

St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office

# Annual Report

2007





Dear Fellow Citizens,

Welcome to our annual report on the major activities we have undertaken in the past year. I say “major” as it would be extremely difficult to list everything we do on behalf of our citizens. If you consider the motto of law enforcement, “To protect and to serve,” it’s easy to see that fighting crime is half of our job. Serving you is the other.

We’ve been busy. Since 2003, arrests are up 22 percent. Last year we responded to 3,734 more calls for assistance than we did four years ago. The fight against illegal drugs continues with large methamphetamine busts and arrests of high-profile drug pushers. We recently rounded up numerous deadbeat parents.

Our personnel continue to be some of the best-trained in the state. We take very seriously the awesome responsibility of responding as quickly as possible to a call for help. We strive to keep up with the latest technology and constantly upgrade equipment to provide our staff with the tools needed to keep our streets safe.

As our parish grows, maintaining good communication between the public and this office becomes a larger challenge. If we all make an effort to get to know new residents and businesses and look out for one another, we can promote a sense of community to make St. John even safer. We would be happy to attend your next neighborhood gathering and update you on SJBPSO happenings.

A new, free program on Internet child safety, hosted by our department, is available to your school or civic group. We keep enhancing our cyber crimes unit. Safety checks for motorists are being conducted, new equipment is ready to serve you and we maintain a highly visible presence in neighborhoods and commercial areas.

We exist for two reasons - To Protect and To Serve. Please, do not hesitate to contact me personally if there is anything that I or this office can do for you. In any emergency, dial 911.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wayne Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

### **Need A Speaker For Your Next Meeting?**

Let us know if your organization would like to have a representative of the St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff’s Office address your group. We have experts on a variety of topics and would be glad to visit with you.

# Eye In The Sky

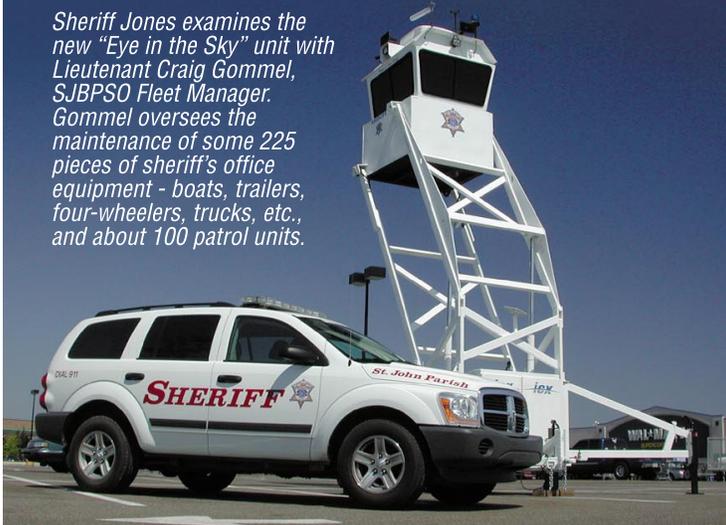
Taking our efforts to protect citizens to “new heights,” the SJBPSO has acquired a unique tool to provide an added police presence. An aerial observation unit, named “The Eye in the Sky” or “Big Brother” can be elevated nearly 30 feet, giving officers a “bird’s eye” view of crowds at festivals, parades, athletic events or a parking lot.

The \$75,000 air-conditioned unit, with a 360 degree view is equipped with radios, spotlights and public address system. Cameras can transmit live video and photographs while digitally recording images for evidence. The unit is powered by a generator or batteries with solar panels.

“We will also use this unit during the Christmas shopping season to oversee crowded parking lots” Sheriff Jones said. “If a deputy spots something unusual, he can instantly notify a deputy on the ground to take action.”

