

St. John
the Baptist Parish
Sheriff's Office

Annual Report
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Dear fellow citizens,

Welcome to our annual report – a summary of the past year’s activities of this office.

In this report are updates on our crime camera program, plans to keep our office operating during power outages, our two-time national champion K-9 officer, an upgrade to our civil department and a briefing on new laws intended to keep our highways safe.

With advances in transportation and communication, some say the world is getting smaller. St. John Parish, on the other hand, is getting larger. In the year 2000, we had some 43,000 residents and the state projects that number to be near 50,000 in 2010. By 2030, some 65,000 people could call St. John home.

Lifelong residents occasionally comment that this is not the same St. John Parish they grew up in. They could not be more correct. As our parish and world change; so does our role in keeping you safe. We’ve added some 30 officers to our ranks in the past year. The equation is a simple one: More deputies + more patrols = a stronger law enforcement presence and even faster response times.

Technology now plays a huge role in fighting crime. We are making arrests for Internet-related crimes, tracking convicted felons online and acquiring the latest equipment needed to do our job. Our people are extremely well-trained and committed to providing you with the best service possible.

Law enforcement becomes more challenging every day and this department is up to the task. But, we can always use some assistance.

As much as we’d like to be, it’s impossible for us to be in all places at all times. I personally ask you to dial 911 immediately to report suspicious activity. Your call will be treated professionally and we will respond.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if this office can ever be of service to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wayne Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop for the letter 'J'.

WAYNE L. JONES

Sheriff, St. John the Baptist Parish

Mission Statement

Our mission is to improve the quality of life in our parish. We will protect life and property through partnership with our communities. We respect the rights of all citizens by upholding the U.S. Constitution and the Law of Louisiana. We will perform our duties by adhering to our core beliefs: Integrity, Professionalism, Compassion and Fairness.

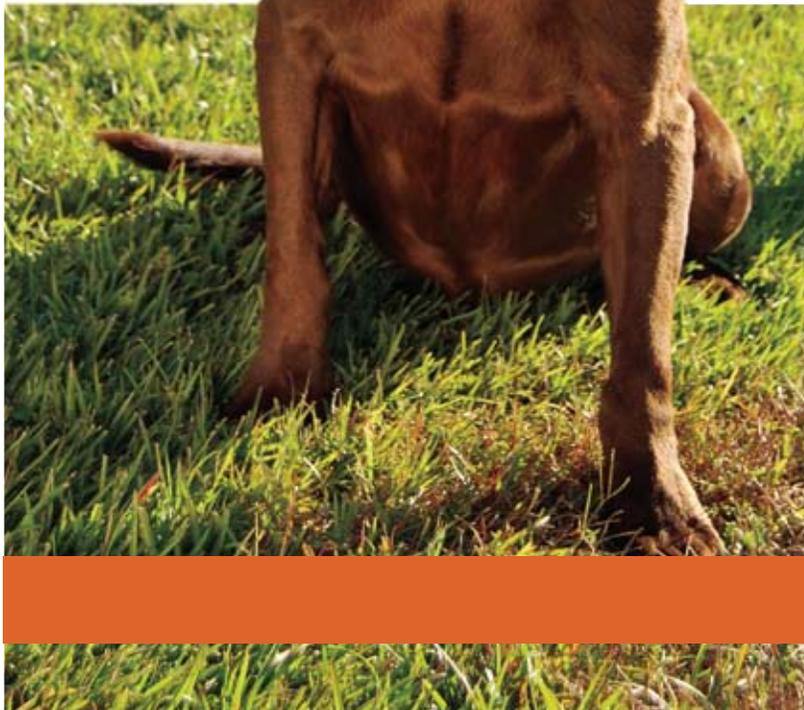
Scoobie “Doos” it Again

SJBPSO K-9 Officer Scoobie has again won the National Narcotics Drug Dog Association competition. Scoobie finished first in 2006 and 15th out of 160 competitors last year in this prestigious event where dogs compete to locate hidden drugs.

The 65 pound, 11-year old chocolate Labrador, handled by Detective Sergeant Monty Adams, also was cited as best K-9 more than five-years-old. In the team competition, Scoobie and Adams placed second when paired with Major Chuck Bazile and his German Shepherd, Glenn.

Used strictly for narcotics searches, Scoobie “can sniff out anything with great accuracy,” Sergeant Adams said. “These two national championships certainly prove that.”

SJBPSO K-9 officer Scoobie is a two-time national champion drug dog.



