



Greg Champagne  
Sheriff

## St. Charles Parish Sheriff 's Office

Public Information

260 Judge Edward Dufresne Parkway, Luling, LA 70070

Voice (985) 783-0205 • Fax (985) 783-1138

# News Release

*Sgt. Jenni Barrette*

*Public Information Officer*

*April 25, 2024*

### **SHOOTING FIREARMS IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS IS DANGEROUS AND ILLEGAL**

The number of incidents where deputies are responding to firearms being discharged in residential areas has been increasing in recent months. We have had several such incidents in 2024 alone thus far. These culminated in the apparent accidental shooting of a jogger last week by an individual target practicing in his backyard with a .22 caliber rifle.

This morning, deputies responded to a complaint of a still unidentified individual deciding it was okay to shoot and kill a federally protected species of wild duck with a shotgun, near the golf course and numerous homes in the Willowdale subdivision, as many school children were getting on buses. Anyone with any information or video footage is being asked to contact us in this matter.

Section 14-6 of the St. Charles Parish Code of ordinances provides that:

**“It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge any rifle, pistol or pellet gun within two thousand (2,000) feet of any residence or to discharge a shotgun within eight hundred (800) feet of any residence within the parish except in lawful defense of life or property.”**

**“This means that a rifle, pistol or pellet rifle cannot be shot at a distance less than over six football fields end-to-end,” Sheriff Greg Champagne stated. “There are few if any residences in St. Charles Parish that fall in this category, where one can shoot from their own yard. As far as shotguns, the minimum distance is nearly three (3) football fields end-to-end, in which it would be lawful to discharge a shotgun,” the Sheriff added.**

The St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office will respond to calls for service regarding this issue and will effect an arrest. Our neighborhoods are for our citizens and families to feel safe and not have to worry about someone illegally discharging a firearm. The Sheriff concluded by stating that **“I'm a firm believer in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment and the right to keep and bear arms. But along with these rights comes responsibility. If you discharge a weapon in St. Charles Parish near a residence inside of the lawful distance provided by law, you will be arrested, and your firearm seized.”**