



# St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office

# Update

Volume #13

2010 Annual Report

[www.stcharlessheriff.org](http://www.stcharlessheriff.org)

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

## Postal Patron

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 Dept. at (985) 783-1355 or fax us at (985) 783-1195.



**SHERIFF  
GREG CHAMPAGNE**

Welcome to the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office's thirteenth issue of "Update". As always we strive to keep local residents aware of the many advancements within the agency.

At the same time, we want to bridge the distance between the community and law enforcement providers, facilitating the exchange of information and giving a voice to all involved in the community policing process.

In this issue, we discuss several specialized departments and services they offer by my dedicated staff. Each of these components strives to provide effective law enforcement protection and personalized service.

1.

## NEW COMPLEX UNITED SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Greetings from the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office. 2010 will be a landmark year for this agency, which has now been in existence well over one hundred years. For the first time in its history, the SCSO will have a headquarters for operation. All of our enforcement divisions will be housed in our new complex by the end of this year. The complex can clearly be seen on Sugarland Parkway near the School Board Office.

I have no doubt that our efficiency and effectiveness will be greatly enhanced by having all enforcement divisions under the same roof. We will be able to hold staff meetings without command staff driving in from all corners of the parish. Investigators will be able to attend patrol division roll-call meetings and exchange information. Crime scene evidence will be easily secured and maintained in this location. Most of our emergency and marine equipment will be stored in this central location for rapid

deployment within minutes, to any area of the parish.

All in all, we are pleased that in the last decade, the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office has been transformed from a good, country parish sheriff's office, to a modern,

to view arrests and incidents, as well as view the names of inmates incarcerated in our correctional center. The Victim's Notification Program also allows you to register to receive an email or phone call when an inmate is released.

Finally, I am pleased to state that violent crime in our parish continues to fall. However, non-violent property crime, such as thefts and burglaries, seems to be on the increase. I urge citizens to remove all valuables from your car and to lock your car when not in use. Close garage doors and don't leave valuable tools and equipment in plain view when you are not



Pictured is new Law Enforcement Complex nearing completion.

full-service law enforcement agency.

Training continues to be a priority. It enables deputies to do their job professionally as well as stay alive on the streets. We also continue to embrace rapidly changing technology in both our criminal and civil divisions. Citizens can go online

home. Just these simple precautions can minimize your chances of being a victim.

## 2nd Quarter St. Charles Parish Crime Statistics for 2010

While major crimes have decreased, Sheriff Greg Champagne reports that crime in St. Charles Parish during the 2nd Quarter of 2010 increased 9.7% when compared to the same period in 2009. The overall increase is attributed to a higher number of property crimes, thefts and auto burglaries.

The Sheriff's Office releases Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) regarding seven (7) Index Crimes compiled for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This information consists of crimes reported to the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office from July 1, 1996 to June 2010. ■

### ST. CHARLES PARISH ANNUAL UCR TOTALS

Total Index crimes reported to the FBI



# Community Outreach

## Deputy James Grimaldi Named 2009 Deputy of the Year

Sheriff Champagne is pleased to announce that for his quick thinking and brave actions, Deputy James Grimaldi has been named 2009 Deputy of the Year. James Grimaldi, who serves as a deputy in the Patrol Department, has been with the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office since 2006.

### Crash Response

On November 5, 2009, the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office responded to a reported automobile crash on Airline Highway in St. Rose, Louisiana, where the vehicle had run off of the roadway and was immersed in a canal. Deputy Grimaldi was the first to respond to the accident and located a white automobile immersed nose down in the middle of the canal with only the back of the roof and trunk exposed above water and the occupants sitting on the roof of the vehicle. Deputy Grimaldi attempted to calm the subjects due to none of them knowing how to swim.

Deputy Grimaldi then advised dispatch that he was making entry. He jumped into the canal and swam to the car where he made contact with three subjects, a mother with her two children,



Deputy James Grimaldi

ages eleven and nine. Deputy Grimaldi then swam to safety with the eleven-year-old juvenile, whom he carried on his back, to the shoulder of U.S. 61. He returned to the vehicle to rescue the nine-year-old juvenile, whom he also carried on his back, and swam to safety.

Deputy Grimaldi returned to the car a third time with the assistance of a St. Rose Volunteer Fireman and rescued the driver, who was the mother of the two juveniles. It was later learned that the depth of the canal is approximately 8-10 feet. ■

## Sheriff Elected To National Executive Board

St. Charles Parish Sheriff Greg Champagne was recently elected to the Executive Board of the National Sheriffs' Association as Sergeant At Arms. As a member of the seven member board and executive committee, Sheriff Champagne is eligible to ascend to the presidency of the organization which represents over 3,000 sheriffs nationwide.

Sheriff Champagne has been a member of the National Sheriffs' Association since 1996 and a board member since 2004. He also serves on the Congressional Affairs Committee and is chairman of the NSA legal affairs committee.

