
Annual Report 2023



St. John the Baptist Parish **SHERIFF'S OFFICE**



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.

Annual Report 2023

Dear fellow citizen,

Welcome to this report - a short summary if you will - of a few of the many programs, outreaches, successes, upgrades, and continued work of this office to keep you, your family and St. John the Baptist Parish safe.

One of my favorite sayings is "If you take care of the small things, the big things take care of themselves." Never has this been truer than when it comes to taking the steps necessary to ensure that our personnel have the absolute best of everything we can provide so they can do their jobs in the most professional manner possible.

Little things are big in the long run. Such as:

- Improving equipment used by deputies and workspaces for our office staff
- Providing the finest training possible because a well-trained officer is a better officer
- Upgrading protective gear
- Recognizing an officer for an exemplary effort

You also can do small, or easy things to partner with us and stop crime. Including:

- Making one little phone call to 9-1-1 and reporting suspicious activity
- Letting us know if you witness a crime or have information about one
- Using our tip lines 985.652.DRUG (3784) or 985.359.TIPS (8477) to anonymously alert us to potential illegal activity
- Talking to young people and reinforcing to them that we are the 'good guys'
- NOT throwing one little gum wrapper or cigarette butt out of your vehicle's window

My office has also started new programs to educate teenagers on dating safety and what to expect during a traffic stop. Self-defense and firearm familiarization classes for women continue to be popular as well as our P.O.P.S. outreach for senior citizens. Perhaps little things, but they could be very big for a young person or someone in need of our assistance.

On behalf of the dedicated men and women who work in the often-difficult profession of law enforcement, thank you for your support. We will continue to pursue every avenue possible to keep our parish safe, even if it seems like a little thing. Because as you know, the little things add up.

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".

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



On the cover: The sun begins to rise over the Lloyd B. Johnson Law Enforcement Training Center on Cambridge Drive in LaPlace.



In 90 percent of auto burglaries, the vehicle is unlocked. When a window is broken, there is something of value in plain sight. If you see something suspicious, call 911 immediately.



Grand opening activities at the new SWAT training facility.

New SWAT Complex

A new Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) training facility provides the best teaching environment possible for our specialized team to further improve their techniques for safely handling active shooter, hostage response and other high-risk situations.

“SWAT members and I visited training facilities in several states and incorporated the best ideas into our center,” Sheriff Tregre said. “We host numerous training sessions for local, state and federal law enforcement agencies as this facility is recognized as one of the best in the country.”



The 6,000-square-foot building has moveable doors and walls, allowing teams to train in various scenarios. A second-floor gallery lets instructors monitor sessions.

The new center replaces a 20-year-old facility and retains the name of Captain Octavio “Ox” Gonzalez, who headed the SWAT unit until losing his life in the line of duty on June 16, 2006.



Deputy Jose Portillo wears the new body armor with a mounted Taser and body cam.

Angel Armor

Deputies are wearing new body armor that is lighter, more comfortable and has ample space for Tasers, handcuffs, ammunition, and radios. At 15 pounds, the Angel Armor vest, or ‘outer carrier shirt’ is lighter than a traditional bulletproof vest yet provides greater protection.

We welcome contributions of any amount to our bulletproof vest fund. If you or your organization would like to help protect us so we can protect you, please let us know.

Finances are Solid

Through careful budgeting and thoughtful expenditures, your sheriff’s office is on an exceptionally firm financial footing.

“My administration continues to be a good steward of your tax dollars, spending money when needed and saving it when we can,” Sheriff Tregre said. “Since I took office, we have not had to borrow money to meet our financial obligations and have built up a surplus of more than \$3 million with cash reserves exceeding \$11 million.”

Sheriff Tregre said that since 2012, the office has invested more than \$25 million on new crime-fighting technology, training facilities, protective gear for deputies, major renovations to the main sheriff’s office while building and updating substations. Office personnel are better able to serve the public efficiently in improved working conditions using better equipment.

The SJBPSO is known to be one of the best trained and equipped sheriff’s offices in the state.

St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff’s Office

	6/30/13	6/30/22
Cash	\$2.3M	\$10.9M
Capital Assets, Net	\$8.7M	\$26.1M
Net Position (Deficit)	(\$1.0M)	\$3.2M
Fund Balance	\$2.4M	\$8.2M
Net Gain (Loss) in Fund Balance	(\$791K)	\$208K
Total Revenues	\$24.4M	\$39.2M

Protecting Deputies and You

Body Cams

All SJBPSO patrol officers are equipped with body cameras and each unit is outfitted with a dash cam to record interactions between deputies and the public.

“Every deputy in an enforcement role is wearing a body cam,” Sheriff Tregre said. “An audio and video record allows us to continue to be transparent with and accountable to the public we serve. These cameras not only protect the public but deputies from false claims.”

With the renewal of a quarter cent sales tax in March of 2023, \$3.9 million in funds were budgeted to purchase the cameras, necessary software and data storage for the next five years.

