



Dear friends,

On behalf of the St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office, welcome to our annual report. Please allow me a few moments to share with you some of the many things we do to help keep you safe.

As the tragedy of hurricane Katrina continues to unfold, St. John the Baptist Parish can count its blessings as for the most part, we were spared the wrath of this killer storm. In short – We Were Lucky!

It's gratifying to know that the countless hours spent training for a situation such as this pay off. By preparing before the storm hit, we fared well. I am extremely proud of how the men and women of this department reacted to Katrina's challenge and am grateful for their continued sacrifice.

Had the storm not taken a last minute wobble to the east, things could have been much different.

In our parish there was no loss of life, no flooding and no looting. Power outages inconvenienced us all but thankfully damage was mostly limited to roofs. Downed limbs and trees did destroy a few residents' storage buildings.

St. John has changed. There are new ways of doing business and many fresh faces as we estimate that the parish has some 15,000 more people working to rebuild their lives. Law enforcement resources are being tested and we remain committed to providing you with the highest quality service possible.

I ask you to take just a moment and put yourself in the shoes of these displaced people. They did not ask to be uprooted from their homes, jobs and way of life. They are here because they must live somewhere. Fortunately, St. John the Baptist Parish is a wonderful place and its people are the friendliest in the world.

Yes, lines are longer, traffic is heavier and it takes more time to get things done. Let's all have compassion and perhaps most important, patience.

The St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office exists for only one reason – to serve you. If you need us, call us. If you witness a situation where we are needed immediately, do not hesitate to dial 911.

Let me know what this office or I can do to help you.

On behalf of our entire office, please accept my sincere wishes for a safe and joyous holiday season.

Sincerely,

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

Need A Speaker For Your Next Meeting?

If your organization would like to have a representative of the St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office address your group, let us know. We have experts on a variety of topics from law enforcement to search-and-rescue to the latest in crime-fighting technology. Please call 985 652-7058, extension 186. We would be glad to visit with you!

St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office Survey

We need your input. Please, fill out and return this survey. Thank you.

In the past year, did you call our office for assistance?

Yes No Called the office number Dialed 911

If you did call on us, was the responding deputy: *(Check all which apply)*

Courteous Professional Discourteous Knowledgeable Helpful

How often do you see deputies patrolling in your neighborhood?

Frequently Sometimes Hardly Ever Never

The most important issue we can address in your area is:

How we may better serve you?

How long have you lived in St. John the Baptist Parish? _____ What is your zip code? _____

If you would like to be contacted personally to discuss law enforcement issues in our community, please fill in the area below.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail _____

Please return to:

