

# 2003

## *Annual Report*



St. John  
the Baptist Parish  
Sheriff's Office



# D.W.I.



*St. John deputies attend a field sobriety test training session led by Corporal Conrad Baker.*

*Deputy Kory Borchering practices giving a field sobriety test as Jerry Wilson pretends to be a suspect.*



Apprehending drunk drivers is not enough; we must convict them in court.

Administering a field sobriety test is one of the first things an officer does after pulling over a suspected drunk driver. As in all law enforcement procedures, there is a specific way in which evidence must be gathered.

During such a traffic stop, a deputy must often wait for an officer certified in administering field sobriety tests to arrive in order for an exam to be given. To eliminate this waste of time and assets, more St. John deputies are being certified in sobriety testing.

As certified instructors, Sergeant Troy Cassioppi, Corporal C.J. Remondet and Corporal Conrad Baker teach field sobriety testing techniques to deputies. After completing this specialized training, deputies give tests that will hold up in court. Operators of the intoxilizer or "breath test machine," must also be certified.

"The penalties for driving while intoxicated get tougher and tougher and we actively enforce DWI laws," said Sheriff Jones. "Don't take a chance with your life or the lives of others."

# Search and Rescue Team

In the River Parishes, swamps, water and outdoor activities are part of our culture. Responding to a call for help is our job.

When a concerned friend or family member contacts the sheriff's office about an overdue sportsman, we investigate the situation and if necessary dispatch our search and rescue team.

Through continuous training, our team stays ready to respond when needed. Equipped with four wheelers, four wheel drive vehicles, boats, specially-trained divers, radios and Global Positioning System units, there is virtually no location in our parish to which we cannot respond.



*Some members of the SJSO Search and Rescue Team are (left to right) Captain Mike Boudreaux, Corporal Conrad Baker, Reserve Deputy Larry Martin, Reserve Deputy Aaron Lyons, Deputy Blane Rome, Deputy Donald Cambre and Deputy Blane Rome, Sr.*

If required, we call on St. Charles, St. James, Tangipahoa and other neighboring parishes as well as the United States Coast Guard and the Port of South Louisiana for assistance.

Before leaving on a fishing or hunting trip, tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return. Make certain your equipment is in good shape and bring a cellular phone if you can. Carry a signaling device and perhaps a lighter to start a fire.



# Community Involvement

Your sheriff's office understands that supporting community activities forms a stronger bond with the people of our parish.

Recently we acquired a shuttle bus from AVIS auto rental which is used to transport church and youth groups to events and senior citizens to our annual trip to the D-day Museum. Nick-named "Big Red," the bus has been cleaned, painted and completely refurbished using inmate labor.



We're proud to be a sponsor of The Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics, which raises money for this great event.

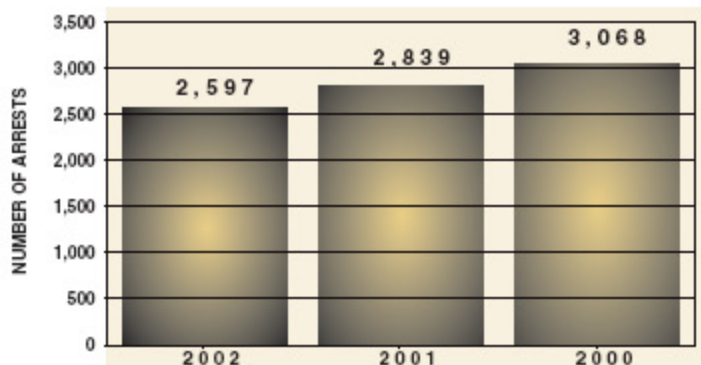


Sponsored by the sheriff's office, dozens of young men from our parish were recently treated to a New Orleans Zephyrs baseball game, allowing deputies to interact with these youths.



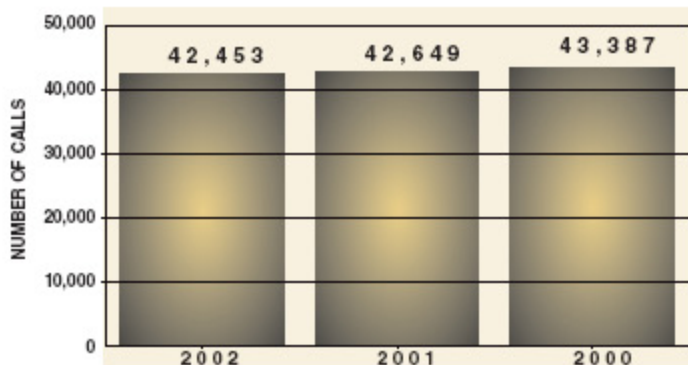
Prison trustees fill sand bags in preparation for hurricane season. If needed, these will be available and distributed.

# Calls for Assistance



Besides calls to our office and 9-1-1 center, we dispatch a patrol unit whenever a call comes in requesting an ambulance or reporting a fire.

When you ask for help, we respond!



## Technology Upgrade

By improving our crime-fighting technology, we stay on the cutting edge of law enforcement. Recently, we installed a \$100,000 upgrade to our computer system.