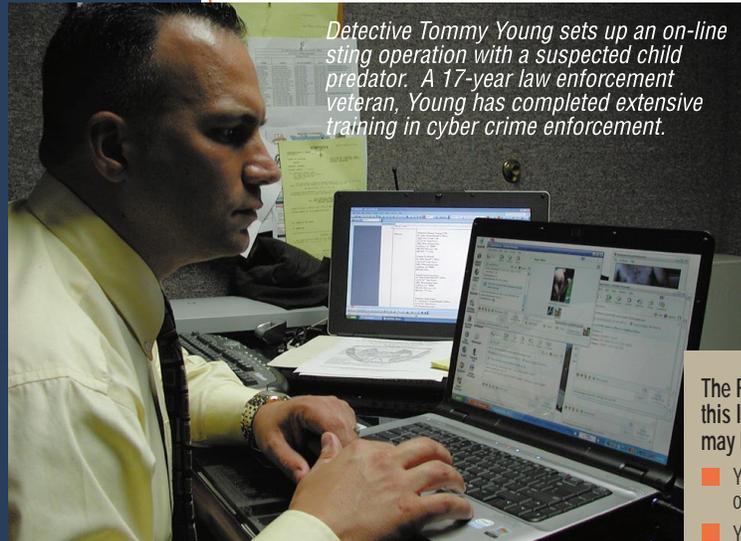


*Sheriff Jones examines the new “Eye in the Sky” unit with Lieutenant Craig Gommel, SJBPSO Fleet Manager. Gommel oversees the maintenance of some 225 pieces of sheriff’s office equipment - boats, trailers, four-wheelers, trucks, etc., and about 100 patrol units.*



# Cyber Crime Unit

Every day, children are solicited on-line and the SJBPSO is taking steps to stop it.



*Detective Tommy Young sets up an on-line sting operation with a suspected child predator. A 17-year law enforcement veteran, Young has completed extensive training in cyber crime enforcement.*

“When suspected pedophiles make contact with what they think are children in our parish, they may be chatting with a specially-trained, undercover detective,” Sheriff Jones said. “We have more than \$50,000 worth of new forensic computer equipment that re-creates evidence on a hard drive, cell phone or PDA even if erased by the user.”

The cyber crimes unit works with local law enforcement agencies, Louisiana State Police, the Louisiana Attorney General’s Office and the FBI Child Exploitation Unit to fight child predators and other on-line illegal activity.

“We are making solid cases against these criminals who will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law” Sheriff Jones said. “Nothing is more important than protecting our children.”

A free program to educate parents on ways to keep children safe on-line is available through the SJBPSO. Please contact us to schedule our “Not My Kid” program at your school or civic group.

Visit our website, [stjohnsheriff.org](http://stjohnsheriff.org) for more information on protecting children on-line.

The FBI has put together this list of signs that a child may be at risk on-line

- Your child spends large amounts of time on-line, especially at night.
- You find pornography on your child’s computer.
- Your child receives phone calls from people you don’t know or is making calls, sometimes long distance, to numbers you don’t recognize.
- Your child receives mail, gifts, or packages from someone you don’t know.
- Your child turns the computer monitor off or quickly changes the screen on the monitor when you come into the room.
- Your child becomes withdrawn from the family.
- Your child is using an on-line account belonging to someone else.

Instruct children:

- To never arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone they met on-line.
- To never upload (post) pictures of themselves onto the Internet or on-line service to people they do not personally know.
- Never give out identifying information such as their name, home address, school name, or telephone number.
- Never download pictures from an unknown source, as there is a good chance they could be sexually explicit images.
- To never respond to messages or bulletin board postings that are suggestive, obscene, or harassing.
- That whatever they are told on-line may or may not be true.

# Sheriff Jones at Harvard

Sheriff Jones recently participated in a Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar held at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Presented by The Strategic Management of Regulatory and Enforcement Agencies (SMREA), the course was attended by law enforcement managers from across the nation who exchanged ideas and solutions to challenges facing their departments.

*Sheriff Jones at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.*



# Big Blue

The SJBPSO has acquired at no charge, a 12 ton armored personnel carrier (APC). The 16 foot long and 9 foot wide vehicle can be used in an emergency or in the event of a disturbance where law enforcement must take extreme measures.

“This vehicle can go through four-foot-deep water, climb a two foot wall and cross a six foot span or ditch, allowing us to evacuate people if necessary,” Sheriff Jones said. “It can carry 13 people to safety or transport personnel through a hazardous situation.”

The APC, nicknamed “Big Blue” was donated by another sheriff’s office. Refurbished with inmate labor, it sports a 275 horsepower engine and can travel at up to 40 miles per hour.



*Deputy Charles Wale at the controls of “Big Blue.”*



# Safety Checks



Sergeants Conrad Baker (L) and Elton Foret conduct a safety check on a recent morning.

In order to keep motorists safe and traffic moving, SJBPSO personnel conduct safety checkpoints across the parish. In 2006, 1,153 motor vehicle accidents were reported in St. John including 571 with injuries and 15 fatalities.

Deputies are looking for seat belt usage, valid driver's licenses, current inspection stickers and license plates, vehicle registration, proof of insurance and child seat usage if applicable.

Using a seatbelt is the easiest way to prevent injuries and deaths in the event of an accident. Motorists caught not buckled up are subject to a \$25 fine.