St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office

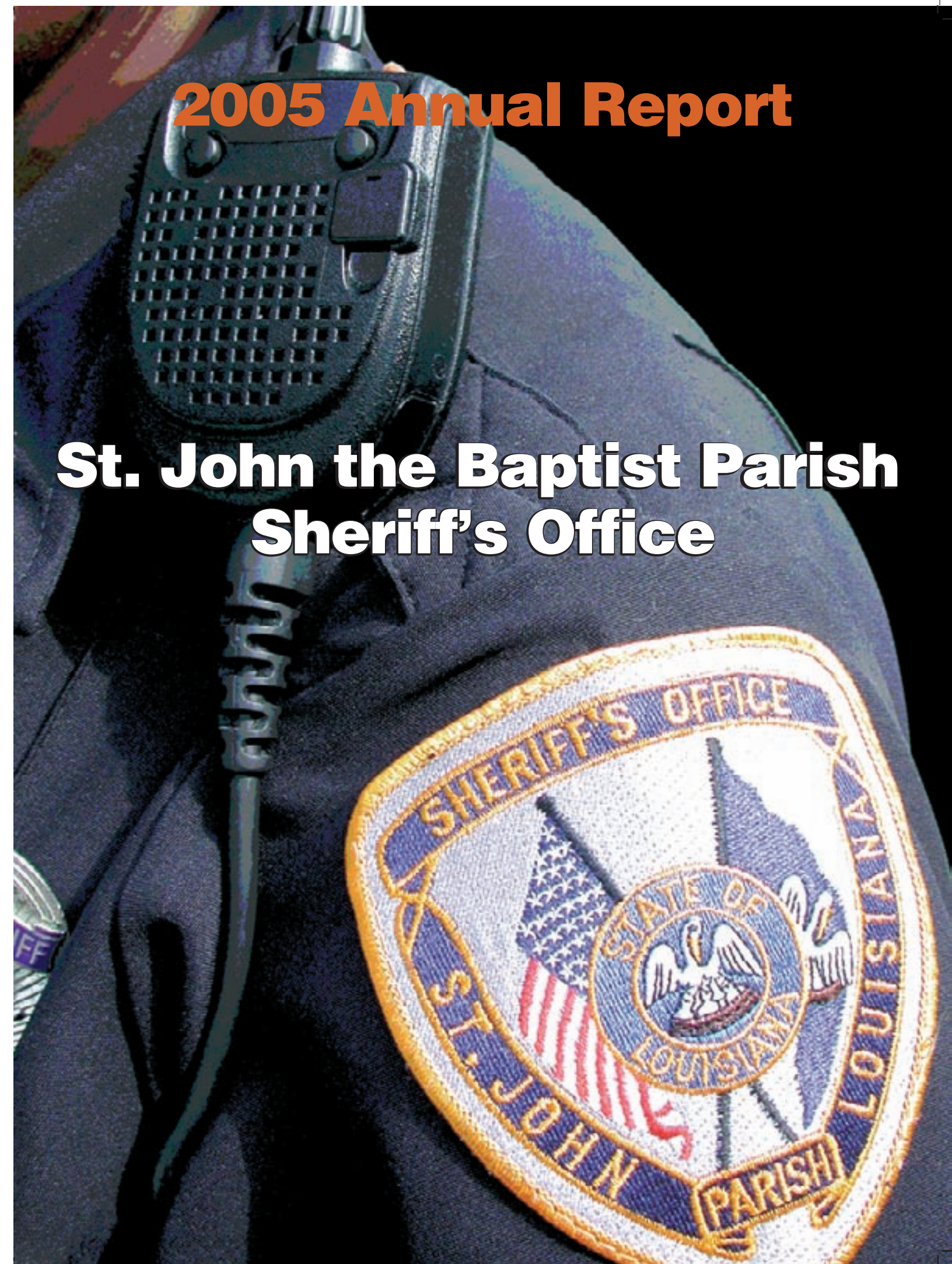
Wayne L. Jones, Sheriff
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stjohnsheriff.org

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In An Emergency, Dial 911



2005 Annual Report

St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office

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St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office

Annual Report 2005



Deputy Lamon Robertson and Sheriff Jones use the new communications system.

stjohnsheriff.org

Communications Upgrades

The first line of law enforcement is communication.

Major upgrades to the SJBPSO communication center and the radios used by personnel are complete. The \$900,000 improvement is funded in part by grants from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security through the state of Louisiana and the St. John the Baptist Parish Communications District.

In the communications center, new mapping technology allows dispatchers to instantly pinpoint the location of a call from a home, business or a mobile phone. The dispatcher can then direct the nearest officer to the location for faster response.

The upgrade doesn't stop with technology. The specially trained dispatchers are working in healthier surroundings with better lighting, adjustable-height ergonomic consoles and a new air-treatment system.

"To be hurricane-resistant, the center has no windows and we usually have three operators in one room working 12 hour shifts," said Chief Deputy Harold Klibert, who headed the team overseeing the improvements. "They were breathing the same air that entire time and if one got sick, they all got sick. A new ventilation system will exchange the air within the center some 60 times per hour. We also invested \$70,000 to ground the communications tower, protecting it and the system from lightning strikes."

Besides upgrades to the communications center, a new, secure radio system is in use which

prohibits unauthorized personnel from listening in on police conversations. "Radios are the backbone of staying a step ahead of criminals," Chief Deputy Klibert said. "These waterproof units are more reliable, have improved sound quality and offer safety features that the 14 year old radios they replaced did not have."

The SJBPSO shares its radio system with local fire departments, the school board and housing authority. "In an emergency, a special channel gives access to every radio in the system," Chief Deputy Klibert said. "In a touchy situation, a deputy can push one button and instantly and silently contact our communications center."

Equipped with a new, state-of-the-art radio, Deputy Valerie Stewart patrols the streets of St. John.



Hurricane Katrina

Things in St. John continue to get back to normal as the recovery from Hurricane Katrina progresses.