The new AS 400 computer is specially designed for this office and functions as the "backbone" of our system. Linking all departments together enables employees to share information and work more efficiently.

We are currently acquiring new computer software which will provide officers with a faster, more detailed analysis of locations where crimes occur in the parish. This mapping system will allow us to project criminal activity, stop it before it happens and improve our response times.

## Scooter Patrols

As part of our efforts to maintain a visible police presence and to respond quickly to calls for assistance, sheriff's office scooters patrol neighborhoods, shopping centers and parking lots of local businesses.

Operated by uniformed deputies, these scooters are equipped with radios and other technology you would find in a regular patrol unit.

The scooter patrols also concentrate on apprehending speeding motorists in neighborhoods.



*Reserve Deputy John Easley takes a break from patrolling to talk with Todd Clement.*

## Polygraph Machine



*Licensed and certified by the Louisiana Polygraph Association, Sergeant Andy Breaux simulates a lie detector test with Detective Ricardo Colas.*

"Would you take a lie detector test right now?"

That's a question detectives can ask criminal suspects as the SJSO now has a polygraph or "lie detector" machine. In the past, detectives had to wait for a machine and operator at another law enforcement agency and transport a suspect to that location for the test.

"In criminal investigations, time is precious. Having our own polygraph machine allows us to conduct these interviews immediately," said Sheriff Jones. "Often, just finding out whether an alleged witness to a crime is credible saves valuable time."

This \$15,000 machine monitors heart rate, pulse, respiration and other factors to determine if the person undergoing the test is being factual. To become certified, an examiner undergoes extensive training, costing some \$10,000 and must be re-certified every two years.

Besides interviewing criminal suspects, the new machine is used for investigations within the sheriff's department and to screen job applicants.

# F.B.I. Academy Graduates Hymel, Gray Next



*Lt. Todd Hymel and Sheriff Jones hold Hymel's diploma from the FBI Academy. Lt. Clarence Gray, (right) is currently attending the academy.*

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, (FBI) routinely teams with state and local law enforcement agencies to fight crime. The bureau also maintains one of the finest law enforcement schools in the world at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

The St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office now has a graduate of this school on our staff with another member of our team now studying at the academy.

After 11 weeks of law enforcement studies, Lt. Todd Hymel completed his coursework specializing in criminal investigation. His training included intensive work in crime scene analysis, evidence gathering/preservation and interrogation techniques.

Lt. Gray, commander of our felony intercept unit which focuses on preventing street crimes, will graduate soon.

"Our entire department is proud of the accomplishment of Lt. Hymel and the work of Lt. Gray at the FBI Academy," said Sheriff Jones. "The knowledge these men gain enhances the professionalism of our department."



Dear fellow citizens,

It's my pleasure to once again provide you with an annual report on the activities of the St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office. A lot has happened in the last year to enhance our abilities to provide you with the finest law enforcement possible. Please, allow me a few moments to share with you some 'highlights.'

There's more to fighting crime than responding to calls for help and apprehending criminals. Our office continuously works to stop crime before it starts. We have expanded community outreach efforts, are working with students in our schools and increased the visibility of deputies in areas with a history of criminal activity.

In this issue, you'll find stories on:

- FBI training of deputies
- DWI enforcement
- Scooter patrols
- Community outreach events
- Search and rescue team

Recently, I completed a term as president of the Metropolitan Law Enforcement Planning and Action Commission, which oversees the distribution of federal grant money for law enforcement activities in St. John the Baptist and seven other local parishes. These funds help pay for increased patrols, crime-fighting equipment and anti-drug programs.

Keeping St. John safe comes down to a simple formula. When you combine more officers with more units, better training and equipment and continued support from the community, it equals success.

Please, continue to be our eyes and ears in the community. Call us if you need help or if something looks suspicious. We'll respond.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Wayne L. Jones in black ink.

WAYNE L. JONES

Sheriff, St. John the Baptist Parish

# St. John Sheriff's Office Survey

Your comments are important. Please, take a few moments to fill out this survey and return it to us. Thank you.

Did you make a call for assistance to the St. John the Baptist Sheriff's Office within the past year?

☐

Yes

☐

No

If yes, was the deputy who responded: (Check all which apply)

☐

Courteous

☐

Professional

☐

Discourteous

☐

Knowledgeable

☐

Helpful

In your neighborhood, how often do you see deputies patrolling?

☐

Often

☐

Occasionally

☐

Rarely

☐

Never

What is the most important issue the sheriff's office can address in your area?

Do you have any suggestions on how we may better serve you?

How long have you lived in St. John the Baptist Parish? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your zip code? \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to:

St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office

Wayne L. Jones, Sheriff

Harold A. Klibert, Chief Criminal Deputy

1801 West Airline Highway

LaPlace, Louisiana 70068

985 652-9513 Fax 652-7916

Reserve/Garyville/Mt. Airy • 985 536-4176

Edgard/West Bank • 985 497-3435  
[stjohnsheriff.org](http://stjohnsheriff.org)

Emergency 9-1-1

PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
SCBI