, illegal drugs are hidden in vehicles, luggage, furniture and other locations. Dogs and handlers are given points for accurate alerts and penalized for false findings.

Scoobie's better than top ten percent finish was no surprise as he won the event in 2006. Detective Adams says Scoobie's favorite treat is peanut butter crackers, or as he calls them, "Scoobie Snacks."

If you witness suspected drug activity, dial 985 652-DRUG to leave an anonymous tip. All calls are confidential.



(L-R) Corporal Nick Silvestri, Sheriff Jones and Deputy Kernell Goudia inspect new Dodge Charger patrol units. Eight Chargers are on the streets now with eight more appearing soon.



Deputy Elbridge Charlton patrols a parking lot in an electrically-powered vehicle. With a range of 30 miles on a single charge and a top speed of 25 MPH, the vehicles allow a deputy to cover much more ground than if he were working on foot.

Vehicle Update

Electric vehicles, motorcycles and patrol units have been added to our fleet, giving the SJBPSO flexibility when it comes to matching a vehicle to a particular purpose.

New Patrol Units

Eight Dodge Charger patrol units have been added to the fleet of Ford Crown Victorias you are used to seeing on patrol.

The new Chargers come equipped with a special 'police package' featuring a 340 horsepower, 5.7 liter hemi engine, an oil cooler, a heavy duty transmission and suspension system, bigger brakes and extra radiator cooling fans. The units are pre-wired for a light bar and sirens, which are installed by inmates. 18 inch tires give better control on wet roads.

Electric Cars

It may look different from a regular police vehicle, but it's an actual SJBPSO patrol unit.

An efficient way for a deputy to patrol a shopping center parking lot or get around quickly at fairs and festivals, these battery-powered vehicles can maneuver in tight areas. They have all the lights, sirens and communications equipment found in a regular unit.

Motorcycles

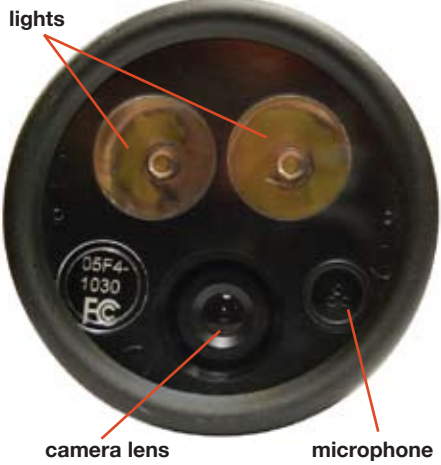
Two new Harley Davidson Electra Glide police edition cycles can go where other vehicles can't; such as an accident scene on a highway where travel lanes as well as the shoulder are partially blocked.

"These motorcycles will also be used for traffic enforcement," Sheriff Jones said. "It can be easier and quicker for deputies to use radar when on a motorcycle than in a regular unit. So here's a warning to speeders, particularly in neighborhoods - slow down or pay the price!"

Powered by air-cooled, twin cam, electronically-fuel-injected 103 cubic inch engines, the 830 pound motorcycles are equipped with special radios, suspension and cooling systems. Six-speed transmissions, anti-lock brakes and quartz halogen headlights round out the package.

Motorcycle deputies wear special uniforms and helmets equipped with microphone and headphone capabilities.





DVF Technology

Besides helping pay for radar guns, dashboard recording units and overtime for deputies, grant funds were used to purchase Digital Video Flashlights. A DVF resembles an ordinary police flashlight, but has a built-in camera and microphone that can record up to 16 hours of footage.

“During a traffic stop, field sobriety tests are recorded by dashboard cameras in patrol units,” Sheriff Jones said. “Now, suspected drunk drivers are getting a ‘close up’ from a DVF, allowing us to make stronger DWI cases.”



Sheriff Jones Appointed to State Law Enforcement Commission

Sheriff Wayne Jones has been appointed by Governor Bobby Jindal to the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Criminal Justice (LCLE). Individuals from law enforcement, prosecution, defense, judicial, corrections, law making and the victims of crime make up the 55 member body.

Charged with improving the operation of the criminal and juvenile justice systems, the LCLE also sets training standards for law enforcement officers.

In addition to his duties on the LCLE’s policy-making panel, Sheriff Jones serves on the commission’s Medal of Honor Committee, representing Louisiana’s fallen police officers.

For more information on the LCLE, visit the commission’s web site at lcle.la.gov.



Inmates work on a SJBPSO unit at the department’s maintenance building. As part of the rehabilitation process, inmates learn trades they can use once released.

Inmate Work Program Expanded

A third crew of eight men has been added to the SJBPSO Inmate Work Program. Only thoroughly-scrutinized, non-violent offenders with no more than two years left on a sentence are allowed to participate in the tightly-supervised work detail.

The program allows prisoners who have achieved trustee status to “Do something positive for the community,” Sheriff Jones said. “They appreciate the opportunity to be out for a day to get some exercise and fresh air.”

Besides grass cutting, cleaning up roadways and beautification efforts, inmates work at a variety of jobs for the sheriff’s office and parish. “Since we started the program in 1996, we have saved hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars by using inmate labor for all sorts of beneficial projects.”

Under expert supervision, much of the maintenance and repair to the SJBPSO fleet of vehicles is done by inmates. They also do carpentry, plumbing, painting, electrical wiring and provide janitorial services.



Sheriff Jones congratulates Deputies Daphne Rushing and J. P. Repath, POST graduates. Both officers work in the corrections division.