Civil Department Improvements

The ‘other side’ of the SJBPSO has undergone improvements to make it easier to do business with the public.



(L-R) Deputies Marie Dufresne, Juliette Remonet and Peggy Millet work in the SJBPSO's newly-remodeled civil department.

Using inmate labor and funds from the sheriff’s office and parish, a portion of the civil department has been remodeled. New computers, furnishings and cubicles use space more efficiently, make for a nicer work environment and better service to parish citizens.

The civil department has also enhanced its collections procedures as taxes and traffic fines may now be paid with credit cards.

stjohnsheriff.org

Visit us on the Internet at stjohnsheriff.org for information, a directory of services and the latest news from your sheriff’s office. Many forms are easily accessible and there’s even a special section just for children. Visit often and give us input on how we can continue to improve our web site.

Emergency Power

A new, stronger backup generator is ready to keep the SJBPSO and emergency responder communication systems operational during power outages.

A state grant helped fund the 40 kilowatt unit that provides emergency power to the sheriff's office 800 megahertz radio trunking system, which supports radio communications for fire departments and the parish's Emergency Operations Center.

The generator room is fireproof and the building has been specially grounded to ward off lightning strikes. A separate generator can power the 911 communication center and a third generator provides electricity for the sheriff's office during adverse conditions.

To stay in top operating condition, the generators automatically turn on and run for a set period of time at scheduled intervals.



Captain Anna Cox, Commander of Communications & 911 goes over operations of the SJBPSO's new backup generator with Sheriff Jones.

Automobile Safety

The recent arrest of a dozen or so teenagers connected to a string of some 70 car burglaries underscores the importance of keeping valuables out of sight in an automobile.



Steal Me! Plainly visible items in an automobile are an inviting target for thieves.

“These teenagers were targeting unlocked, parked cars with mobile phones, cameras, GPS units, wallets, purses and MP3 players in plain sight,” Sheriff Jones said. “Had these vehicles been locked and these items stored out of sight, many of these thefts probably would not have occurred.”

To Protect Your Vehicle and Its Contents:

- Lock your car and take your keys.
- Park in a well-lit area.
- Never leave anything of value in plain sight.
- Put valuables in the trunk before you park and don't lock anything in the trunk after you park. Thieves may be watching.
- Lock truck-bed toolboxes.
- Report stolen items or suspicious activity to the SJBPSO immediately.

POST Certification

SJBPSO deputies Gilberto Castellanos, Arthur Flot and Vernon Bailey recently completed requirements to attain POST certification. The Peace Officer Standards and Training program instructs professional law enforcement officers. Some of the topics covered include first aid, criminal and traffic law, investigation and interrogation techniques, firearms and defensive tactics.



(L-R) Deputies Castellanos, Flot, Sheriff Jones, Bailey and Major John Gonor, Uniform Patrol Division Commander.



SJBPSO deputies get a briefing on new highway safety laws from Sheriff Jones.

Highway Safety

Several new laws designed to protect the motoring public are now in effect.

The penalty for refusing a breath test when stopped on suspicion of DWI doubles from a six month suspension of a driver's license to one year. If caught driving with a suspended license stemming from a previous DWI, a 15 day jail sentence awaits.

"The Louisiana Highway Safety Commission reports that in 2008, half of the state's 449 fatal automobile accidents involved alcohol," Sheriff Jones said. "We will keep working to stop drinking and driving by aggressively enforcing these stronger DWI laws."

Another new law requires the driver and any passengers age 13 and older in the front and rear seats of vehicles to buckle up. Previously, the law only covered front-seat passengers. Appropriate child safety seats are still required.

"About three quarters of Louisiana drivers always buckle up," Sheriff Jones said. "Your seat belt can save your life."

Other new laws:

Motorists on a multi-lane highway must remain in the right lane unless passing another vehicle or preparing to make a left turn at an intersection.

Drivers passing a bicycle traveling in the same direction must maintain at least a 3-foot cushion between the bike and vehicle.

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, please let us know. We will gladly put together a presentation on a topic of your choosing. Contact our community relations division at 985-652-7058 for information.

Bulletproof Vest Fund

The purchase of bulletproof vests worn by members of the SJBPSO is totally funded through donations from our community. We thank the many businesses, organizations and individuals who have generously given to this worthy cause.

If you can, please help to outfit a law enforcement professional with the latest protection by making a contribution to this fund. For details, please contact us.