Community Outreaches



Punt, Pass & Kick

More than 100 boys and girls participated in the second annual Punt, Pass & Kick competition at Joe Keller Memorial Stadium in Reserve with Sheriff Tregre and numerous deputies acting as coaches and referees.

"This event is a wonderful chance to further enhance our image with parish youth," Sheriff Tregre said. "We are "the good guys" and welcome any chance to reinforce that message and strengthen the trust between our department and young citizens."

Punt, Pass & Kick is a free national program teaching fundamental football skills for children ages 6-13. Participants enjoyed snowballs, pizza and each took home a T-shirt and goodie bag with photos and other treats.



Students from Lake Pontchartrain Elementary tour the LBJ Center.

Night Out Against Crime

SJBPSO personnel again actively participated in the annual Night Out Against Crime, visiting numerous gatherings. By taking a stand against crime in our community and supporting the efforts of law enforcement, we will keep St. John safe.



A young resident gets an up-close look at the inside of a patrol unit during Night Out Against Crime activities.

Talking With Teens

Further enhancing our relationship with youth is the goal of two new programs; 'Teen Dating' and 'Teens and Traffic Stops.' Young people receive guidance on establishing respectful relationships and a close-up view of a simulated traffic stop.

"The dating program is offered through schools and covers planning an outing, safety tips, date rape drugs and dating violence," Sheriff Tregre said. "Abusive relationships often go unreported, and we want teens to know we are here to help."

Getting pulled over by a deputy while driving makes some people extremely nervous and to calm those fears, we created the 'Teens and Traffic Stops' program.

"Inexperienced drivers have very little interaction with law enforcement, and they can panic without reason the first time they get stopped," Sheriff Tregre said. "We conduct mock traffic stops to reassure young people that there is nothing to fear, what to expect and how to act."

To register your teenager for either of these free classes, please contact our office, 985-652-9513.



Teen Traffic Stops



Wanna Play?

Contact us to schedule a very friendly basketball or volleyball game with the SJBPSO "Blue Thunder" team at your school. We'd welcome the opportunity to interact with our parish's young people.



P.O.P.S.

Protecting Our Precious Seniors

Our P.O.P.S. program continues to provide support for senior citizens with check-ins and assistance. Call us at 985.652.7058 or visit stjohnsheriff.org if someone you know could benefit from this free service.

Training/Hiring



Police Defensive Tactics Course

Officers from several agencies in our region participate in a defensive tactics course at the LBJ Center. The training focuses on de-escalation, custody, use of force and weapon retention.

Activities at the LBJ

The Lloyd B. Johnson Law Enforcement Training Center is a hub of activity with training and numerous community programs underway just about every day. Many trainees come from out of the area and spend significant funds while in St. John on hotels, gas, supplies, and meals. Contact us for a tour or to sign up for one of our many free classes.



Women's self defense



Women's firearm familiarity



LA Wildlife & Fisheries Hunter Safety



SBJPSO deputies routinely assist other law enforcement agencies with crowd control including at the Strawberry Festival in Ponchatoula.

CAREER FAIR



The SJBPSO frequently participates in College/Career Fairs to help inform the public on the many employment opportunities in local law enforcement.

We Are Hiring For All Positions

Starting Salary as High as \$49,500

– With No Law Enforcement Experience

\$6,000 Salary Increase with P.O.S.T. Certification

Take-home Unit, Gym Access

Ample Career Advancement Opportunities

Paid Vacation and Holidays

Visit stjohnsheriff.org and click on "Employment Opportunities." Download and complete the application and bring it to our office with the required documents.

Join a team of dedicated professionals who are committed to keeping their community safe. **Apply Today!**



After pausing during the COVID-19 pandemic, our Citizens Academy recently graduated its fifth class where participants learned of the inner workings of our office through lectures, demonstrations, and interactive scenarios.

Participants must be 21 or older and live or work in St. John. Contact us for the dates of the next free session.

Honors and Recognitions



FBI Director Christopher Wray congratulates Det. Lt. Carolina Pineda on completing the agency's 285th session.

FBI Academy Graduate

Detective Lieutenant Carolina Pineda joins an elite group of law enforcement professionals who have graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. She was among 247 leaders of state, local, federal and international law enforcement agencies participating in 10-weeks of intensive training featuring leadership, communication, investigative and management skills and behavioral science.

Lieutenant Pineda is the first female officer in SJBPSSO history to attend and complete the program. Other current SJBPSSO personnel who are academy alumni are Sheriff Tregre, Captains Chip Wale, Greg Baker, David Lozano, Brandon Barlow and Lieutenant Troy Cassioppi.



NAACP Award

Sheriff Mike Tregre has been honored by the Louisiana NAACP with its 2023 Power of Influence Award. Recipients are selected for their work to uplift people of color across many fields of endeavor while devoting their life to promoting social justice. Congratulations Sheriff!

