



ST. CHARLES PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE

UPDATE

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

WWW.STCHARLESSHERIFF.ORG

ST. CHARLES PARISH
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

VOLUME #26

DEDICATED TO REPORTING THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ST. CHARLES PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE

This is a free annual publication mailed to St. Charles Parish residents, law enforcement professionals, community organization representatives, civic leaders and government officials. If you are not on the mailing list and would like to receive future issues, please direct your request to the Special Services Department at (985) 783-1355 or fax us at (985) 783-1195.

MILLAGE RATE AND CRIME GOING DOWN AGAIN

We are excited to present the 26th edition of *UPDATE*!

I have two significant bits of news for the citizens of St. Charles Parish. First, we experienced a record-low in crime again during the 2023 calendar year. Even better news is that crime rates have continued decreasing during the first half of 2024. According to U.C.R. (Uniformed Crime Reporting), from January 2024 through July 2024, the total number of crimes fell from 656 in the same period in 2023 to 633 currently – a 3.51% decrease.

Secondly, I am pleased to announce that I have decided to reduce the millage rate for property taxes received by the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office for the second straight year. Two years ago, the law enforcement district received a total of 21.58 mills. After two consecutive reductions, the district will receive a reduced millage of 19.85 mills. ***This equates to a total of approximately 4 million dollars that taxpayers keep!*** The new millage rate is effective for the 2023 tax year. Even though the St. Charles Parish

Sheriff's Office receives NO sales taxes, I believe we will still have sufficient revenue to continue gradually increasing salaries in our efforts to attract qualified applicants. Starting annual pay for new enforcement recruits is \$50,000 per year (not including overtime or off-duty details). It is my goal to continue raising this amount as our finances permit.

I am also pleased to announce that I have selected a new chief deputy as of last October. John "Joe" Ganote returned home to the Sheriff's Office after working as St. Charles Parish E.O.C Director and security chief for Dow Chemical for the last several years. I am excited about our future. Joe brings new optimism to the agency and has been working hard to help me elevate the professionalism of our office.

As you will also read in this issue, I am humbled to have been sworn in for a record 8th term as your sheriff. I thank all of you for your confidence and support. I remain committed to making the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office the premier law enforcement



GREG CHAMPAGNE
SHERIFF – ST. CHARLES PARISH

agency in the area.

Thanks again,

ST. CHARLES PARISH ACHIEVED A 28-YEAR RECORD LOW CRIME RATE IN 2023

Sheriff Greg Champagne is proud to announce that St. Charles Parish has achieved a 28-year record low crime rate for 2023, as documented through the Uniformed Crime Reporting (U.C.R.) system.

According to U.C.R., the total number of crimes from January through

December 2023 fell from 1280 in 2022 to 1104 in 2023 – a 13.75% decrease.

Sheriff Champagne points to several factors that contribute to the low crime rate. "We have a group of well-trained, dedicated, and motivated men and women in uniform who take crime prevention and apprehension personally and seriously as they live and raise their families here. Technology and social media also play an important role in our prevention and apprehension efforts. We have the full cooperation

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Offense	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Murder	2	4	4	8	6	5
Rape	5	4	6	5	3	5
Robbery	22	19	10	20	22	11
Assault	588	527	666	547	544	512
Burglary	184	133	137	136	126	78
Theft	598	592	776	440	499	439
Auto Theft	55	37	49	57	80	54
TOTAL	1,454	1,316	1,648	1,213	1,280	1,104

Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics 2018 - 2023

Leading the Way in Leadership

Congratulations to the Graduates of the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office Regional P.O.S.T. Basic Academy – Classes 38 & 39

Sheriff Greg Champagne is proud of all the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office's Regional P.O.S.T. (Peace Officer Standardized Training) Basic Academy graduates. Over a period of seventeen weeks, cadets learned the skills and techniques required of a Peace Officer to master their duties as a Peace Officer. Training included classes on Louisiana Law, First Aid, Defensive Tactics, Defensive Driving, De-Escalation Training, Crisis Intervention, Firearms Training, Scenario Training, Investigation Training, and other classes essential for producing competent and professional law enforcement officers.

The graduation ceremony marked the cadets' transition into certified law enforcement officers, symbolizing their commitment to serving and protecting their communities.

The academy classes included cadets from the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office, Harahan Police Department, Louisiana Office of Juvenile Justice, Louisiana Office of the State Fire Marshal, Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Office, Port of New Orleans Harbor Police, St. Helena Parish Sheriff's Office, St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office, Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff's Office, and Tulane University Police Department. We appreciate these agencies trust in us to train their officers.

Academy Class 38, which consisted of thirteen graduates, celebrated their graduation on November 17, 2023. Notable St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office graduates included Jayden Lodge, Brandon Oubre, Kaitlyn Pastor, and Amy Rousselle.

Academy Class 39 saw the graduation of twelve cadets on May 17, 2024, with graduates from the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office, including Jessica Gee-Wong, Clarissa Joyce, Corey Knight, and Melvin Matthews.



A special thank you to the family and friends who have supported these law enforcement officers throughout their time at the P.O.S.T. Academy. ★

ST. CHARLES PARISH ACHIEVED A 28-YEAR RECORD LOW CRIME RATE IN 2023

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of our District Attorney and his assistants, who work diligently to prosecute and imprison those career repeat offenders responsible for a disproportionate amount of crime. Also, many years of community outreach to our young people through DARE, School Resource Officers, Eat on the Beat, Summer Camps, and many other programs and services available through our Special Services Division continue to solidify the already positive relationships we have built with the young people of St. Charles Parish. This cannot be understated and is vital in preventing crime."

