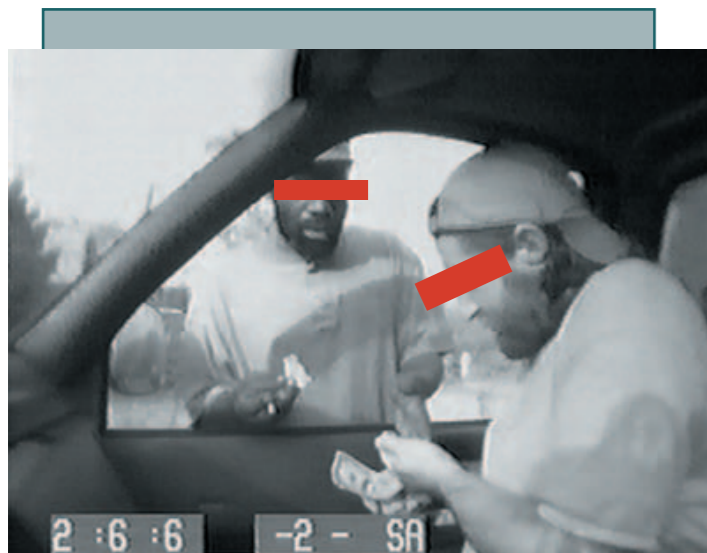


The War on Drugs

Much of the crime in our parish is linked to the illegal drug trade and fighting this menace is one of the biggest challenges we face every day.

Using the one-quarter-cent sales tax approved by parish voters in 2001, the SJBPSO has expanded its shifts, putting more deputies, more units and more crime fighting technology on the street. Undercover sting operations, drug raids, specialized training for deputies and an increased presence in high-crime areas are having a positive effect, with 436 drug arrests made last year.

"We are making progress in this battle and need the help of our citizens to win the war," Sheriff Jones said. "If you believe you see someone using illegal drugs, or notice suspicious activity, contact us by dialing 9-1-1. We will respond."



▲ Undercover deputies purchase drugs from suspected dealers. Transactions are captured on videotape for evidence and prosecution.

Tips for Raising Drug Free Children*

- Although teen drug use in America continues to decline, parents or caregivers must educate children to the dangers of illegal drugs.
- Keep tabs on children by knowing where they are, especially after school. Begin monitoring when your child is young and continue through the teen years. *Children not regularly monitored are four times more likely to use drugs.*
- Teens will likely resist attempts to find out details of their daily whereabouts, but may accept the idea if you present it as a way of ensuring safety or interest in who they are and what they like to do, rather than as a means of control.
- Talk. Talk. Talk. There is no greater tool in the fight to keep kids off drugs than communication between parents and children. Explain to your children that drugs ruin lives.

* From the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) website, dare.com. You'll find a link to that site and much more useful information by visiting us on the web: stjohnsheriff.org.

Traffic Division

As our parish grows, so does the number of vehicles on our streets and, unfortunately, so does the number of motorists ignoring traffic laws.

"Some people don't care about running a red light or driving faster than the speed limit. But, they're not only putting themselves in danger, but others as well," Sheriff Jones said. "Children in particular are endangered by speeding cars as they don't always look for traffic. That extra second needed to stop could be the time needed to avoid a tragedy."

To respond to the increased number of automobiles, the size of the traffic division has more than quadrupled - up from three to 13 deputies. Four new units have been added, with video and digital cameras for evidence-gathering and accident re-creation.

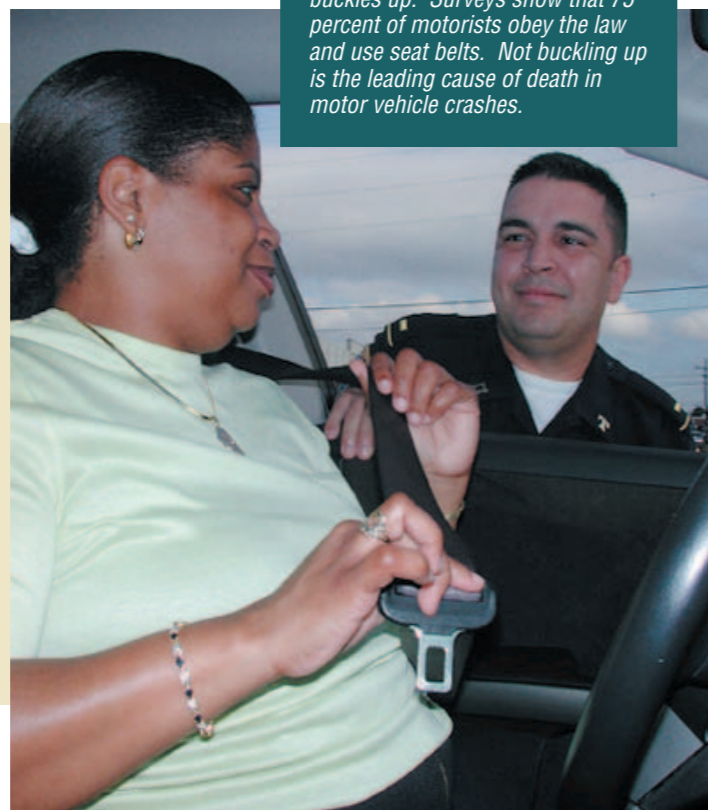
Traffic division deputies pay special attention to speeding. If cited, the faster you are going the more it will cost you.



▼ Corporal Don Mince and Sheriff Jones monitor traffic with a laser beam speed detection unit, which provides pinpoint accuracy of a vehicle's pace.



