

St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office

Annual Report 2018





St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office **Annual Report 2018**

Welcome to this report on some of the activities of the SJBPSO during the past year. The events and programs detailed here represent a fraction of the many things the dedicated men and women of this office do every day to keep you safe.

Everything – people, animals and businesses – must evolve in order to survive. To ensure that we are ready to meet the future challenges of law enforcement in our parish, I have undertaken numerous initiatives to improve our communications, services and training. We stand ready to meet your needs today and in coming years.

One of the most exciting developments outlined in this issue is the planned construction of a new West Bank Public Safety Complex that will meet future needs while enhancing emergency response. This building will provide much-needed space and modern facilities for us, the Office of Fire Services and the people we serve.

Our training and efforts to provide deputies with the best equipment available continue to be second-to-none in the state. We have constructed a new radio tower, strengthened school safety, enhanced training sequences on ethics and life-saving procedures and are providing a new Rape Aggression Defense, R.A.D., that is available to women in St. John. On the lighter side, our office can now license your golf cart for street use.

We are answering more calls for service than at any time in the history of our parish. On average, residents contact us for assistance every eight minutes or 180 times per day. I'm not complaining. In fact, I strongly encourage you to dial 911 immediately when you see something that just doesn't look right. Our expertly-trained operators will determine if your call needs immediate action or if you need some other sort of help.

I ask you to help us help you by supporting the core mission of this office, which simply stated is to protect life and property through partnerships with our community. Your continued involvement will keep St. John safe.

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

New West Bank Public Safety Complex

The SJBPSO is teaming with the Office of Fire Services to construct a 6,000-square-foot public safety complex on the West Bank.

Once the \$1.8 million building is complete at the base of the Veterans Memorial Bridge, our office will move from its cramped quarters in the Edgard Courthouse to a facility that will also provide storage space for four-wheelers and boats, vital equipment for search-and-rescue operations.

“Our overall operations and particularly emergency response capabilities on the West Bank will be significantly enhanced,” Sheriff Tregre said. “Our presence and manpower will increase so we may better serve those residents.”

Housing SJBPSO personnel, firefighters and equipment under one roof will save taxpayer money. The building, which will also serve as a voting location, is expected to be completed by the end of 2019.

Sheriff Tregre explains details and shares renderings of the planned West Bank Public Safety Complex.



New Radio Tower

A new tower improves public safety by enhancing radio communication capabilities for the SJBPSO, parish government and the Office of Fire Services. The 260-foot-tall structure on Pin Oak Terminals property in Mt. Airy helps eliminate dead spots in coverage and allows all offices to communicate with one another.

Construction began in 2017 with the SJBPSO and parish government entering into an agreement to erect the \$2 million tower.

“Now, an officer in the Garyville or West Reserve area radioing for assistance will be heard parishwide as the call will be simulcast with our other tower near the St. John, St. Charles Parish line,” Sheriff Tregre said. “This new tower also enhances communications for the St. James Sheriff’s Office in the Gramercy/I-10 area.”

SJBPSO radios are now connected to the St. James, Ascension and East Baton Rouge communications towers, substantially enhancing our radio capabilities.

St. John and St. James officials with Pin Oak Terminals representatives at the new tower site.



Rear View



Front View



Sheriff Tregre observes as Sergeant Rick Bailey and Chief Deputy Steve Guidry attach the very first golf cart permit issued in St. John to Vincent Simon's vehicle.

Golf Cart Registration

Golf carts are now legal to operate on parish roads, providing the owner first gets an inspection and registration permit from our office.

"In many neighborhoods, golf carts are a common form of transportation and our office is now in charge of ensuring that they are safe and properly registered," Sheriff Tregre said. "Carts move slower and occupants can provide us with more eyes and ears," Sheriff Tregre said. "If you're cruising and see something fishy, call 911."

Once a cart passes inspection, the owner can purchase a permit that is good for two years. A valid driver's license is required to operate a cart and children less than six are not allowed to ride. "Keep in mind that a permit allows for operation on parish and not state roads," Sheriff Tregre added.

For information on golf cart inspection dates and locations, visit our web site, stjohnsheriff.org and click on the "Golf Cart" tab.

Jail Passes Annual Inspection



The Sherman Walker Correctional Facility has again passed an annual inspection by the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, certifying the facility's continued compliance with jail guidelines and standards. State officials thoroughly reviewed management, personnel training, records, inmate safety, medical and health care, education, food and work programs.

National Sheriffs' Association Conference

The National Sheriffs' Association Conference and Exhibition recently held its annual gathering in New Orleans, offering an opportunity for our office to exchange ideas and share solutions to issues that we and similarly-sized departments face. The SJBPSO hosted a popular "Louisiana Night" event, serving Southern hospitality and delicious local foods.

"The NSA represents more than 3,000 sheriffs and some 22,000 law enforcement members," Sheriff Tregre said. "By participating in these meetings, we establish relationships with law enforcement agencies across the nation."

