

St. John The Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office



Annual Report 2013



St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office Annual Report 2013

Dear fellow citizens,

Welcome to the first annual report of this new administration. The items included here reflect a small fraction of what we have done to continue to better protect you as we work to protect all citizens and their property.

I am doing all that I can to provide the best equipment to the men and women of our office who have taken a solemn oath to protect us. A new radio system, bulletproof vests, new patrol units, new weapons and numerous new computer-based tools all add to our ongoing commitment to do what is necessary to fight crime.

To make interaction with this office more convenient and further strengthen lines of communication, I have expanded office hours and increased the number and size of our community outreach programs. When you telephone our office, a person – not a voice mail system – will answer. I also enhanced our web site – stjohnsheriff.org – making more services available online.

The professionalism of our department is enhanced by our rigorous training programs. Now, job applicants undergo extensive psychological and background checks as part of the employment process. Mandatory ethics training is conducted for every employee and pre-employment drug screenings have been instituted.

The SJBPSO has made great strides in enhancing our hurricane and disaster readiness, expanding our scope of services and strengthening communication with other emergency responders and governmental agencies.

I continue to be a good steward of taxpayer dollars by instituting programs to save money. Funds from state and federal grants are used whenever possible to defray the cost of operating this department.

Please allow me to personally ask you to stay involved in our efforts to stop crime. Use one of our anonymous telephone tip lines or dial 911 to report illegal or suspicious activity. Do not hesitate to let me know if I or this office can ever be of service to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Tregre". The signature is fluid and cursive.

MIKE TREGRE

Sheriff, St. John the Baptist Parish
sheriff@stjohnsheriff.org

Want a speaker for your next meeting?

If you would like a representative of the SJBPSO to address your organization about anything from Internet safety, to crime-fighting technology to the history of our department, please contact our community relations division at 985.652.7058. We welcome the opportunity to visit with you.



The BearCat

Our CMU – Crisis Management Unit, (formerly SORT) trains hard and stays prepared to expertly handle any emergency. To assist this team in its efforts to keep St. John safe, we’ve added a new tool to its arsenal – the Lenco BearCat G-3.

Weighing some 19,500 pounds, The BearCat is powered by a nearly 400 horsepower engine, has a bulletproof body and windows, blast-resistant floors, is equipped with a 20 foot hydraulic ram and has space to carry a fully equipped, ten-man CMU. Three quarters of the \$330,000 cost of the vehicle was covered by a grant from the Department of Homeland Security, with the balance made up by the sheriff’s office and contributions from local businesses.

“The BearCat’s primary use is to transport our award-winning CMU to situations such as hostage incidents, a terrorist threat or encounters with armed offenders,” Sheriff Tregre said. “It will protect our deputies in very dangerous situations.”



Inside The BearCat, Deputy Anthony Giovingo has an array of controls and equipment at his disposal.

FirstCall Alerts

The SJBPSO is using the FirstCall system to deliver important messages to personnel. “We can send a voice call, text message and email to all personnel, even if they are off duty, to alert them to a situation that requires immediate action,” Sheriff Tregre said. “A notice of an incident-in-progress, missing person, threatening weather or industrial accident can be issued in seconds.”

By alerting all personnel at once, action can be taken immediately. For example, if a report is made about a missing child in a store, an off-duty deputy who happens to be there may be able to resolve the situation. “These notifications will further shorten our response times and help prevent the escalation of dangerous situations.”



Deputies undergo classroom and field training with the new Karbon EID.

Karbon Immobilizing Weapon

SJBPSO deputies facing a volatile situation have a new weapon to help defuse the encounter. Officers are now equipped with an electronic immobilization device or EID, comparable to a Taser, to subdue subjects with a five-second electric charge.

With a laser sight and range of more than 20 feet, the Karbon Arms EID can stop a threat to a deputy’s safety. Officers undergo extensive training before carrying the new weapon.

Prescription Costs Cut at Jail

The SJBPSO is required by law to provide medical care to inmates at the Sherman Walker Correctional Center. Two retired pharmacists were hired to make an intensive study of the 300 bed jail’s prescription drug program, which was costing some \$300,000 per year. Once their recommendations for procurement and distribution were put in place, the cost of inmate prescriptions was cut by more than half, saving about \$180,000.



Vest Fund contributors’ luncheon

Bulletproof Vest Fund

Through the continued generosity of businesses, civic organizations, schools and citizens, the SJBPSO has raised \$138,000 to outfit every patrol deputy as well as some K-9 officers with bulletproof vests. “It is rewarding to know that the people of our community want to protect those who protect them,” Sheriff Tregre said. “On behalf of our entire department, thank you.” New bulletproof vests, helmets and tactical equipment for our Crisis Management Unit were also purchased with donated funds.