"Finally, citizen involvement is a very valuable part of our work. We appreciate the cooperation of the people of St. Charles Parish, who usually do not hesitate to provide information about suspicious behavior, actual and potential crimes, and the perpetrators. The level of this collaboration doesn't exist in many other places."

The Sheriff concluded, "Although these numbers are great, we never just sit back. We constantly seek ways to further reduce crime in all areas."

This is still a team effort. Residents are urged not to become complacent. Please be vigilant and, most importantly, secure your belongings and property! Many reported thefts resulted from unlocked vehicles and valuables left unattended in easily accessible places.

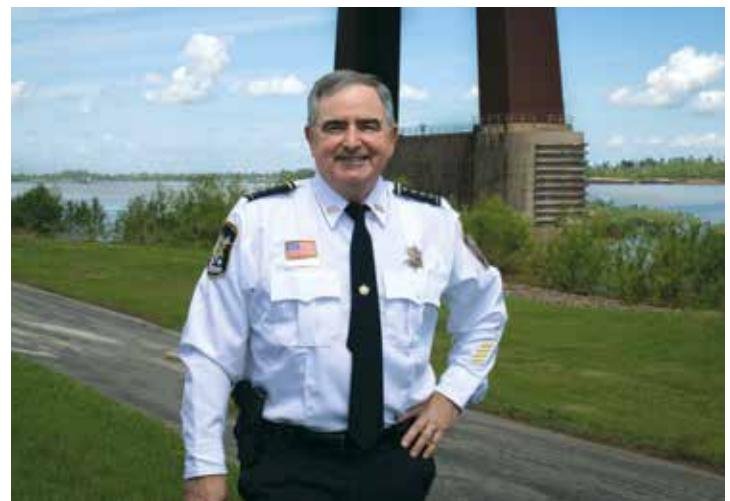
One of the main goals for the men and women of the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office is to provide the highest quality of law enforcement services to enhance safety in our community and prevent crime. We accomplish this by engaging with the public, enforcing laws, and patrolling neighborhoods. It is an honor to serve the citizens of St. Charles Parish, and with everyone's help, we can continue to maintain St. Charles Parish as one of the best and safest places to live, work, and play in South Louisiana. ★

ST. CHARLES PARISH SHERIFF GREG CHAMPAGNE SWORN IN FOR AN 8TH TERM

On July 1, 2024, Sheriff Greg Champagne was sworn in for his 8th term as Sheriff of St. Charles Parish. He first took the oath of office on July 1, 1996, and today marks 28 years as sheriff. He was unopposed five times in his seven re-election efforts, including the latest race in October of 2023.

He also is the longest-serving sheriff in the history of St. Charles Parish and currently is the 2nd longest serving active sheriff in Louisiana. He recently completed a one-year term as President of The National Sheriffs' Association, the second time he held that post in the last eight years.

District Judge Rochelle C. Fahrig administered the oath of office to Sheriff Champagne. Also in attendance were a small group of family, friends, public officials, and the men and women of the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office, to whom he also administered the oath of office. During his comments following



St. Charles Parish Sheriff Greg Champagne

the official swearing-in, Sheriff Champagne pledged to continue seeking improvement from himself and his staff and to fight against complacency. "I am humbled and honored to receive again the trust of the citizens of St. Charles Parish;," Sheriff Champagne said. "I will not let you down." ★

St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office Employees Participate in an Active Threat Response Drill at Destrehan High School

St. Charles Parish Sheriff Greg Champagne announces that deputies with the Sheriff's Office, personnel from St. Charles Parish Public Schools, St. Charles Parish EMS, St. Charles Parish Hospital, St. Charles Parish Fire Service, and our industrial emergency services partners participated in an Active Threat Response Training Drill. This drill was held on the grounds of Destrehan High School, located at #1 Wildcat Lane in Destrehan, LA.

Active Threat Response Training aims not only to train but also to test the response of deputies with the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office to the report of an active threat event. The deputies participating in this training are mainly from the Patrol Division and other specialized divisions, which are likely to be the first to respond. "Working closely with St. Charles Parish Public Schools



as well as the Archdiocese of New Orleans, our office created an active shooter response plan shortly after the horrific incident at Columbine High School in Colorado," Sheriff Champagne said. "I recall watching those events unfold on television in my office in 1999 with my then Chief Deputy Joe Cardella, and commenting that we have to do something to prepare for such an unthinkable event." Staff members obtained all the data on active school and other shooting events and crafted a plan allowing our school system input. The response plan is updated regularly as new data is obtained.

Active Shooter Response Training is now Active Threat Response Training. It is held bi-annually at a school system site in St. Charles Parish in coordination with St. Charles Parish Public Schools. The St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office first introduced Active Shooter Response Training in 2001. Since 2006, the Sheriff's Office has held nine drills at various schools throughout the parish.

"I'm proud to say that our plan has been disseminated around the country over the years. Our staff has even



provided training and guidance to the Archdiocese of New Orleans since we have a Catholic school in the parish," the Sheriff added. Presentations were made to the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association a few years back.

Active Threat Response Training aims to provide deputies with the skills needed to respond and quickly resolve the event. Law enforcement officers' primary objectives when responding to an active threat are to stop the killing, stop the dying, and rapid casualty evacuation of the injured in coordination with EMS and Fire Services via Rescue Task Force. The deputies will demonstrate tactics such as weapons management, room clearing, tactical combat casualty care, and incident command. All of these skills will help them to achieve these three operational objectives. More than 200 of our deputies (full-time and reserve) have attended this training over several years, most recently in July and October 2023.