The conference featured more than 60 workshops on every facet of police work including enforcement, jail operations, transportation and judicial security.



Sheriff Tregre and the SJBPSO made lots of new friends by treating attendees at the National Sheriffs' Association Conference to pastalaya, Cajun shrimp egg rolls and Bananas Foster.



Crimestoppers offers cash rewards for information leading to the arrest and conviction of criminals. Once you give a confidential tip, you will be assigned a code number and password, which is the only method Crimestoppers has of identifying you. You can check the status of your tip, add information, upload video or photos by going to www.P3tips.com.



Hunter Safety Courses

Anyone born on or after September 1, 1969, cannot obtain a hunting license in Louisiana without first completing a hunter education course. As a convenience for residents, the SJBPSO partners with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to offer this instruction locally several times per year.

The course covers firearm safety, survival and first aid skills, hunting techniques, game identification and wildlife conservation. Details are available on our web site.



Lieutenant Ricardo Colas visits with Jerry Jarrow during a recent P.O.P.S. visit.

P.O.P.S.

Protecting Our Precious Seniors, P.O.P.S., is another outreach of the SJBPSO where deputies periodically check on elderly citizens enrolled in the program. Officers make an assessment of the person's condition and any concerns are sent to caregivers.

"Our P.O.P.S. program leader has a cell phone dedicated to these seniors so they can call and speak to someone at any time," Sheriff Tregre said. For more information, call 985.652.7058 or visit stjohnsheriff.org and click the "Community Programs" and "P.O.P.S." tab.

Citizens Academy

Our Citizens Academy recently graduated its second class of participants who gained a better understanding of the inner workings of our office. For information on this free program open to anyone 21 or older who lives or works in St. John, please contact us at 504.652.9513.



Participants in a recent R.A.D. training class held at Reserve Telecommunications.

R.A.D. Training

Rape Aggression Defense, R.A.D., teaches women situational awareness and self-defense without tools or weapons. Open to all ages, the sessions can be conducted at your place of business and feature concentrated instruction and simulated attacks from a member of our department. A specially padded suit allows participants to use real force to practice fighting off an attacker. Contact Lieutenant Denise Bertrand at 985.359.8686 for details about hosting or attending a R.A.D. course.



RAD suits allow for full-contact self-defense practice.



We're here for you 24/7! Visit our web site, like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. Download our app, "St. John Sheriff" and get emergency notifications, traffic updates, weather alerts and more.

School Safety

One of our highest priorities is continuing to ensure the safety of our schools. Deputies regularly participate in active shooter training and host presentations educating students and faculty on what to do should such a situation arise.

"We take every threat very seriously," Sheriff Tregre said. "Anyone that makes a comment verbally, online or anywhere else about bringing a gun to school or harming someone – even in a joking manner – could face criminal charges."

SJBPSO has deployed more uniformed deputies as School Resource Officers where they are able to interact with students and build relationships while staying ready to use their specialized training to keep schools safe. Reserved parking spots for marked patrol units increases our visibility and enhances access to buildings.

School safety also means not using cell phones and observing the speed limit.



Register Your Crime Cameras

Home, business and our own network of surveillance cameras continue to significantly assist us in our efforts to prevent and solve crimes. If you have a camera system, we want your help. Please take a moment to visit our web site, stjohnsheriff.org, click on the "camera registry" tab and sign up. In the event of criminal activity or even an auto accident in your area, we may be able to use your camera images to solve the case.

P.O.S.T. Certified

Several SJBPSO officers have graduated from the Peace Officers Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) Academy for deputies and correctional officers. Participants are instructed in Louisiana law, investigation and interrogation techniques, firearms, jail operations and numerous law enforcement issues.

Deputies Chenier and Evans received the Academic Excellence Award while Dinet and Rome were honored with the Commitment to Excellence Award.



Phifer Butler



Kristin Chenier



Damian Dinet



Michael Duronslet



Katie Evans



Sadie Harper



Michael Hicks



Ernesteayo Lee



Seth Rome



Ida Mathews-White



Sheriff Tregre and SJBPSO Lieutenants Denise Bertrand (L) and Anthony Giovingo (R) with P.O.S.T. Corrections graduates (Front, L-R) Richard Shelton, Kenneth Doby and Tamatha Sanders of the Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff's Office, Deputies Drew Rel and Erik Arceneaux of the SJBPSO. (Rear, L-R) Darius Holiday and Timothy Ducre of the Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Office and Deputies Kordell Vance, Keith Duronslet and Vance Jones of the SJBPSO.



(L-R) Chief Deputy Steve Guidry, Sam Colon with Pin Oak Terminals, Officer of the Year Deputy Justin Williams and Sheriff Tregre

Officer of the Year

Sponsored by Pin Oak Terminals

Deputy Justin Williams was named Officer of the Year for his heroic effort to rescue a woman and child from a car submerged in a Garyville canal. Deputy Williams entered freezing water and brought both vehicle occupants to safety unharmed.

