

St. John The Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office

Annual Report 2014

SHERMAN R. WALKER
CORRECTIONAL CENTER

MIKE TREGRE, SHERIFF





St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office Annual Report 2014

Dear fellow citizens,

On behalf of the St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office, welcome to this report highlighting some of our activities throughout the past year.

We have made numerous technological enhancements to further improve our ability to serve you. In this issue are stories about our totally revamped web site featuring crime-mapping software and numerous methods to anonymously submit information about criminal activity. Should you call for assistance, 911 upgrades provide dispatchers greater ability to instantly send the exact type of help needed.

I continue to push for more crime cameras in St. John and plan to have at least 100 online in the near future. By registering your surveillance system with our office, you can take a more active role in providing evidence to solve crimes. Visit our web site, stjohnsheriff.org or contact us for more information about this exciting program.

DWI enforcement has been stepped up. Bilingual officers enhance our ability to work with those whose first language is not English. Our computer systems have been upgraded and we now have a state-of-the-art mobile command center so we can continue to protect and serve you during any emergency situation. On the other end of the technology scale, human interaction is the backbone of our new program to protect senior citizens.

I ask for your continued support for this department and the dedicated men and women who work every day to keep you safe. Partner with us to fight crime by doing one simple thing: If you see something that looks out of the ordinary, let us know. With all of the communication tools available, there's no reason not to get in touch immediately if something seems suspicious.

The basis for all successful partnerships is trust and respect, or in today's language "Having each other's backs." I ask you to have ours. We will always have yours.

Please let me know if I or this office can ever be of service to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Tregre". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Tregre".

MIKE TREGRE

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

On the Cover:

Sheriff Tregre with several newly-hired deputies.

*Clockwise from front left:
Amanda Tamplain, Joshua
Gilboy, Basil Trepagnier,
Denzel Gordon, Brandon
Harlow and Anthony
Preyan.*

May we attend your next meeting?

If you would like a representative of the SJBPSO to address your organization or provide a demonstration on a law enforcement issue, please contact our community relations division at 985.652.7058.



Sheriff Tregre with recently confiscated drugs and cash.

Fighting Illegal Drugs

Two recent drug busts underscore our commitment to ridding St. John of illegal narcotics. A traffic stop on I-10 in LaPlace led to the seizure of 120 pounds of marijuana and \$18,000 in cash, while a bust in Garyville yielded 21 pounds of synthetic marijuana and assorted other drugs worth \$400,000.

Synthetic marijuana, in this case named "Mojo," can contain extremely dangerous chemicals. "It has caused many deaths and sent thousands of people to emergency rooms across the country," Sheriff Tregre said. "It's not a harmless alternative to real marijuana as people have no idea what they are inhaling, making it even more dangerous than other illegal drugs."



Crimestoppers of Greater New Orleans, 504-822-1111 or 877-903-STOP (7867) offers cash rewards for tips that help solve crimes. Visit crimestoppersgno.org or our web site, stjohnsheriff.org for information.

P.O.P.S. (Protecting Our Precious Seniors)

The SJBPSO has enacted a program to help ensure the safety and health of elderly citizens. P.O.P.S., or Protecting Our Precious Seniors, features weekly in-home visits from deputies to older residents who are homebound or have difficulty leaving their residences.

"Our senior citizens have earned and deserve our respect," Sheriff Tregre said. "When a deputy visits, he not only makes sure the person is physically okay, but also that no one has tried to take advantage of them or perpetrate some scam."