Members of the media were invited to Destrehan High School (#1 Wildcat Lane, Destrehan, LA 70047) on Friday, January 5, 2024, at noon, where they met with Sheriff Champagne and SCPPS Superintendent Dr. Ken Oertling to discuss the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office Active Threat Response Training. ★

St. Rose American Legion Post Presents Law Enforcement Officer Of The Year Award To Three St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office Employees

Sheriff Greg Champagne is happy to announce that Detective Isaac Genova, Deputy Timbrel Lewis and Sergeant Steven Mahan were selected to receive the American Legion Officer of the Year Award during a ceremony on Wednesday, June 28, 2023.

On July 27, 2022, deputies were dispatched to Ash Street in Hahnville in reference to a shooting. Detective Isaac Genova, Deputy Timbrel Lewis, and Sergeant Steven Mahan soon arrived on the scene. Sergeant Mahan began directing assets and responses of incoming units while prioritizing officers' actions on the scene. Detective Genova located a gunshot victim, triaged him from head to foot, located an entry/exit wound, and adequately applied a tourniquet. Deputy Lewis located a second gunshot victim, bleeding heavily from the leg. She correctly applied a tourniquet and noticed that the bleeding was not stopping. She requested a second tourniquet, applied it, and the bleeding stopped.

The St. Charles EMS Director and ER Physicians stated that Deputy Lewis and Detective Genova's proper tourniquet applications saved the lives of the two gunshot victims. Sheriff



American Legion Post 366 members with Deputy Timbrell Lewis, Detective Isaac Genova, Sgt. Steven Mahan

Champagne presented all three officers with Distinguished Service Awards during a staff meeting on March 23, 2023, for their actions.

"I thank the American Legion Post 366 for recognizing Detective Genova, Deputy Lewis, and Sergeant S. Mahan for their dedication to the citizens of St. Charles Parish," said Sheriff Greg Champagne.

Congratulations, Detective Genova, Deputy Lewis, and Sergeant S. Mahan! ★

Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run to support the Louisiana Special Olympics

On May 31, 2024, St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office employees participated in the Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) to support the Louisiana Special Olympics. This year was extra special because five Special Olympic Athletes participated. The St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office collected \$1,590.00 for the Special Olympics through different fundraisers.

The Kenner Police Department and the Louisiana Department of Probation and Parole-Thibodaux Office joined the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office to support such a great cause. ★



St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office Deputies Received Distinguished Service Award After Being Credited With Saving Two Lives

On August 22, 2024, Sheriff Greg Champagne held a ceremony to honor two deputies with the prestigious Distinguished Service Award. The awardees were recognized for their exceptional and heroic efforts in administering life-saving measures to two victims of a serious crash. The recipients' quick thinking and courageous actions played a crucial role in ensuring the safety and well-being of those involved in the accident.

"On June 29, 2024, deputies responded to a hit-and-run crash with injuries on Airline Highway near Ormond Boulevard in Destrehan. Upon arrival, Deputies Mercier and Nash located two crash victims, both with severed limbs. Both crash victims were on a motorcycle when they were struck and thrown several feet. Deputy Mercier applied his tourniquet to the male driver's left leg, successfully stopping the bleeding. At the same time, Deputy Nash applied his tourniquet to the female passenger's left leg, successfully stopping the bleeding. EMS arrived and continued to render aid. Flight care was requested. Because of the deputies' life-saving actions, both victims were stabilized for flight care and flown to a Level I trauma center. Both victims survived the crash. EMS and Trauma Surgeons contributed that the two victims survived the crash because of the actions of Deputies Mercier and Nash".

During the award and medal presentation, Sheriff Champagne stated, "I am very proud and honored to present Deputy Mercier and Deputy Nash with the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office Distinguished Service Award." ★



Sheriff Champagne and Deputy Mercier



Sheriff Champagne and Deputy Nash



MOTHERS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING HERO AWARD

Deputy Molli Schmitt was honored at the 2024 MADD Louisiana Law Enforcement Recognition Luncheon for her efforts in enforcing DWI laws between April 2023 and May 2024. In this time frame, Deputy Schmitt effected 26 DUI arrests, more than any other deputy in the St Charles Parish Sheriff's Office.

MADD is dedicated to ending drunk and drugged driving, supporting the victims of these crimes, and preventing underage drinking. This award is to honor law enforcement officers across the state of Louisiana for



Deputy Molli Schmitt



protecting our communities from substance-impaired driving. ★

Sheriff Champagne Announces Appointment of Chief Deputy

On October 30, 2023, Sheriff Champagne announced the appointment of John "Joe" Ganote as the Chief Deputy of the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office.

Chief Deputy Ganote has 19 years of prior service with the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office. He began as a Deputy assigned to the Patrol Department in June 1998. He worked his way through the ranks in the Patrol Department, Special Investigations Division, Special Operations Division, and Crime Scene Division, up to the rank of Captain of the Criminal Investigations Bureau and Patrol Department. During his tenure, Joe received many letters of commendation and awards. He also served as the commander of the Special Response Team.

Joe left the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office to assume the position of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Director in St. Charles Parish, where he led a 24-hour department responsible for maintaining written plans for disaster preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery. He later served as the Emergency Services and Security Leader at Dow Chemical, overseeing all Emergency Response, Emergency Management, and Security Operations at the site.