Hurricane Isaac

Lingering effects of Hurricane Isaac are still visible in some areas of St. John. The August, 2012 storm caused major damage, power outages and pushed water into some 7,000 homes, flooding entire neighborhoods.



Parish President Natalie Robottom, President Barack Obama, Sheriff Tregre and Governor Bobby Jindal survey damage caused by Hurricane Isaac.

“We continue to re-build in many areas and in many ways,” Sheriff Tregre said. “When hurricane season ended, we did a thorough analysis of our response, pinpointing what we did well and where we can do better. As a result, some areas of our department were strengthened, others streamlined and new procedures put in place for preparedness and response.”

“Ensuring the safety of our community is our top priority,” Sheriff Tregre said. “Working with the parish and other emergency responders, we are even more prepared to provide a timely and effective response when the next storm comes.”

Some unscrupulous contractors have preyed upon people who are rebuilding by not providing services they were paid for. Contact our office immediately if you have experienced any such problems.



Radio Upgrade

Communication is the frontline of law enforcement and we have completely upgraded our radio system.

“New P25 hand-held units use a series of interlocking signals to provide the largest radius of coverage we’ve ever had, with clearer voice transmission with other law enforcement and emergency responders,” Sheriff Tregre said. “All dead zones will be eliminated and about \$1.5 million saved by using existing towers in neighboring parishes to relay our signal.”

A lighted, inflatable radio tower can raise an antenna 50 feet to provide additional capacity if officers are working in an area where signals are weakened.

“The new system has plenty of room for expansion and should meet our communication needs for years to come.”



An inflatable tower, powered by a standard automobile outlet, can raise an antenna to further enhance radio communication.



Major Troy Hidalgo, Commander of our Communications and Technology Division, goes over the features of the new P25 radio with Communications Supervisor Captain Anna Cox.

Technology Upgrades

As criminals become more sophisticated, we stay on the cutting edge of fighting them. Our technology is up-to-date and our equipment second-to-none. Using grant money, personnel have been added to our Information Technology (IT) team and new computer servers have been installed, providing additional resources to the department. For the first time, every employee has an email address.



Lieutenant Randall Joseph uses an iPad system to issue an electronic ticket to a motorist. The SJBPSO writes about 2,000 tickets each month.

Electronic Tickets

St. John officers are using special iPads to issue tickets, replacing paper ones that had to be transported to our office, cataloged, filed and stored. Tickets that resemble a grocery store receipt are printed and given to a motorist as an electronic copy is sent to our office. Besides saving time and manpower, issuing citations this way costs less. Tickets may now be paid on line through our web site, stjohnsheriff.org.

iPads in Use

iPads are being used by more patrol officers to record statements, take photos and/or video of an incident and produce electronic reports.

“In the past, an officer would investigate an incident, write a report, submit the report which was sometimes transcribed, then filed,” Sheriff Tregre said. “Using an iPad eliminates several of these steps and saves time, freeing deputies up to go back to patrolling and responding to calls for assistance.”

Digital reports can be easily shared with other law enforcement agencies or interested parties. The iPads also alert deputies when patrol units are due for service.



Deputy Brian Koretzky checks a business.

Electronic Business Security Checks

Using a specially equipped iPad, deputies can scan a bar code on a business in the parish during a security check. A record is made of when it was checked, who checked it and its condition. This information is sent to the owner via email as well as notification if a window or door was found open. The new system is also being used on public buildings.



Visit stjohnsheriff.org for the latest news and activities of your sheriff's office.

New Vehicles/Fuel Service



Sporting new colors and graphics, Chevrolet Tahoes are replacing aging SJBPSO units.

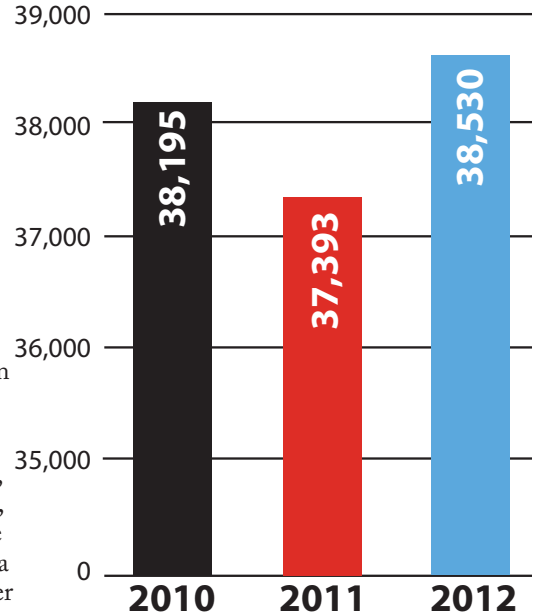
The SJBPSO is saving money on gasoline purchases by using the Fuelman service. The system allows the department to buy gas in bulk at a discounted price. Every vehicle in our fleet uses Fuelman, which makes gas available anywhere in the event of a local power failure.