Besides damage to homes and businesses, the biggest problem we faced was power outages as some areas were without electricity for up to eight days. Entry crews and parish employees did a superb job of re-attaching downed lines as fast as they could.

During and after the storm the SJBPSO put twice the number of our personnel on the street than normal. Every commissioned deputy in St. John was either on patrol or at headquarters, working to keep people and property safe. After dark, we used overhead lights on patrol units to let residents know we were there and they could contact us if needed. River Parishes Hospital became a command post where officers could eat and sleep. Thanks to the many local restaurants, stores and residents who donated food, ice and their time, our personnel stayed as comfortable as possible under adverse conditions.

Our parish was, and in some ways is still a major staging point for efforts to assist the New Orleans area. State Police, Wildlife and Fisheries, law enforcement officers from across the country,



A SJBPO deputy directs motorists after the storm. One of the biggest changes Katrina made to our lives has been increased traffic on our roads.

Hurricane Katrina bears down on Louisiana.

SJBPSO personnel helped evacuate people from flooded areas of Orleans Parish.



Helping Out Fellow Law Enforcement Agencies

Our department came through Katrina with very few problems. Our mechanical equipment – automobiles, trucks, emergency vehicles, boats, four wheelers, rescue equipment, generators and other items worked as they should – a credit to our team of maintenance personnel.

Sheriff's offices to the east were not so fortunate. In Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes, nearly the entire fleet of sheriff's office vehicles was wiped out. After making certain they are in sound mechanical order, the SJBPSO plans to donate the used patrol cars we usually put up for auction to these offices.

the Salvation Army, and the American Red Cross all came in to help. The 82nd Airborne set up headquarters at the airport in Reserve, sending their Chinook and Blackhawk helicopters into the city to assist people.

SJBPSO directed evacuees through the parish. One of our deputies rounded up airboats that worked exceedingly well in the shallow, debris-laden water, helping us to assist some 100 people. Our Special Operations and Response Team, S.O.R.T., brought generators, food, water and ammunition to law enforcement officers in the city.

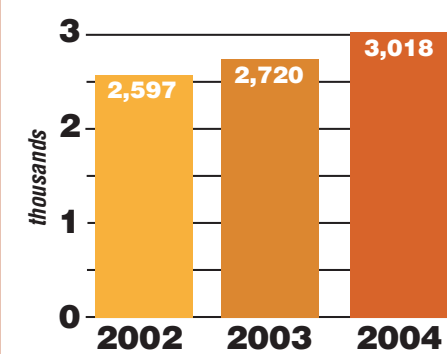
Inmates constructed temporary sign posts and we turned major intersections into four way stops. Deputies were posted to ensure that emergency vehicles could get through.

Interestingly, during the time deputies controlled traffic in the parish, there were only two automobile accidents – minor "fender benders." Once traffic signals became operational, we went back to our old average of 10-12 accidents each day.

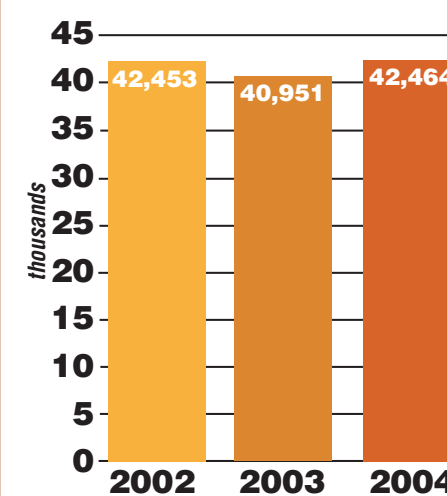
The people of our parish are to be commended for their cooperation and compassion during this time. Things are getting better every day.



Arrests



Calls for Assistance*



*Includes those made to fire departments and Acadian Ambulance as SJBPSO also responds to these calls.

Alcohol Sales

The law is simple. You must be 21 years old to purchase or consume alcoholic beverages.

As part of our efforts to stop underage drinking, the SJBPSO conducted a "sting" operation, code named S.A.M. - Sale of Alcohol to Minors.

"We had an undercover minor attempt to purchase alcohol or tobacco from some 40 local businesses," Sheriff Jones said. "A 'plain clothes' deputy or agent of the Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control was already in the establishment observing the clerk or bartender. In most cases, businesses acted responsibly, but if they sold these items to the agent, we issued citations."