The culmination of Joe's knowledge and experience from his prior positions and training will give him additional perspectives and insight as our new Chief Deputy. Joe's other accomplishments include graduating from the FBI National Academy Session #247. He has more than 35 certifications and academies that he attended in emergency management and law enforcement. He attended Atlantic Christian College in North Carolina, where he studied psychology and criminal justice before moving to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte with the same majors. He was a 4-year collegiate baseball player drafted into the professional ranks, where he played ten seasons with the Toronto Blue Jays, Milwaukee Brewers, and Texas Rangers organizations. He served as the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) Region 3 Director for five years. He has been honored to serve as GOHSEP's Chairman of the Regional Director subcommittee for four consecutive years.

Chief Deputy Ganote and his wife, Melissa Muhleisen Ganote, have resided in Montz for 18 years. They are the proud parents of Jacob and Mia Ganote. ★



Chief Deputy
Joe Ganote

Members of the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office Attend Crisis Intervention Training

St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office members attended Crisis Intervention Training at the Terrebonne Parish Emergency Operations Center. The training was hosted by the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office, Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Office, and Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office, and members from several different agencies were present.

Instructors provided the class information on the mental health law, the opioid epidemic, and the ability to administer Narcan to save lives. They heard personal stories from people who experienced mental health crises but are alive today because of the police and this training. They also learned how to manage individuals with autism, learned about suicide prevention, and visited various sites where students were able to interact with people who reside in homes and receive assistance in healing themselves. The students spent time with veterans who experienced trauma during their military careers and learned how the police could be more effective in helping. Students had scenario-based training that helped guide them on how to interact safely with someone in crisis without sacrificing officer safety. They learned about positive outcomes and active listening, a crisis negotiator's approach to resolving conflict with someone in crisis.

The training taught the students de-escalation strategies and practical communication skills geared towards building trust that the police will get someone in crisis the help they need. ★



Members of the Sheriff's Office pictured from left to right: Capt. Darren Gros - Director of Training, Dep. Desirée Banegas - Court Security, Sgt. William Florent - Corrections, Det. Garrett Haun - Criminal Investigations, Dep. Stacy Cotten - Corrections, Dep. Cameron Vance - Corrections, Secretary Jessica Kolb - Administrative Services, Sgt. Chris Kolb - Fleet, Lt. Jack Gilboy - Patrol Watch Commander

OCTOBER IS
**DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE
AWAWARENESS
MONTH**



**IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW FINDS THEMSELVES
IN A DANGEROUS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RELATIONSHIP,
WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.**

The St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office Crime Victim's Assistance Division consists of Officers specially trained to help you. Assistance includes Abuse Prevention Orders, shelter, relocation funding, mental health assistance, and more. For more information, feel free to contact the Crime Victim's Assistance Division at 985-783-6230, and in the event of an emergency, please dial 9-1-1.

Sheriff Champagne Promotes Two New Staff Members

Sheriff Champagne is pleased to announce the appointment and promotion of two new staff members. Lieutenant Lance Richards has been promoted to Captain and commands the Criminal Investigations Bureau. Lieutenant Jeremy Pitchford has been promoted to Captain and will assume command of the Patrol Division.

Captain Richards is a 20-year Sheriff's Office veteran with an extensive professional background. Starting as a Corrections Deputy in 2004, he transitioned to the Patrol Division and later served as a Detective in the Criminal Investigations Division for five years. As he progressed through the ranks, he held positions as corporal and sergeant in the patrol division before assuming the role of lieutenant and commander of the internal affairs division in 2020. He displayed professionalism and experienced leadership.

Captain Pitchford is a 23-year veteran of the agency and has also had a distinguished career working his way through the ranks since 2001. He began in the Corrections Division and transitioned to the Patrol Division in 2003. He became a detective in the Criminal Investigations Division in 2008. His commitment and leadership were recognized with promotions to sergeant of Criminal Investigations in 2015 and then to Lieutenant in 2020.

Sheriff Champagne commented: "The St. Charles Sheriff's Office is a better agency today because we have dedicated employees such as Captain Richards and Captain Pitchford, who have risen through the ranks from the bottom up, garnering extensive experience and training. I am extremely proud to promote both to essential command positions within our agency."



Captain Richards



Captain Pitchford

St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office Task Force Officer Recognized

In December 2023, Lieutenant Jeff Hirsch, who works for the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office and is also a Task Force Officer (TFO) with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), received an award for his work with the Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Division. He was also recognized for the support provided during special events in New Orleans, such as the Sugar Bowl, Jazz Fest, and Mardi Gras.

The award was presented by Lyonel Myrthil, the FBI Special Agent in Charge (SAC) for Louisiana, at a ceremony held at the FBI Office in New Orleans. ★



Lieutenant Jeff Hirsch and Sheriff Greg Champagne



**Lieutenant Jeff Hirsch and Lyonel Myrthil,
FBI Special Agent in Charge for Louisiana**

**PROTECT YOURSELF FROM PHONE SCAMS
ASK QUESTIONS!!!**



Some scammers are posing as members of federal and local law enforcement agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Federal Trade Commission (FTC), and even the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office. If you receive one of these calls and are told that you may have possibly had your identity compromised, do not provide any information until you are sure it is legitimate. Law enforcement agencies will not ask you to purchase gift cards or transfer money into a Bitcoin account to pay debts, pay fines, or to protect your finances.