The Louisiana Highway Safety Commission estimates that three quarters of the state's motorists routinely buckle up. The national average is 81 percent.



# Honor Guard

The SJBPSO Honor Guard presents our state and national flags at numerous civic functions and serves as official escorts for sheriff's office and community events. Recently, new uniforms were purchased for the group. If you would like the honor guard to appear at your event, please contact us for scheduling.



Honor Guard members are, front row, (L-R), Sergeant Gloria Tassin, Deputy Ed Howell, Sergeant Kory Borcharding, Lieutenant Mike Hoover, Sergeant Brian Bertrand, Sergeant James Bessinger, Corporal Blaine Rome, Deputy Brent Remondet. Second row, (L-R), Detective Tommy Young, Sergeant Scott Maillet, Deputy Darryl Turner and Corporal Leonard Sanders.

## Remember the fallen officers of the SJBPSO



Captain  
Octavio "Ox" Gonzalez  
2006



Code Enforcement Officer  
Edmond "Skipper" Songy  
2002



Deputy  
Barton Granier  
1996



Lieutenant  
Sherman Walker  
1985



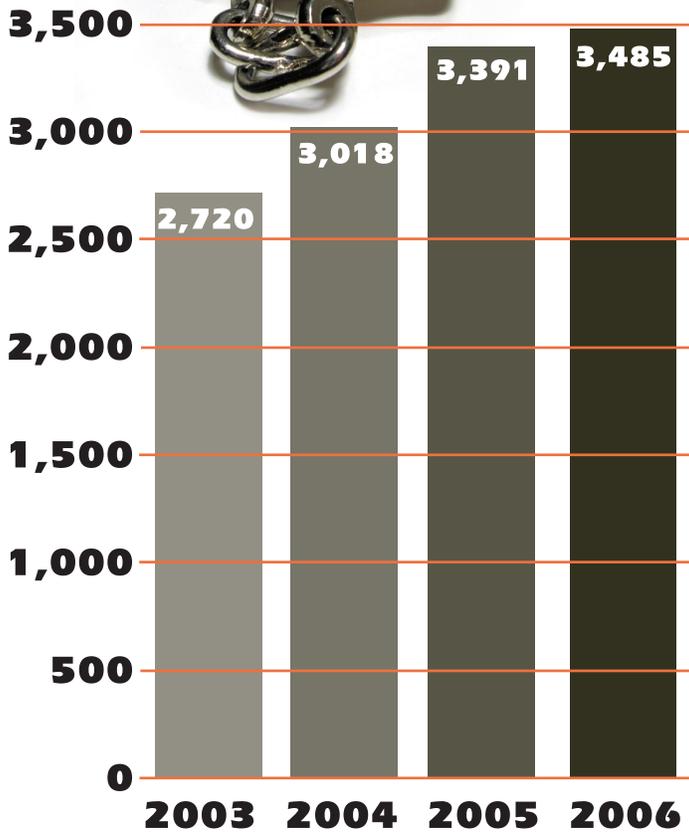
Deputy  
Harry Troxlair  
1969



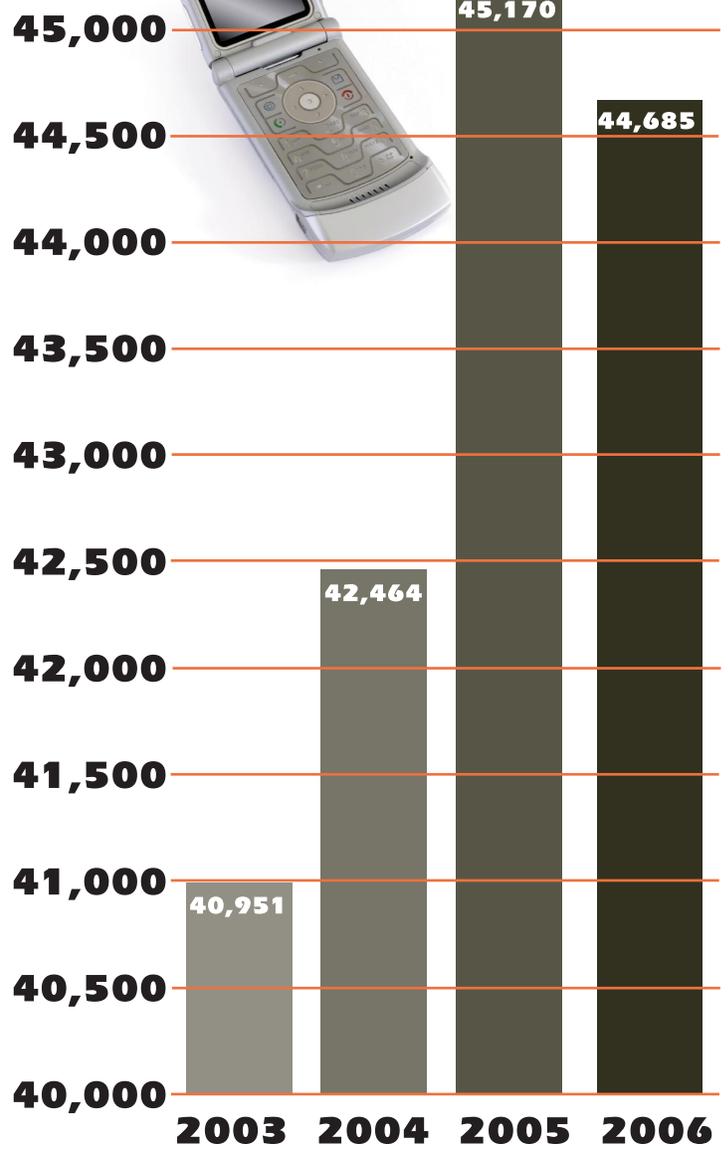
Constable  
Ignace Rousselle  
1936

# At A Glance

## Arrests



## Calls for Assistance\*



\*Calls to Acadian Ambulance and fire departments are included as SJBPSO also responds to these

**Dial 985 652-DRUG**

to leave an anonymous tip about suspected drug activity or drug dealers. All calls are confidential.

**In An Emergency, Dial 911**

Visit our web site for the latest news from your sheriff's office, access many services and even register for E-mail bulletins.

*stjohnsheriff.org*

# FBI Grads

A veteran of law enforcement since 1981, Captain Chuck Bazile recently joined police professionals from 49 states and dozens of foreign countries to graduate from the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

“The knowledge and experience Captain Bazile gained benefits our entire department,” Sheriff Jones said.



*Sheriff Jones congratulates Captain Chuck Bazile, a recent graduate of the prestigious FBI Academy*

With the SJBPSO since 1984, Bazile has served as a patrol deputy, in the narcotics division, Felony Intercept and K-9 Divisions. He currently commands the Training and Special Projects Division, oversees the S.O.R.T. (Special Operations and Response Team) and is Homeland Security Liaison for the parish.