Deputy Barlon Cammon, a recent POST graduate shown with Sheriff Jones, is assigned to the uniform patrol division.

Graduates

Louisiana State Police Basic Training Academy

Pictured above, Deputies Carl Hall, second from left and Stephen Amador, fourth from left, are shown with Captain Chuck Bazile, far left, Sheriff Jones and Major John Gonor, far right, after recently graduating from the Louisiana State Police Basic Training Academy held at the State Police facility in Baton Rouge.

Deputy Hall works in uniform patrol while Amador is assigned to the K-9 division.

P.O.S.T.

The Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office Regional POST Academy recently graduated a number of SJBPSO deputies who have completed the POST or Peace Officers Standard and Training course. The training features instruction in firearms, criminal and traffic law, report writing, interview, interrogation and investigation techniques.

Below (L-R) Deputies Kernell Goudia; traffic, Gary Miles; corrections, Gordon Jeffcoat; civil division, Clyde Holt; warrants, Sheriff Jones, Deputies Michael Oubre; corrections, Tanner Mangano; corrections and Corporal Sammy Arcuri; court bailiff. Not pictured is Deputy Sherri Wallace; corrections.

stjohnsheriff.org

We recently completely redesigned our web site, stjohnsheriff.org to offer you more information and services.

Besides the latest news from your sheriff's office, a directory of divisions with contact information is available as well as downloadable forms and tax information. Links to crime prevention and children's programs are also offered.

Visit us often at stjohnsheriff.org and please let us know what we can do to make our web site better serve you.



Hurricanes Gustav and Ike



Water completely covers the intersection of Interstates 10 and 55 north of LaPlace.



The Ruddock exit of I-55 is under water from heavy rain and high winds.

The 2008 St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office Annual Report was produced just prior to Hurricanes Gustav and Ike impacting our community. This insert highlights the efforts of the SJBPSO before, during and after these storms.

In late August and early September, our parish suffered through two hurricanes, much as we did in 2005 when Katrina and Rita came through. Gustav and Ike caused problems for not only us, but much of South Central Louisiana.

Gustav

"It's hard to say that anything good came out of Hurricane Katrina, but a lot did," Sheriff Jones said. "Once things returned to normal in late 2005, our department completed a total evaluation of our emergency procedures and worked extremely hard to ensure that we are even better prepared when hurricanes threaten. It's very apparent that all our training and investments in the latest technology paid off as we were definitely ready for Gustav."

Once a state of emergency was declared on August 27 for Gustav, The SJBPSO swung into action, doubling the usual manpower on shifts and patrols. "Every member of the department who is POST certified was working to ensure public safety. We began double shifts, either from 5:30 in the morning to 5:30 in the afternoon or overnight until the next morning," Sheriff Jones said.

A mandatory evacuation was issued but still some residents choose not to leave. 273 prisoners were evacuated 72 hours before Gustav's arrival to state facilities.

"We cannot make you leave your home in such a situation," Sheriff Jones said. Should you choose to ride it out, we can't guarantee that we will be able to provide you help if you need it. In short, you stay at your own risk."

SJBPSO activities were coordinated from the emergency operations center or EOC. "Our 911 center operated without any interruption whatsoever. We have always had backup generator power and we test those units once a week to ensure that everything works perfectly and it did," Chief Deputy Harold Klibert said. "There was absolutely no communications failure during the storm and our response time was less than one minute to any call for help."

Some 70 units patrolled the parish during the day and about 85 each night - substantially more than usual. Flashing lights were used on nighttime patrols to allow citizens to know where we were and to provide a visible presence.

Immediately after the storm, National Guard Troops came in to help with recovery efforts. As supplies arrived, troops assisted law enforcement officials in staffing the PODs - Points of Distribution where MRE's (Meal Ready to Eat), water, ice and other supplies were handed out.

"I thank the many local churches and civic groups, businesses and citizens who donated food and supplies to feed and assist deputies, troops and emergency workers," Sheriff Jones said.

Our inmate work program began cleaning up public areas as soon as Gustav's winds subsided. Some 50 trustees cut up downed trees, picked up limbs and storm debris at parish buildings and schools and helped senior and disabled citizens get property cleared.

"Overall, we experienced very little criminal activity during the week or so the parish was without electrical power and under a curfew," Sheriff Jones said. "We

Continued...



Trustees and SJBPSO personnel work to clear debris after Gustav.

received far fewer calls for assistance than usual for a similar time period and during the entire storm event, we had 13 reported traffic accidents when usually we work about five a day.”

Ike

Restoring utilities to the entire parish was a huge job.

As the parish was still busy picking up from Hurricane Gustav, Ike passed through the northern Gulf of Mexico on his way to the Texas and Southwest Louisiana coast. Instead of high winds, Ike posed a different problem; high water.

“The East Bank of the parish drains towards Lakes Maurepas and Ponchartrain,” Sheriff Jones said. “They and the surrounding swamp were already high from Gustav’s heavy rain. Continued wind from the East and Northeast and an estimated six foot storm surge from Ike pushed water back into major drainage canals. It had no place to go.”

Some street flooding occurred north of Airline Highway and several homes were damaged from high water. The off ramps at Interstates 55 and 10 in St. John were closed as the low-lying areas under the exits were submerged.

On the West Bank, the Pleasure Bend area on the shore of Lake Des Allemands also experienced high water with several homes and businesses suffering damage.

“Thankfully there was no loss of life from either storm,” Sheriff Jones said. “We will continue to examine our emergency procedures, tweak them where necessary and remain ready to respond in such an event.”



SJBPSO personnel deliver supplies to residents.