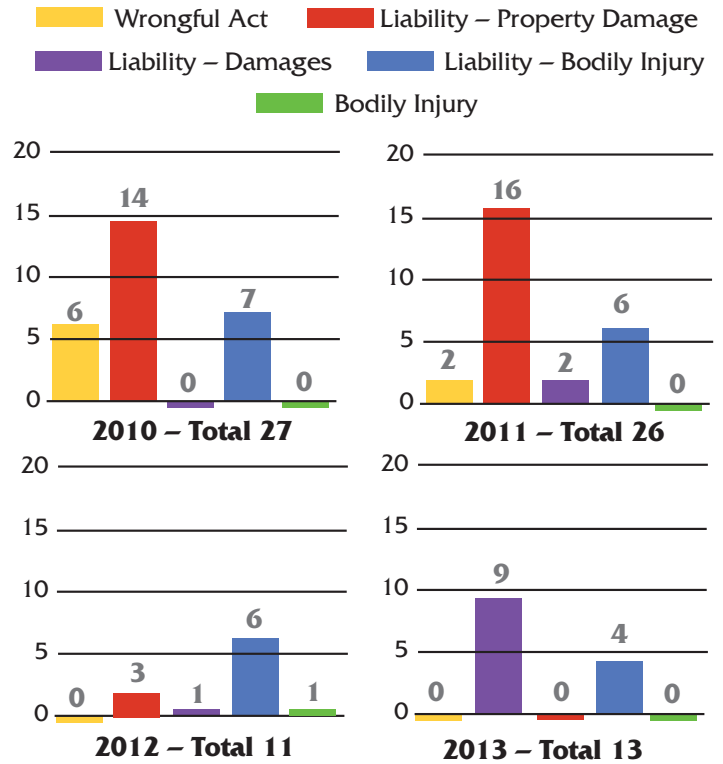
Deputy Kenneth Webre visits with Ms. Carrie Lee Augillard; one of St. John's "Precious Seniors."

Refrigerator magnets with our contact info are handed out. A bar code that can be scanned may be installed near the person's door to record visits and an email can be sent to interested parties about the interaction. "By partnering with health care providers, we have identified those seniors who are most in need of this free service," Sheriff Tregre said. "To enroll someone, call our office at 985.652.7058."

Insurance Claims Down

New guidelines for interaction between SJBPSO deputies and the public have led to a substantial downturn in insurance claims against the department. From a high of 27 in 2010 to only 13 last year, claims are down by more than half. Injuries to officers and people who are arrested have also been greatly reduced.

Claims Type by Year



"After studying how other law enforcement agencies across the country handle calls for assistance and make arrests, we implemented some innovative procedures. We train deputies in new methods to reduce physical contact when possible while giving more verbal commands," Sheriff Tregre said. "Fewer claims against us mean lower insurance premiums and a saving of taxpayer money."

Claims filed by inmates at the jail have also been substantially reduced. "We have installed more cameras to provide video evidence of interactions between inmates and correctional officers. Bogus claims filed by prisoners can be totally refuted and the cameras protect our officers by allowing us to visually monitor just about every inch of the jail."



CPR Training

SJBPSO personnel take part in a training course to stay current on CPR certification. All members of the department are trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Bilingual Officers

Several SJBPSO deputies speak more than one language, allowing them to converse in Arabic, Armenian, French, German, Spanish, Turkish and Vietnamese.



Technology Upgrades

New Computers/Software

A department-wide computer upgrade has replaced outdated programs with specially designed Zuercher Technology software to strengthen our 911 response efforts. Dispatchers can now see the entire history of calls from a particular location. They can then quickly determine which unit with the appropriate equipment and personnel will be the quickest to respond.

Additional improvements have been made to record-keeping and information-sharing applications across the department, including those for the jail and civil matters. The new software also increases our capability for processing, storing and sharing reports written in the field on iPads.



Sheriff Tregre goes over the new crime mapping system with Sergeant Dane Clement of the Records Division.

Crime Mapping

With the simple click of a mouse on the “crime mapping” tab of our web site, stjohnsheriff.org, information about offenses committed in the parish is instantly available. As crimes are reported, they are logged, investigated, verified and then posted for public view.

“We see our crime mapping application as another way to enhance not only the transparency of this office but the lines of communication with citizens,” Sheriff Tregre said. “People may hear about an incident in their neighborhood or wonder what was going on with the flashing police lights they saw. This program lets people know the what, where, when and how of incidents. With the public’s input, we can often put the who into that equation.”