Captain Octavio “Ox” Gonzalez, killed in the line of duty last year, was scheduled to attend this year’s session of the academy.

# Sheriff’s Community Council

More than 20 years ago, to enhance communication between citizens and your sheriff’s office, the Sheriff’s Community Council was formed. Volunteers serve as “Eyes and Ears” and bring concerns to the attention of the sheriff’s office. Established by Sheriff Jones in 1986, the council also stays active in many civic and charitable events.



*Current members of the Sheriff’s Community Council are, seated, (L-R) Pat Sellars, Warner Sylvain and Isiah Jones. Standing, (L-R) Major Mike Tregre, Felton Collins, Billy Lambert, Sheriff Jones, Reverend Donald Brown, Jimmy Hymel and Chief Deputy Harold Klibert.*



*Representing 168 years of law enforcement experience, the SJBPSO boasts six additional graduates of the FBI Academy - an extremely high number for a department of our size.*

*FBI Academy graduates are front row (L-R) Lieutenant Wayne Norwood, 39 years, Chief Deputy Harold Klibert, 40 years.*

*Back row, (L-R) Major Mike Tregre, 20 years, Captain Clarence Gray, 19 years, Lieutenant Todd Hymel, 22 years and Major Bobby Hay, 28 years.*

**Keep Louisiana Beautiful!**  
The SJBPSO enforces litter laws.

*stjohnsheriff.org*

# St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office Survey

We want and need your input. Please take a few moments to fill out and return this survey by mail, fax, dropping it off at one of our offices or by giving it to a deputy on patrol. Thank you.

In the past year, did you make a call for assistance to the SJBPSO?  Yes  No

If yes, did your call require a deputy to respond?  Yes  No

Are there any programs not currently offered by the SJBPSO you would you like to see put in place?

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

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

If you would you like to be contacted personally to discuss law enforcement issues in our parish, please let us know how to get in touch with you.

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Name	Address	Phone	E-mail
Please return to: St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office Wayne L. Jones, <i>Sheriff</i> Harold A. Klibert, <i>Chief Criminal Deputy</i> Jeffrey Clement, CPA, <i>Chief Civil Deputy</i>	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