ST. CHARLES PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE
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HOSTED BY:
St. Charles Parish President Matthew Jewell
& St. Charles Parish Sheriff Greg Champagne

**VETERANS DAY
CELEBRATION LUNCHEON**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2024
11:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

Judge Edward Dufresne Community Center
274 Judge Edward Dufresne Parkway / Luling / LA / 70070

Supporting Our Youth—

Sheriff Champagne strongly believes in positive interaction with the youth from our community. The deputies who are spending time with our youth will often be the same deputies that will respond to help if they ever need assistance. Positive interaction is vital in preventing crime and creating lifelong bonds.

The St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office offers numerous programs and opportunities for the youth of St. Charles Parish.

OPERATION FIRST CLASS – BOYS SUMMER CAMP

This year, thirty-eight campers and thirteen St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office employees took part in Operation First Class Boy's Summer Camp from June 27, 2024, to July 2, 2024. The young men joined in on tent camping, hiking, first aid, survival skills training, swimming, rock wall climbing, archery, firearms, and field sports. Importantly, they also had the opportunity to disconnect from their cell phones and technology for a week.

Sheriff Greg Champagne annually sends boys, ages 11-15, to the camp hosted by the Boy Scouts of America in Kiln, Mississippi. Sheriff Champagne is grateful to Magnolia Companies of Louisiana, C&D Plumbing, Winn Dixie of Luling, and 5 Star Refreshments for their generous donations.

For information about future Operation First Class Sheriff's Summer Camps, please get in touch with Lieutenant Lennie Brown at (985) 783-1355 or via email at lbrown@stcharlessheriff.org ★



Top: Campers taking a break from the heat.

Left: Campers target shooting.

D.A.R.E. - DRUG ABUSE RESISTANCE EDUCATION

The St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office has faithfully taught children from kindergarten through 12th grade how to live productive, drug-free lives. Since 1989, uniformed deputies have led these series at schools in a classroom setting, giving them direct access and interaction with students. Over five thousand students have graduated from the D.A.R.E. program in St. Charles Parish during the past five years alone.



D.A.R.E. students learn to make responsible decisions by understanding drugs' effects and consequences. They get tools to resist peer pressure by saying "no" to negative influences and becoming a positive influence to their peers. Students also learn how to deal with stress by learning tips on healthy communication, both verbal and nonverbal. Lastly, they are taught the dangers of bullying, both physical and emotional. They are encouraged to help others by being a responsible bystander by informing trusted adults of what they witness. The D.A.R.E. pro-

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(Left to right): Back row: Cpl. Harold Bourgeois, Sgt. George Cunningham, and Lt. Leonard Brown. Front row: Dep. Dwayne Chiasson, Lt. Roanne Sampson, and Dep. Lindsay Gonzalez

OPERATION FIRST CLASS GIRLS SUMMER CAMPS - SUMMER 2024

The St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office continued its partnership with the Boy Scouts of America by hosting its fifth annual Exploring Crew Girls Camp. The first session took place from July 8 to July 11, 2024, and the second session was from July 14 to July 17, 2024. Both camps were held at the Salmen Scout Reservation in Perkinston, MS.

In total, twenty female chaperones from the sheriff's office supervised over seventy pre-teen and teenage girls, ranging from ages eleven to seventeen, for a week filled with exciting activities. The girls participated in archery, gun safety, swimming, hiking, rock climbing, arts & crafts, and more.

This successful event was made possible through the collaborative efforts of our community. Special thanks to Sheriff Greg Champagne, the United Way of St. Charles, St. Charles Parish Public Schools, and the Boy Scouts of America for sponsoring the summer camps. Additionally, we are grateful to Frank's Supermarket, Bunge Grain Elevator, Gnot's Reserve, Inc., Five Star, Blue Bell, Winn Dixie, and Jones Memorial Funeral Home for their generous donations. A big thank you goes out to our chaperones for their valuable assistance. ★



Campers preparing their eggs for the tower egg drop



Tower Egg Drop



Campers practicing their archery skills



Campers playing volleyball

D.A.R.E. - DRUG ABUSE RESISTANCE EDUCATION

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gram continues to positively influence the next generation with a consistent message year after year, decade after decade.

The St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office has seven certified DARE Officers who have completed the rigorous two-week class. The training consisted of learning how to teach in the classroom, introducing the DARE lessons, and presenting the DARE lessons. In the second week, the officer must present the assigned lesson (45 minutes) to the class and instructors. The presentation is evaluated by instructors, and it is given a pass or fail.

Sheriff Champagne would like to congratulate the officers who completed the certification! ★



WALK OFF BULLYING

This year's Walk Against Bullying was a collaboration between the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office, St. Charles Parish Public Schools, and St. Charles Parish Department of Community Services. This was our 6th year having this event to bring awareness to bullying. The theme was "Be Helpful, not Hurtful." We were thrilled that John Emery, a renowned figure from the Youth Empowerment Project, was our guest speaker. His insights and experiences inspired and motivated all. We had approximately 300 participants, including students, teachers, counselors, administrators, and volunteers. After the walk, participants were entertained by the Luling Elementary band, R. K. Smith and Harry Hurst Middle School cheerleaders and dance teams, along with an anti-bullying skit performance by the R.K. Smith drama club. We were excited to welcome back volunteers from the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. Winn Dixie, a community conscience company, joined us and brought in volunteers to serve participants with drinks and snacks along the route. We also thank Sheriff Champagne, the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office, United Way of St. Charles, and the St. Charles Parish Department of Community Services for sponsoring this worthwhile event. ★



Eat on the Beat

Sheriff Champagne again partnered with Superintendent Dr. Ken Oertling and St. Charles Parish Public Schools for deputies to "Eat on the Beat."