The crime mapping software was paid for in part by a \$700,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Radios Donated to Parish

With a recent upgrade to the sheriff’s office radio system complete, 50 radios formerly used by our office have been donated to the parish. “The devices we use now have the capability of accessing all radios across all departments,” Sheriff Tregre said. “These radios will provide the parish with a backup network should their system go down.”



At a Night Out Against Crime event, Sheriff Tregre shows Tanya Roccaforte scenes from numerous crime cameras while Deputy Ernest Gray looks on.

Crime Cameras

As the network of video surveillance cameras in the parish grows, the SJBPSO is offering several new ways for businesses and homeowners to take a more active role in keeping St. John safe.

“If a homeowners association purchases cameras for their neighborhood, we will install them at no charge and make sure they work with our system,” Sheriff Tregre said. “We are also asking businesses and homeowners with cameras to register them with us.”

A system that records activity can capture footage of a suspect or a vehicle that we think was involved in a nearby crime. “If we know you have cameras, with your permission we can download the video for use in our investigation,” Sheriff Tregre said.

Go to stjohnsheriff.org and click on “Camera Registry” to turn your system into a crime fighting tool. For more information, please contact us.

The SJBPSO responded to 33,017 calls for assistance in 2013.

Parish President Natalie Robottom accepts the donation of 50 two-way radios from Sheriff Tregre and the SJBPSO.



In 2013, 2,753 arrests were made by the SJBPSO.

Mobile Command Center

Through a \$420,000 grant from the Port of South Louisiana and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the SJBPSO has a new mobile command center (MCC) equipped with everything needed to manage a situation “on site.”

“Despite our constant efforts to be prepared for any emergency, our department learned many valuable lessons from Hurricane Isaac,” Sheriff Tregre said. “Among those was a need for an operational center that could be located at an incident to further enhance our response efforts, but could also assume many of the responsibilities of our office should we have to evacuate. We have those capabilities now.”

Featuring a conference area, large screen monitors, a small kitchen and bathroom facilities, the MCC has room for three 911 operators and can take over the communications needs of the department. A 25 KW generator powers the vehicle’s electronics, a satellite phone and six independent radios that use almost any frequency available, including HAM. If needed, the MCC can be used by neighboring parishes to re-establish their communications network in an emergency.

American made in Wisconsin, the custom-built, 45-foot MCC carries 50 gallons of fresh water and is equipped with a high resolution periscope which can extend 50 feet.



Sergeant Elton Foret of the Traffic Division uses one of the new dash cams during a traffic stop.

Dash Cameras

The enforcement efforts of our patrol division have been enhanced by the addition of 10 dash cameras that record traffic stops, particularly those involving motorists suspected of DWI. Purchased through a cooperative effort with the District Attorney’s Office, the cameras record continually and can quickly download data to a USB drive. “Video evidence is extremely strong for DWI prosecutions,” Sheriff Tregre said. “Deputies wear microphones and these cameras record excellent video that’s hard to argue with.”

St. John is a DWI non-refusal parish, meaning a judge can issue a warrant to extract a blood or saliva sample from someone suspected of DWI who refuses to participate in a field sobriety exam or take a breath test. “In the past three years we have made nearly 900 DWI arrests in St. John,” Sheriff Tregre said. “Do not drink and drive.”



2013 saw 1,437 traffic accidents investigated by SJBPSO personnel.



L-R: Deputies Michael Hand, Michael Duronslet, Tenika Tassin, Sheriff Tregre, Anthony Grandolfo and Denzel Gordon. Deputy Tassin received the Scholastic Award for the highest grade point average of the training session.

P.O.S.T. Graduates

Five SJBPSO deputies are the most recent graduates of the 17-week Peace Officer Standards and Training program (P.O.S.T.) at the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Training Academy. The course features instruction in firearms, physical fitness, Louisiana criminal and traffic law, writing reports, conducting interrogations and general investigative techniques.



Sheriff Tregre congratulates Lt. Gordon Jeffcoat, SJBPSO Officer of the Year.