Officers of the Quarter

Sponsored by Councilwoman Jaclyn Hotard, Cypress Physical Therapy, A3M Vacuum Service and St. John Physical Therapy

Deputies Justin Williams and Michael Harris, Sergeants Staty Lewis, Carolina Pineda and Ann Taylor and Lieutenant Brandon Barlow

Officers of the Month

Sponsored by St. John Parish Business Association

Lieutenants Troy Cassioppi and Greg Baker, Sergeants Avo Marzwanian, Matt Woodruff, Michael Shard and Gilberto Castellanos, Deputies Steven Hughes, Kristin Dunn, Lennie Valentine, Ben Teekell and Brian Landry

Help Protect Us So We Can Protect You

Bullet-proof vests lose their effectiveness over time and must be replaced. As new ones cost around \$500, please consider contributing to our bullet-proof vest fund. Any amount is appreciated. Please contact our office for more information.

Law enforcement is a profession where every day we must be prepared mentally and physically to save a life, take a life or give our own for the citizens we serve.

Join the SJBPSO

If you've thought about a career in law enforcement, take the next step and apply for a job with us. We offer a competitive salary and outstanding benefits package. Visit stjohnsheriff.org and click on the Career Opportunities tab.



Training

The old saying, "You play like you practice," certainly applies to our continual efforts to keep officers trained in the use of the latest law enforcement equipment and techniques. All SJBPSO employees also take part in mandatory ethics training.



Helping a Brother in Blue

On behalf of the SJBPSO Employees Club, Sheriff Tregre presents a check to Deputy Stephen Hughes to help with medical expenses after his unit crashed into a canal during a pursuit in LaPlace. Among other injuries, Deputy Hughes suffered a broken wrist and jaw. Also present were (L-R) Andres Gonzalez with Help for Heroes-Hope for Heroes, who also presented a donation, Deputy Hardy Schexnayder, Chief Deputy Steve Guidry and Deputy Jay Nolan.



Weapons drugs, and cash from a recent bust.

Fighting Drugs

A United States' Surgeon General's report puts the annual cost to our nation from the misuse of prescription drugs, illicit drugs or alcohol and the violence associated with it at \$442 billion.

"We made more drug arrests last year than we did the year before and will continue our fight," Sheriff Tregre said. "Some of our officers are now carrying the new Narcan injector that can save people who are overdosing on narcotics, particular fentanyl, which is killing people across our country in record numbers."

It is never too early or too late to talk to people of all ages about the dangers of drug abuse. Contact us and we will gladly schedule a visit to your club, school or civic group for a presentation.



Taser Training

All officers carrying a Taser must be re-certified annually in the use of the incapacitating device. Classroom instruction and role-playing scenarios hone decision-making skills and techniques used to de-escalate a situation where force may be necessary.



CPR/Stop the Bleed

Each member of the SJBPSO attends cardiopulmonary resuscitation, CPR, training as well as Stop The Bleed instruction. Employees also learn to use an automated external defibrillator, AED, a portable electronic device that can restart a heart, and how to perform CPR, pumping blood to vital organs. Stop The Bleed training teaches medical care that ends serious bleeding caused by a wound.



911

911 operators completed a training session from PowerPhone's Dispatch U Education that focused on enhancing the performance of emergency dispatchers. Standards of care, Good Samaritan statutes, caller confidentiality and the future of 911 were addressed.



With Sheriff Tregre are (L-R) Deputies Larry Williams, Daniel Materne, Gilberto Castellanos, Chris Crawford and Michael Duronslet.

Critical Incident Training

Five SJBPSO officers recently graduated from a week-long course on how to resolve critical incidents with the best possible outcome. Deputies learned how to respond effectively to a traumatic situation, particularly those involving a psychologically or mentally unstable individual.



(L-R) Sergeant Grant Pierre, Deputy Jordan Robeaux and Lieutenant Michelle Pearson train in full uniform including body armor and a simulated duty belt.

Water Survival Course

There's a lot of water and swamp in St. John and a new training program works to ensure survival of officers who wind up wet.

"When we respond to your call for assistance, we don't know where it will end up," Sheriff Tregre said. "Sometimes, due to a pursuit or other circumstances, deputies are forced into water. This training can save our officers' lives."

Swimming skills are reinforced and techniques taught to modify the weight deputies carry. The course is part of our continued effort to increase professionalism and enhance job performance.

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

985.497.3435



stjohnsheriff.org

St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff

@stjohnsheriff

EMERGENCY: DIAL 911

We're with you! The SJBPSO sponsors and participates in numerous community events. Let us know about yours so we may attend.



Independence Day Celebration



Raising funds to fight breast cancer



Inmate work program



High school senior summer work program



Pizza With the Police



Supporting National Lemonade Day



Back to School Backpack Giveaway



Council on Aging Mardi Gras Ball



D.A.R.E anti-drug education



Read Across America Day



McGruff and Daniel the DARE Lion visit



Serving at Veterans Day lunch

The mission of the St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office 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, Respect and Professionalism.**