During the 2023-2024 school year, deputies with the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office visited elementary schools during lunchtime to help build and strengthen relationships with the children. The hugs, fist bumps, and love shown by the children put a smile on everyone's face! These early relationships with our youth are essential to create. ★



ST. CHARLES PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ALERT JURY DUTY SCAM

CALLER CLAIMS:

- YOU HAVE FEES OR FINES FOR MISSED JURY DUTY
- TO BE A CAPTAIN OR LIEUTENANT
- MAY HAVE A FOREIGN ACCENT



DO NOT PAY OR GIVE CALLER YOUR INFORMATION

HANG UP IMMEDIATELY
AND CALL 985-783-6237 TO VERIFY INFORMATION

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM FINANCIAL INSTITUTION SCAMS



Due to recent breaches, scammers are taking advantage of shoppers by claiming to be from financial institutions. They are asking for your personal information so they can "make sure your information isn't compromised." In reality, anyone who contacts you directly asking for your information over the phone, via email, or via social media is likely not authorized to do so. Do not respond to them! Instead, reach out to your financial institution to confirm if the call or message you received was legitimate. If you are contacted by a financial institution, do not give out any information until you are confident it is legitimate. One way to do this is to end the call and contact the financial institution directly. Many times you will find there is no issue with your account at all. Do not purchase gift cards or transfer money into a Bitcoin account to pay debts, fines, shipping costs, or to protect your finances.

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INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE COURSE

In August 2023, Sheriff Champagne and St. Charles Parish Public Schools, under the leadership of Superintendent Dr. Ken Oertling, partnered to bring an Introduction to Criminal Justice course to high school juniors and seniors in St. Charles Parish.

The Introduction to Criminal Justice course is taught by sheriff's office personnel and other legal professionals and provides an overview of the criminal justice system, including the functions and responsibilities of law enforcement, the judiciary, and corrections. Students complete units of study by participating in demonstrations, site visits, learning from experts in the field, and completing hands-on activities.

"I am excited about this partnership and helping students build a foundation in citizenship and law enforcement knowledge. In my years of experience, many citizens lack an understanding of our government, particularly how our criminal justice system works. I am hopeful the young students who attend the Introduction to Criminal Justice course will gain an understanding of how our criminal justice system operates and will spread that knowledge to others," said Sheriff Champagne.

Dr. Oertling also shared his excitement for the opportunities provided by the new course. "We are proud of our long-standing, collaborative partnership with the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office. They are recognized as one of the top law enforcement offices in the country, and we are excited about the opportunity to collaborate with them further," commented Dr. Oertling. "Most of all, we are excited to provide a high-quality educational opportunity for students that introduces them to one of the most honorable professions in a way that capitalizes on experiential, hands-on learning experiences from top experts in the profession." ★



Virtual Reality Simulator



Criminal Justice Course - Semester 1



Criminal Justice Course - Semester 2



Capt. Gros teaching the Criminal Justice Class

Childcare Awareness Program

Sheriff Champagne is proud to continue hosting the Childcare Awareness Program at the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office.

The event provides training in lifesaving techniques for girls and boys of babysitting age. Participants learn first aid and CPR and when to call 9-1-1.



The St. Charles Women's Club also provides a dynamic presentation about child and pet vehicular heatstroke.

If you would like more information on attending a future session, please contact Jessica Cortez at 985-783-1355 or jcortez@stcharlessheriff.org. Training is usually held in the summertime and over the school holidays. ★



Attendees practicing CPR techniques

Supporting Our Community

ST. CHARLES PARISH TRIAD – SENIORS AND LAWMEN TOGETHER

TRIAD is a commitment between law enforcement, senior service providers, and senior citizens of the parish to help reduce senior victimization and increase law enforcement services.

TRIAD's focus is to reduce the fear of crime by identifying misconceptions, educating seniors on criminal activities, and creating programs to reduce crime against them. This year's luncheon was held on October 29, 2024.

TRIAD/SALT Council meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office Training and Special Services Building located at 220 Judge Edward Dufresne Parkway in Luling.

For more information on TRIAD and outreach programs, contact Jessica Cortez, TRIAD Coordinator, at (985) 783-1355 or jcortez@stcharlessheriff.org. ★

Operation Quick Response

This program helps make house numbers visible by putting up peel and stick numbers on homes, driveways, curbs, or mailboxes at the request of seniors. This helps to ensure that emergency personnel can find your home quickly.



Sgt. Lonnie Senior and
Jessica Cortez

On January 22, 2018, the St. Charles Parish Council passed an ordinance that allows for the legal operation of golf carts under the following provisions under Louisiana Law:

Anyone operating a golf cart must possess a valid driver's license. The licensed operator must have proof of liability insurance in their possession, specifically covering the operation of the golf cart. The golf cart must be operated ONLY on a parish street with a posted speed limit of 25 MPH or LESS. Crossing or operating a golf cart on any state highway, levee, parish property, or right of way is prohibited. The golf cart shall be operated under all state traffic laws and carry only the number of passengers it was designed for. The golf cart must be registered with the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles, and an "off-road" decal must be affixed to the golf cart. Following Office of Motor Vehicle registration, the golf cart must be inspected by a St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office deputy, and a St. Charles Parish Sheriff's decal shall be affixed to the golf cart. The following items must be in place to pass this inspection:

The golf cart must have

- efficient brakes
- reliable steering apparatus
- safe tires
- a rearview mirror
- red reflective warning devices on both the front and rear, this