▼ **Be Safe!**
Traffic Division Commander Lieutenant Troy Cassioppi watches as Deputy Gaynell Bourgeois buckles up. Surveys show that 75 percent of motorists obey the law and use seat belts. Not buckling up is the leading cause of death in motor vehicle crashes.



▲ Sheriff Jones inspects one of the new gas masks with Deputy Aaroko Hamilton and Lieutenant Gene Weinert.

Protection

We work to keep you safe. Protecting our deputies is also a top priority.

As part of our continuing efforts to keep St. John safe, deputies use the latest in protective gear and crime-fighting technology. Recently, with funds secured through a grant from the United States Department of Homeland Security, special gas masks were purchased and installed in each sheriff's office unit.

These uniquely constructed masks resist chemical and biological agents, protecting deputies responding to a call for assistance in hazardous locations.

Visit us online at stjohnsheriff.org

Working With You

Your sheriff's office stays involved in the community, helping out in any way it can and supporting the people of the parish.

By cooperating with citizens and sponsoring many beneficial events, we keep the lines of communication open between you and the department. If you'd like a guest speaker from our office to visit your organization's next meeting, or if your group has a special need and you think we can assist you in any way, please contact us.

We are here to serve you.



▲ The annual "Night Out Against Crime," is always a big success in St. John with many residents holding and attending functions. The program brings the community together to take a stand against crime.

Correctional Center Upgrade

A new video surveillance system at the Lieutenant Sherman Walker Correctional Center allows facility directors to keep an eye on inmates and key areas of the jail around the clock.

"This system helps keep both correctional officers and inmates safe," said Sheriff Jones. "With 35 cameras, there is virtually no area of the jail that's not under surveillance 24 hours a day."

Besides the main area of the facility, cameras monitor booking areas, control rooms, the exercise yard, the port for prisoner delivery and food service areas. The area where inmates work on their high school general equivalency degree is also watched.

Sheriff Jones pointed out that comparable systems sell for \$20,000. "But by using inmate labor, we installed it for \$8,000, saving taxpayer money."

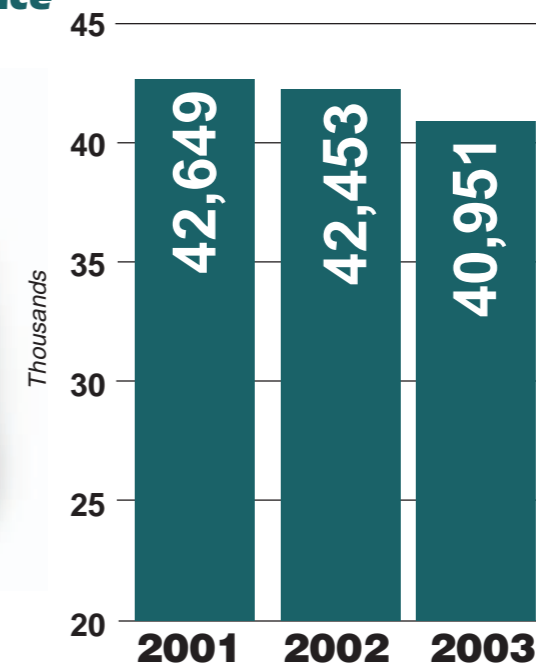
The system at the Walker Center, which houses up to 300 inmates, will soon be upgraded to allow recording and playback of any second of any day for six months past.

The Lieutenant Sherman Walker Correctional Center is named for Lt. Walker, who was killed in the line of duty in 1984. Located at 100 Deputy Barton Granier Drive, the street is named for the late SJBPSO deputy who lost his life in 1996 while protecting the citizens of our parish.

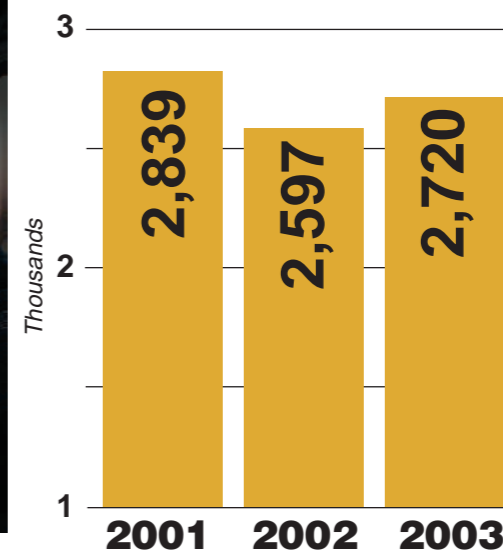


▲ Captain Philip Hebert, warden of the Sherman Walker Correctional Center, uses the new monitoring system to keep the facility secure.

Calls for Assistance



Arrests



K-9 Division

It's been said that a dog can be a man's best friend. Our specially trained canines or 'K-9' officers are a great asset to deputies and the department.

Canines assist officers on patrol and can be used in situations that might be dangerous for a deputy. The SJBPSO has five dogs that are used to patrol the correctional facility and to sweep local schools and industries for drugs. These dogs show aggressiveness only when ordered to do so.

Before coming to the SJBPSO, the dogs, which can be valued at about \$5,500 each, receive up to twelve weeks of intensive training at a professional facility in Kaplan, Louisiana.



▲ Captain Chuck Bazile (in protective suit) and Corporal Keith Brooks work with K-9 officer "Lion" a three year old Malinois (mal-un-wah). This Belgian shepherd breed is known for its confidence, strength, agility and alertness. Besides police work, Malinois' excel at obedience, tracking and search and rescue.



▲ Your sheriff's office participates in the annual 'St. John Senior Day.'

▶ Sergeant Dane Clement and Lieutenant LaNard Robinet stir up a delicious jambalaya for a sheriff's office-sponsored event.