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N e w s R e l e a s e

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Hunters Beware

The St. Charles Sheriff's Office supports resident's right to possess and bear arms. However, Sheriff Greg Champagne reminds everyone that along with this right comes certain responsibilities. With hunting season upon us, residents are reminded that discharging firearms near homes is illegal. This is potentially dangerous to residents and is a violation of parish law.

"Hunting is part of our culture, but it's important that those who hunt respect the rights and safety of their neighbors," Sheriff Greg Champagne said.

The parish ordinance prohibits the discharge of rifles, pistols or pellet guns within 2,000 feet of any residence, except in the lawful defense of life or property. Shotguns may not be discharged within 800 feet of a residence.

The discharge of rifles, pistols or firearms using ball ammunition is also prohibited in the Bonnet Carre' Spillway. Discharge of shotguns is also prohibited within 800 feet of the Spillway levees, Airline Drive or Spillway Road. Discharge of firearms also is prohibited within 1,500 feet of the Ama Pump Station and the St. Rose area between Airline Drive and River Road. Those who violate the law may be fined up to \$500 or 30 days in jail.

Additionally, hunters are reminded that trespassing on the private property of others without prior written permission to do so is illegal. Changes in trespassing laws in Louisiana no longer require property owners to display posted signs on their property to warn hunters. This burden is now placed upon the hunters to provide written documentation from the property owner when asked.

Have a safe hunting season. Remember to respect the rights of others.