Crime Cameras Coming

The SJBPSO is overseeing the installation of video surveillance, or crime cameras at numerous points throughout the parish. Some will be visible while others will be hidden.

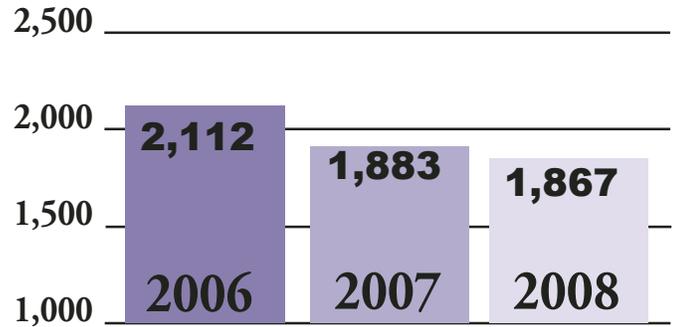
“By visiting with organizations across the state that use such cameras, we will be able to incorporate the best ideas and most reliable components into our system,” Sheriff Jones said.

Major parish entry points and areas where crime continues to be a problem will be monitored by linking the cameras to the parish 911 system. \$252,000 from an Edward Byrne Memorial Assistance Grant helps fund the program with an additional \$315,000 coming from the SJBPSO. Byrne was a New York City Police Officer killed in the line of duty in 1988.

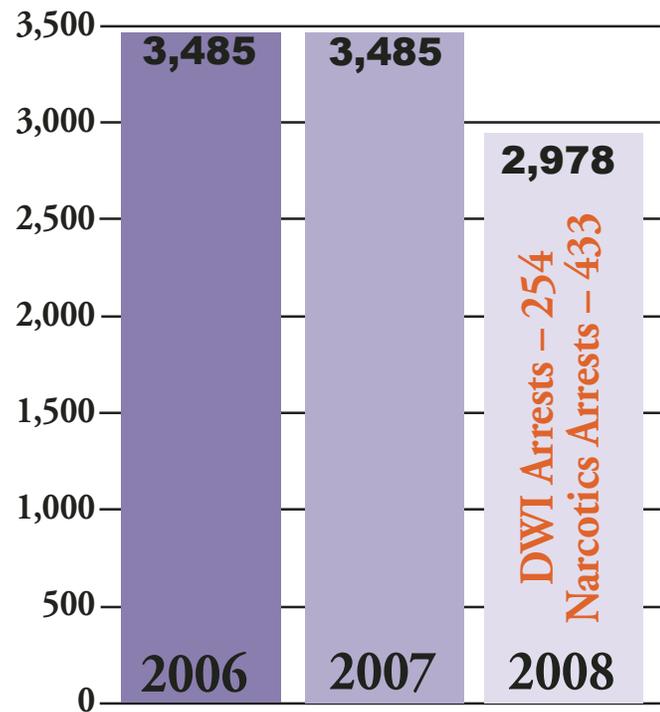
Sheriff Jones said the system will have room to expand. “We envision making it available to others such as the school board, the Port of South Louisiana and even neighborhood associations, who could purchase cameras and piggyback a network on top of ours.”

The cameras will be used during evacuations and for anti-terrorism efforts, such as monitoring water systems and power distribution centers. Multi-parish networks are possible.

Traffic Accidents

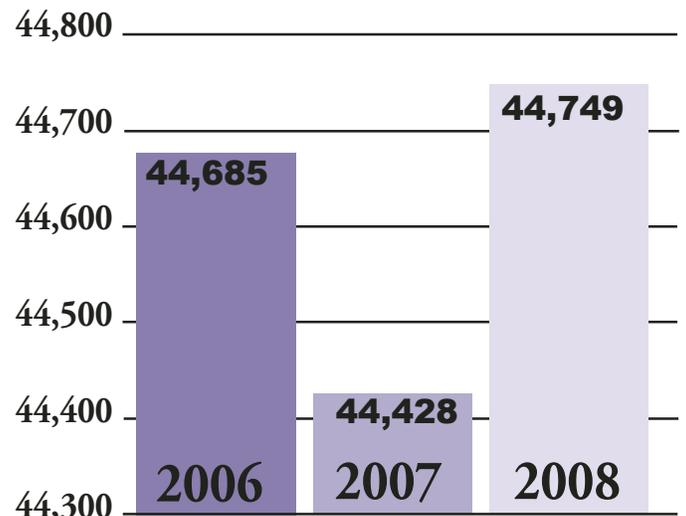


Arrests



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

Calls for Assistance*



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