Some of this fuel is going into new Chevrolet Tahoes as they replace aging patrol units. “The Tahoe is well-suited for police work,” Sheriff Tregre said. “It provides ample storage for the gear deputies must carry and higher ground clearance to get through standing water.”

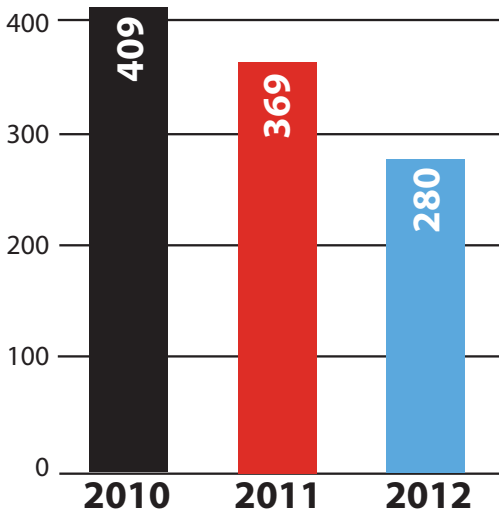
Stopping Alcohol Sales to Minors

A recent undercover sting operation resulted in 11 arrests of St. John store owners or employees on charges of selling alcohol to minors. If you suspect a local establishment of providing alcohol to underage patrons, contact us.

CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE



DWI ARRESTS



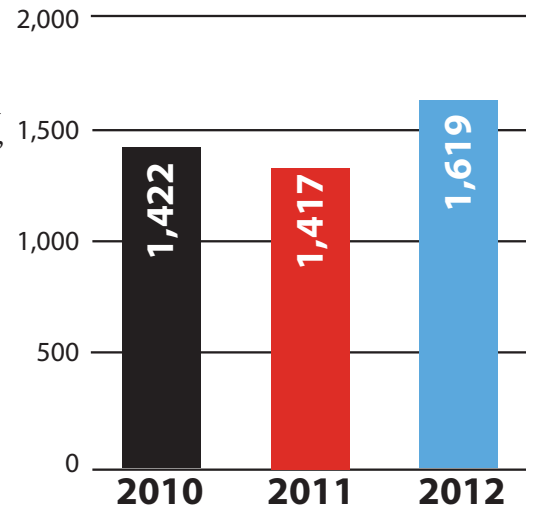
Tip Lines

A new, confidential tip line is ready to receive information about crimes in our parish and area. Your identity is not recorded or revealed to anyone when you dial **985-359-TIPS (8477)**. Our drug activity tip line is still active at **985-652-DRUG (3784)**. If you see suspected drug activity or have information that can help solve a crime, keep St. John safe by reporting it.

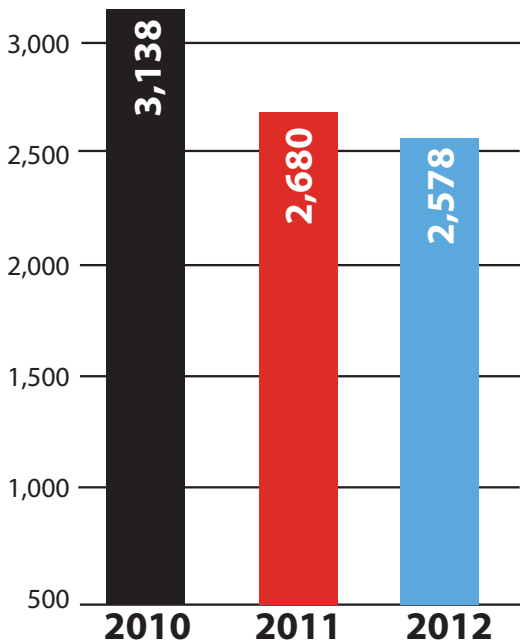
Crimestoppers of Greater New Orleans, **504-822-1111** or **877-903-STOP (7867)**, offers cash rewards for tips that help solve crimes. The anonymous tip line provides a number when you call that you can use later to claim a reward.

Visit crimestoppersgno.org or our web site, stjohnsheriff.org for more information.