Officers of the Quarter/Year



Sheriff Tregre, Dep. Nicholas and Kemuel Farlough of Pelican Pointe Car Wash with the Officer of the Quarter award.

Deputy Orlando Nicholas took quick action during the Krewe of Dagé Mardi Gras parade after spotting a subject in the crowd with a firearm in his waistband. He alerted nearby officers, took the person into custody without incident and had him transported to jail. Deputy Nicholas' swift reaction kept people on the parade route safe.



Judge Mary Becnel (retired) of Professional Buildings, Dep. Kennedy and Sheriff Tregre at the Deputy of the Year award ceremony.

For his role in saving the life of a motorist suffering a medical emergency, **Deputy Brian Kennedy** was selected as officer of the year. Deputy Kennedy was still in training and off duty when he observed a vehicle traveling erratically and then plunging into the water off Longwood Court. He entered the canal, opened the vehicle and dragged the unconscious man to land. Deputy Kennedy administered CPR until the man was transported to an area hospital where he was treated and released. Crimestoppers of Greater New Orleans also honored him with its Oscar Tolmas Charitable Trust Deputy of the Year Award.

911 Dispatcher Sergeant Karanell Tassin

was selected for her ability to communicate with composure. When a victim placed a 911 call from her residence after it was invaded, Sergeant Tassin remained on the line until deputies arrived, the home was cleared and the situation resolved.



Sgt. Tassin with Sheriff Tregre and Phil Honses from The Flying Locksmiths.

Her calm demeanor, listening skills and dispatching expertise helped defuse a dangerous situation.



Sheriff Tregre and Cpt. Baker with award sponsors Natalie Tatje and Kelsey Jumonville of Tatje Insurance and Financial Products.

Captain Conrad Baker, our Assistant Commander of Technology was recognized for his tireless work in quickly restoring some 500 surveillance cameras destroyed or damaged by Hurricane Ida. Captain Baker also helped procure at no cost to our office a mobile system that can be used during emergencies to ensure law enforcement radio and cellular communication.



Louisiana Sheriffs' Association Executive Director Mike Ranatza and Sheriff Tregre present the organization's Valor Award to Sgt. Walker.

LSA Valor Award

The Louisiana Sheriffs' Association presented Sergeant Jonathan Walker with its Medal of Valor in 2022 for ending a deadly situation on 1-10 in LaPlace in 2021. Walker disarmed and took into custody a shooter who had injured two people.

Established in 2016 to recognize "extraordinary judgment, bravery and performance above and beyond the call of duty," two SJBPSO officers have been honored with the award; Sergeant Walker and Captain Charles 'Chip' Wale in 2020.



P.O.S.T. Certified

The Mark of a Professional Law Enforcement Officer

Deputies Cameron Carrier, Antonio Craig, Tynisha Crushfield, Ryan Edwards, Dynisha Parks, Jesus Rodriguez and Gage Thomas have achieved P.O.S.T. (Peace Officer Standards and Training) certification after completing a 17-week training program on investigations, firearms, traffic and criminal law as well as techniques to de-escalate a volatile situation. Deputy Carrier was selected as Squad Leader and Deputy Thomas was recognized as class salutarian.

The SJBPSO has more P.O.S.T. certified officers in its ranks than at any time in history.



Honoring Heroes

A solemn ceremony and balloon release were part of a May 9, 2023, memorial program to remember the lives and dedication of SJBPSO officers killed in the line of duty. Held during National Police Week, Sheriff Tregre led the service and promised to "Gather every year to honor these men who died while protecting us. They will never be forgotten."

End of Watch

Constable Ignace Rousselle	October 20, 1936
Deputy Harry Troxlair	August 1, 1969
Detective Sherman Walker	November 6, 1984
Deputy Barton Granier	January 27, 1996
Deputy Edmond Songy	July 9, 2002
Captain Octavio Gonzalez	June 16, 2006
Deputy Brandon Nielsen	August 16, 2012
Deputy Jeremy Triche	August 16, 2012



Tahoe to Grand Isle Fire

Helping Where We Can

The SJBPSO donated an out-of-service vehicle to the Grand Isle Fire Department, replacing one lost to Hurricane Ida. The keys to several retired patrol units were handed over to the Sharkey and Issaquena County Sheriff's Offices near Rolling Fork, Mississippi after their fleets were decimated by a tornado.



Units Donated in Mississippi

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 8-4 M-F

Reserve/Garyville/Mt. Airy

985.535.8100

Edgard/West Bank

985.497.3435

IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 911

Non-emergency 985.652.6338



stjohnsheriff.org



St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff



@stjohnsheriff



School Visit with Second Graders



Trunk or Treat



Retired Teachers Lunch



Christmas Toy Giveaway



KC Food Distribution



Halloween at Veterans Home



Fishing Camp



Lemonade Day

We're with you!

The SJBPSO sponsors and participates in numerous community events. Let us know about yours so we may attend.



Council on Aging Mardi Gras