Officer of the Year/Quarter

A 13-year veteran of the department, Lt. Gordon Jeffcoat was named Officer of the Second Quarter as well as SJBPSO Officer of the Year for 2013. He oversaw efforts to register sex offenders while creating a system identifying their addresses so children would not visit those locations at Halloween. Lt. Jeffcoat was also instrumental in the capture of two armed men who robbed an elderly woman and her grandson. He serves as assistant warden at the Sherman Walker Correctional Facility, oversees courtroom security and leads training programs.

2013 Officers of the Quarter



First Quarter
Deputy Anthony Cox
Patrol Division



Third Quarter
Deputy Michael Dean
Patrol Division



Fourth Quarter
Detective Maurice "Mo" Rodrigue
Criminal Investigations Division

In Memory



Robinet Multi-Purpose Room

A portion of our training center is now named for a longtime SJBPSO employee who passed away in 2012. The LaNard Robinet Multi-Purpose Room was dedicated in memory of "Mr. Rob," who, after a career as an educator, served 21 years in our community relations division.



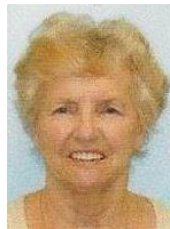
Detective Feldon Carney

Our Criminal Investigation Division lost a longtime member when Detective Captain Feldon Carney passed away in late 2013. After serving with the SJBPSO since 1997, he retired in 2012.



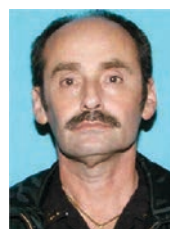
Deputy Gladys Collins

After serving the people of our parish for nearly 24 years, Deputy Gladys Collins passed away in August of 2013. Beginning her long career as a 911 Dispatcher, her last assignment was in the records division.



Deputy Dorothy Schexnayder Loftus

A longtime civil department employee, Deputy Dorothy Schexnayder Loftus retired from our department in late 1996 after more than 12 years of service. She passed away in November, 2013.



Deputy Melvin Sutton

After 35 years of service, Deputy Melvin Sutton retired from the SJBPSO in June of 2012. "Tutty" began working in our radio room and later was Officer of the Day at the Garyville Substation. He died in January of 2014.



Deputy Wayne Vicknair

For 13 years, Deputy Wayne Vicknair served St. John as a member of our department. He started in our patrol department and also worked in special operations for the housing authority. Wayne passed away in July of 2014.

Community Involvement

Please let us know if you would like us to participate in your community event.



Christmas Day Care Visits



Blue Mass Honoring First Responders



Homeowner's Association Meeting



School Visits



School Visits



Torch Run for Special Olympics



St. John Business Association Dinner



stjohnsheriff.org

Communication is the backbone of our organization. Whether it's a citizen calling for assistance or a dispatcher sending a deputy to help, we understand that the simpler it is for you to interact with us, the better for everyone involved. With that in

mind, we have totally renovated our web site to provide easier navigation and more information.

Besides getting the latest news from us, stjohnsheriff.org is a convenient way to send a message or crime tip. New tabs on the site make it easier to find what you're looking for. Among many other services, citizens may view arrest records and a roster of parish prison inmates, download a job application, check for outstanding warrants, request a deputy for a special detail, pay tickets and get traffic accident reports.

Like us on Facebook at St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office and get timely updates on public safety events and community news.

St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office

Mike Tregre, Sheriff

Post Office Box 1600
1801 West Airline Highway
LaPlace, Louisiana 70068
985.652.9513 Fax 985.652.7916
8-5 M-Th, 8-4:30 F

Reserve/Garyville/Mt. Airy
985.536.4176

Edgard/West Bank
985.497.8836

After Hours Non-Emergency
East Bank 985.652.6338
West Bank 985.497.3435

stjohnsheriff.org

In an Emergency, Dial 911

PRESORTED
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U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FPI

XQ23

“**Evil prevails when
good men do nothing.**”

– Edmund Burke

Help us help you by providing confidential information about crimes or suspected illegal activity by calling our drug and crime tip lines. Your identity is not recorded or revealed to anyone.

985-652-DRUG (3784)

985-652-TIPS (8477)

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.