Capt. Chad Faucheaux serving lunch



Wellness Center and Resource Area



Line Dancers - Anytime Fitness Destrehan

can include either a manufacturer's red lamp lens or red reflective tape

- the golf cart must have brake lights - headlights - turn signals and tail lights
- it must have a Vehicle Identification Number or (VIN)
- a Louisiana Department of Motor Vehicle "Off Road" decal
- the operator must have proof of insurance for the golf cart

Once you are ready for your inspection, please visit the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office website. The home page has a Golf Cart Inspection button. Click on that button to find more information on registering your golf cart. If you have any questions, you can contact the Traffic Division at 985-783-1340. ★

Sheriff hosts Annual Easter Luncheon for senior citizens of St. Charles Parish

Senior Citizens of St. Charles Parish were invited to attend Sheriff Greg Champagne's Annual Easter Luncheon at the Edward A. Dufresne Community Center in Luling on March 15, 2024. Seniors throughout the parish were entertained with music from DJ Quinn Landry, the Anytime Fitness Destrehan dance group, and were served an excellent meal. Thank you to TRIAD for providing goody bags. Door prizes were provided by Sheriff Champagne, St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office, and St. Charles Parish TRIAD.

It is an absolute privilege for Sheriff Champagne to host this event for our beloved senior community. He expressed, "I am thrilled to host this event annually. It is a true honor to celebrate and support our senior community, who have played a pivotal role in shaping our parish and making us who we are today." ★



Attendees Cowan & Suzanne Loupe with SCSO employee Jessica Cortez



Cheryl Villere handing out door prizes



Line Dancers - Anytime Fitness Destrehan

National Night Out Against Crime

St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office members joined residents for the Annual National Night Out on October 17, 2023, from 5 - 9 PM.

This event is a community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and builds trust between the two entities. It is intended to help strengthen the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement, showing a true sense of community.



The 2024 National Night Out was held on Tuesday, October 8, 2024. For more information or to register a National Night Out Party in St. Charles Parish, please contact Jessica Cortez at 985-783-1355. ★

DON'T BE A VICTIM!

LOCK IT UP!

• Take your keys • Remove your valuables • Lock your doors

YOU are the person capable of preventing vehicle burglaries.

St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office Citizens Academy

Ever wonder how a crime scene is processed, how detectives solve a crime, or why 911 operators ask "so many" questions? Television makes it all look easy, but now you can see what happens behind the scenes!

Sheriff Greg Champagne hosts a FREE Citizens Academy for those who live and/or work in St. Charles Parish and are at least 18. This 9-week program allows participants to see how the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office operates up close. Participants should plan to attend all or most of the sessions. Class size is limited, so please register if you are interested.

The St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office continually strives to enhance its relationship with the community to make St. Charles Parish a safe place to live and work. To strengthen this partnership, the citizen's academy gives participants perspective on the many challenges deputies face.

To qualify to attend the Citizen's Academy, you must:

- Be 18 years of age or older
- Provide the information necessary and agree to allow the sheriff's office to run a criminal background check
- Work or live in St. Charles Parish
- Commit to attending all classes

If you are interested in attending, please visit our website to complete an application. Once completed, it can be mailed to Michelle Joseph at 260 Judge Edward Dufresne Parkway, Luling, Louisiana 70070, or submitted by email to mjoseph@stcharlessheriff.org. You will be notified upon your acceptance into the Academy. For additional information, Mrs. Joseph can be contacted at (985) 783-0205. ★



**Classes are once a week from
5:45 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.**

Welcome and Overview
Special Services
Outreach Programs
Public Information
Victims Assistance

Criminal Investigations
Special Victims Unit
Special Investigations

Patrol, Traffic, Canine
Marine, Reserves

Internal Affairs, Internet Crimes
Homeland Security
Crime Scene

Strategic Operations
Information Technology
Training

Civil, Administrative Services
Communications, Animal Cruelty

Corrections

Weapons Range
Special Response Team

*Stay tuned for the dates of
the next Citizen's Academy!*

Graduation

Prescription Drug Drop-Off Box

The St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office has a prescription drug drop-off box to dispose of unused or expired prescription drugs conveniently and responsibly. The drop box is inside the lobby of our Headquarters building located at 260 Judge Edward Dufresne Parkway in Luling. The lobby is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 am until 4:30 pm. ★



DON'T BE A VICTIM OF IDENTITY THEFT

WHAT IS IDENTITY THEFT, AND WHAT ARE ITS WARNING SIGNS?

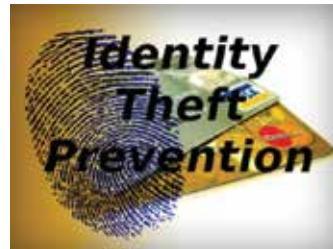
Identity theft occurs when someone uses your personal identifying information, like your name, Social Security number, or credit card number, without your permission to commit fraud or other crimes. You or someone you know may have experienced some form of identity theft. The crime takes many forms. Identity thieves may rent an apartment, obtain a credit card, or establish a telephone account in your name. You may not discover the theft until you review your credit report or a credit card statement, notice charges you didn't make, or until a debt collector contacts you. Identity theft is serious. While some identity theft victims can resolve their problems quickly, others spend hundreds of dollars and many days repairing damage to their good name and credit record. Some consumers victimized by identity theft may lose out on job opportunities or be denied loans for education, housing, or cars because of negative information on their credit reports. In rare cases, they may even be arrested for crimes they did not commit.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOUR IDENTITY IS STOLEN?

File a police report, check your credit reports, notify creditors, and dispute any unauthorized

transactions, which are some of the steps you must take immediately to restore your good name.