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS WORKED



ARRESTS



New Shift Roster

New staffing guidelines further enhance our efforts to keep St. John safe. On each shift, at least one detective is accessible to initiate and supervise investigations, one crime scene investigator is available, one traffic officer trained in accident re-creation is on duty as well as one K-9 officer. Often, more than one specially trained person from each division is on duty.

DRUG ARRESTS for 2012 - 546



PREVENT AUTOBURGLARY
 HIDE YOUR THINGS | LOCK YOUR CAR | TAKE YOUR KEYS



Deputy Brandon Nielsen Deputy Jeremy Triche

Fallen 4

In the early morning hours of August 16, 2012, the SJBPSO was struck by tragedy when Deputies Brandon Nielsen and Jeremy Triche were ambushed and killed in a gun battle with several men. Deputies M. Scott Boyington and Jason Triche were wounded in the incident. The suspects in these shootings are in custody, awaiting trial.

“Every police officer knows the risks associated with this profession,” Sheriff Tregre said. “But we still come to work every day and put our lives on the line to protect our community. It’s more of a calling than a job.”

Numerous fundraisers and community events have been held to assist the families of the deceased officers and offset medical expenses of those injured. The names of the two fallen deputies have been added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C., joining those of more than 19,000 officers who lost their lives in the line of duty.

“Our community continues to come together to let the families, friends and loved ones of these true heroes – our Fallen 4 – know that the sacrifices they made and continue to make are valued, appreciated and respected.”



Deputy M. Scott Boyington Deputy Jason Triche

In Memory: Sergeant Sammy Arcuri

The SJBPSO lost a longtime employee in September of 2012 when Sergeant Salvador “Sammy” Arcuri passed away. After joining the sheriff’s office in 1996, he served the people of St. John as a Civil Process Server and in the Community Relations Division. Sergeant Arcuri was 61.



P.O.S.T. Graduates

Numerous SJBPSO deputies have completed the classroom and field instruction necessary to achieve Peace Officers Standards and Training certification, or POST. The 17-week course instructs law enforcement professionals on many topics, including investigation and interrogation, traffic and criminal law, first aid, firearm use and defensive tactics.



L-R: Deputy Sidney Triche, Deputy Turner Barran, Deputy Jacquelyn Merritt, Deputy Avo Marzwanian, Sergeant Kendel Harris – Marksman Award



L-R: Deputy Javonna Cordova-Johnson, Deputy Arthur Ponder – Physical Fitness, Marksman and Most Improved Awards, Deputy Teresa Browning – Scholastic Award, Deputy Glenn Steadman



L-R: Deputy Brian Landry, Deputy Jennifer Trigueros – Scholastic Award, Sheriff Tregre, Deputy Ann Rosa, Deputy Roy Vicknair, Sergeant Rick Bailey



L-R: Deputy Brian Schum – Marksman Award, Deputy Denise Bertrand, Deputy Galen Joseph, Sheriff Tregre, Deputy Thomas Ricks – Physical Fitness Award, Deputy Grant Pierre, Deputy Ernest Gray – Physical Fitness Award



L-R: SJBPSO FBI Graduates: Detective Jerry Fountain, Major Clarence Gray, Lieutenant Gregory Baker, Sheriff Tregre, Captain David Lozano and Sergeant Troy Cassioppi

FBI National Academy Graduates

Lieutenant Gregory Baker, holding the certificate, and Sergeant Troy Cassioppi, far right, are our most recent graduates of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. Sergeant Cassioppi, our Traffic Division Commander, is a member of the 2012 class. Lieutenant Baker, who serves in our Criminal Investigations Division, completed the 2013 session. Their graduation from the prestigious training course brings to six the number of FBI Academy graduates currently at the SJBPSO.

Founded in 1935, all 50 states, numerous foreign countries and military organizations from around the world send representatives to the FBI 10-week program to study the latest developments in law enforcement.

2012 Deputy of the Year



Amanda Roh was named Deputy of the Year for 2012. Her most notable accomplishment was saving the life of a newborn baby. Responding to a call for assistance, she encountered a woman who had just given birth but the baby was not breathing. Deputy Roh cleared the infant’s airway with quick back slaps and the child began to take breaths on its own. Mother and baby were then transported to River Parishes Hospital and today, both are still doing well. Deputy Roh was honored at a luncheon and received a certificate of commendation for her heroic effort.

Connecting to Our Community



Town Hall Meetings



United Way Campaign Kickoff



Senior Citizen Thanksgiving Lunch



Armband Sale for Fallen 4

LaPlace Park Neighborhood Watch



St. Hubert Fallen 4 Collection



Night Out Against Crime