Businesses can have operating licenses revoked and be fined for violating alcohol laws. A minor possessing alcohol faces a fine of \$100. Adults purchasing alcohol for minors can be fined \$500. Both offenses can also carry a six month jail term.

Recently, the alcoholic beverage permit process was tightened to allow more background checks of applicants and additional involvement from the sheriff's office. "A person who applies for a permit must be of good character and actually run the place," Sheriff Jones said. "We will continue working hard to ensure that these businesses operate legally."



Achievements

FBI Academy Graduate

A 17 year veteran of law enforcement, SJBPSO Major Michael Tregre recently graduated from the 11 week FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

"Only one percent of all law enforcement officers in the country attend the academy," Sheriff Jones said. "It's a great achievement for Major Tregre and we're all very proud of him."

Major Tregre directs the public integrity division and serves as spokesman for the department. He joins Chief Deputy Harold Klibert, Major Robert Hay, Lieutenant Todd Hymel and Lieutenant Clarence Gray as FBI Academy graduates.

Sheriff Jones congratulates Major Michael Tregre, SJBPSO's most recent FBI Academy graduate.



Basic Police Academy Graduates

Two SJBPSO deputies graduated from the Louisiana State Police Basic Police Academy. Deputies Edward Howell, who joined the office in March 2005 and Brent Remondet, a deputy since August 2004, recently completed the ten week course which featured instruction in firearms, physical fitness, Louisiana criminal and traffic laws, report writing, interrogation, defensive driving and investigations.

Both officers have previous experience in our corrections unit and are now assigned to the uniform patrol division.



(L-R) Deputy Edward Howell, Sheriff Jones, Deputy Brent Remondet.

Deputies Complete P.O.S.T. Training

Five SJBPSO deputies recently graduated from the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office Regional P.O.S.T. (Peace Officer Standards and Training) Academy, held in Thibodaux.

The extensive 17 week nightly training course featured instruction in general investigations, firearms, physical fitness, Louisiana criminal and traffic law, compiling reports and conducting interviews and interrogations.



P.O.S.T. Academy Graduates and dates of joining the SJBPSO: (L-R) Deputies Lawrence Joseph, January 2004, Todd Sutton – who finished second in the class academically, February 2002, William Mulkey, January 2003, Sheriff Jones, Shane Hahn, January 2004 and Graylin Burl, July 2002. All five officers are assigned to the corrections division.

652 - DRUG

Criminals are behind bars because local citizens are taking active roles in fighting crime. Calls to the SJBPSO's confidential tip line, 652-DRUG (3784) lead to numerous arrests being made on drug and weapons charges.

"It's great that residents who notice suspicious activities are calling us," Sheriff Jones said. "This type of involvement makes a huge difference in our efforts to rid the parish of drugs and crime."

The 652-DRUG line is totally anonymous with no caller ID or other method used to trace the call. "Every call and every tip is thoroughly checked out," Sheriff Jones said. "We're deadly serious about stopping illegal drugs and can do even more when citizens help us."

Signs of possible drug activity include:

- Unexplained increases in vehicular and pedestrian traffic in an area
- An unusually high number of automobiles parked at a house every day or through the night
- Motorists that stop in the area for short periods are approached by someone and then drive off

If you witness anything that looks like drug activity, call 985 652-DRUG or E-mail us through our website at stjohnsheriff.org. If you think that there is a threat to your safety, immediately call 911.



Sheriff Jones examines Patrol Corporal Deputy Kory Borcharding's bullet-proof vest.

Bullet-Proof Vests

St. John the Baptist Parish residents and businesses came through in a big way recently, donating funds to purchase 175 new bullet-proof vests for deputies.

"Outfitting our personnel with new vests costs about \$75,000," Sheriff Jones said. "A federal grant pays half of that bill so we needed to raise the other half. Through the generosity of local citizens, we exceeded our goal. Our entire department sincerely appreciates what the community has done for us. They have helped us protect the officers who protect you."

Bullet-proof vests used in law enforcement last about five years and the vests being retired were eight years old. "It was past time to replace them," Sheriff Jones said. Improvements in materials and design allow the newer models to have a life expectancy of seven years.

Vests are provided to all patrolmen in the traffic and felony divisions, as well as corrections officers.