Trans Union, Equifax, and Experian offer free credit reports once a year. Sign up and keep track of your credit. ★



St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office Firearm Ordinance

In the last year, the sheriff's office has been called to assist with incidents involving individuals discharging their shotguns or rifles in a residential neighborhood. Sheriff Champagne would like everyone to familiarize themselves with the law regarding the St. Charles Parish Firearm Ordinance. Discharging your firearm in a residential area is careless and dangerous.

- **NO RIFLE DISCHARGE WITHIN 2,000 FEET OF A RESIDENCE**
- **NO SHOTGUN DISCHARGE WITHIN 800 FEET OF A RESIDENCE**



NO SHOOTING

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. ★

Internet Purchase Exchange Location



It is estimated that about 80% of Americans have shopped online, with 22% of them doing so at least once per week. With consumers moving rapidly towards online shopping, more and more people are looking to take advantage of others. To respond to this risk to our residents, the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office has created an Internet Purchase Exchange Location to exchange goods or payments due to Internet commerce safely. This "safe space" is at the Special Services and Training Center at 220 Judge Edward Dufresne Parkway in Luling.

Located at the entrance of the Special Services and Training Center parking lot, residents can finalize the sale or purchase of online items with the comfort of a 24-hour video surveillance camera. This also helps limit the exchange of personal information and reduces the potential dangers associated with meeting a stranger in a secluded place. "With the increase in people buying and selling items online and through social media, we want to offer a location where people can feel safe making the exchange," said Sheriff Champagne. ★



Download the FREE app today!
ST. CHARLES PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

GET UP TO DATE INFO ON:
SCAN HERE



• ROAD CLOSURES
• SUBMIT A TIP
• SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY

• PRESS RELEASES
• DANGEROUS SITUATIONS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD
• AND SO MUCH MORE

Years of Service Acknowledgements

The St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office would like to congratulate the following employees for reaching significant milestones in their service to our agency and the people of our community during 2023 and

2024. We are very fortunate to have employees dedicated to this agency and community by providing many years of faithful service. Thank you for sharing your skills, talents, and experience with us. ★

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
HAHNVILLE, LA
PERMIT NO. 15

30 YEARS

Michelle Joseph

Shawn Gregory

Shondell Johnson

25 YEARS

George Cunningham

Clint LeBlanc

Rocco Dominic III

Clint Patterson

Gwendolyn Jennings

Jared Peranio

Roanne Sampson

Christopher Baird

Marlon Shuff

Joseph Chevis

20 YEARS

Daniel April

Perry Gambino

Scott Cefalu

Monique Hunter

Steven Fontenot

Arielle Lege

Juanasha Smith

Anthony Wetta

10 YEARS

Nikki Betz

Robert Blanett

Bailey Boudreaux

Victor Campuzano

Erin Flynn

Scott Harrell

Ellen Haun

Steven Mahan

Timothy Marphis

James Still

Jason Tiliakos

Jonathan Whittom

Taylor Zeringue

5 YEARS

Megan Adams

Brandi Cali

Stephen Clary

Yolanda Cosme

Garrett Haun

Jessica Kolb

Miranda Lee

Timbrel Lewis

Dean Perrer

Roxane Smith

Daniel Theriot

Tomara Walker

Postal Patron



*Congratulations,
everyone!*

'Tis the Season PROTECT YOURSELF FROM HOLIDAY SCAMS

- Beware of emails requesting you to update your password or account information. Look up the company's phone number on your own and call the company.
- Do not open emails that indicate a problem with your order, or a problem in shipping even though the email may appear to come from USPS, Fed Ex, UPS, or other shipping services. Check the status of your order through the company's website directly. Do not click on links sent to you through email.

ST. CHARLES PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE
WWW.STCHARLESSHERIFF.ORG



St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office employees support our community

The employees of the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office enthusiastically donated to the United Way of St. Charles in 2023 with contributions reaching **\$13,092.32**. All money donated stays within St. Charles Parish unless an employee requests that their donation be sent to another United Way. The United Way of St. Charles serves our parish and is governed by a Board of Directors who are volunteers from our community.

Through their generous donations, the employees of the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office continue to ensure that our parish residents receive crucial services during times of need.



LIVE UNITED

St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office NEW YEARS FIREWORKS

THE SHERIFF WOULD LIKE TO REMIND PARISH CITIZENS THAT IT IS ONLY LEGAL TO SHOOT FIREWORKS IN THE PARISH FROM:

**DECEMBER 31 - 9:00 AM
UNTIL JANUARY 1 AT 1:00 AM
JANUARY 1 - 9:00 AM TO 10:00 PM**

FIREWORKS SHOT OUTSIDE THESE HOURS ARE ILLEGAL. THEREFORE, THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE WILL RESPOND TO COMPLAINTS ABOUT FIREWORKS USE OUTSIDE THOUSE HOURS AS WELL AS IN AREAS DEEMED UNSUITABLE FOR FIREWORKS TO BE DISCHARGED.

For more information pertaining to the parish ordinance Sec. 14-3 (fireworks), please refer to the St. Charles Parish Ordinances at the bottom of <http://www.stcharlesparish-la.gov>

Residents of St. Charles Parish are urged to visit our official website at www.stcharlessheriff.org. Residents can apply for employment, pay taxes and traffic citations, purchase a copy of an accident report, view the latest arrests and incidents through news releases, view sex offenders, and much more!

Additionally, you can get the latest news by following our official social media accounts –
Facebook – St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office
Twitter - @SCPSheriff
Instagram – stcharlesso