"I am honored by the confidence expressed in me by my peers nationwide," Sheriff Champagne said. "I look forward to working with the



association that represents the 3,085 sheriffs in the United States. All of our work is geared toward increasing the quality of law enforcement services we provide to our citizens."

The Sheriff was elected Sergeant at Arms at the association's annual conference in Anaheim, California in June. ■

2.

## Officer and K-9 receive awards in National Competition



Sheriff Champagne with Sergeant Guidry and Berry.

Sheriff Champagne reports that Sergeant Jason Guidry and his K-9 partner Berry received several awards in the National Narcotic Detector Dog Association's annual competition held in Shreveport, Louisiana on April 19-22, 2010.

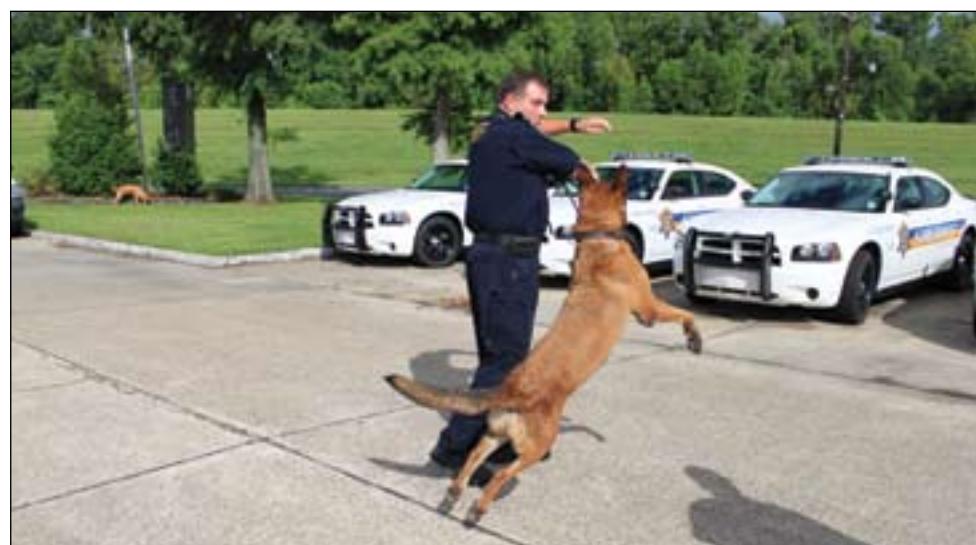
According to Champagne, there were 126 teams from all over the United States. This was Sergeant Guidry and K-9 Berry's first time participating in the competition, with Guidry hoping to place in the top ten. The search competition was a three minute time trial in a large area filled with appliances, vehicles, etc. Each team had to search a particular area and hit on as many targets as possible, without hitting on the same target twice. Sgt. Guidry and Berry won 1<sup>st</sup> place for the Nationals, Top Malinois, Top Dog, and Top K-9 Team of the competition.

"While at the starting line for the competition, Berry was straining at the leash. He had apparently winded at least

one of the hidden targets. At the end of this competition, K-9 Berry had located eight of the ten targets, and lost no points for hitting on the same target more than once," said Guidry.

"Our K-9 officers spend a tremendous amount of time training their dogs, in fact, they work together daily. The K-9 Division is called upon frequently, and has been very successful in locating narcotics, fugitives and evidence," said Champagne.

Sergeant Guidry has been in the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office K-9 Division since January of 2006 and has had Berry for a little over three years. Berry, who is a five-year-old Belgian Malinois, is trained in Narcotics and Patrol work. The St. Charles Sheriff's Office has three full time officers assigned to the K-9 Division, in addition to a full-time K-9 Officer assigned to the Marine Division and one K-9 Officer assigned to the Corrections Department. ■



Berry in action during a recent training exercise.

# Community Partnerships

## Significant number of drug arrests in past two years

The Special Investigations Division of the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office has made 378 arrests from January 1, 2008 through May 31, 2010. Additionally, during the same time period, this division has seized 48 vehicles that have a combined estimated value of over \$235,750.00. This division has also seized over \$104,261.70 in currency.

The Special Investigations Division has seized illegal narcotics with a street value of approximately \$315,632.50 from January 1, 2008 through May 31, 2010. Of the narcotics seized in this time span:

1,287.5 grams of Cocaine in powder form, which is a Schedule II Narcotic, valued at approximately \$128,750.00; 6,950.6 grams of Marijuana, which is a Schedule I Narcotic, valued at approximately \$70,352.00; 621.0 grams of Crack Cocaine, which is a Schedule II Narcotic, valued at approximately \$49,850.00; 403.0 dosage units of Methadone, which is a Schedule II Narcotic, valued at approximately \$32,120.00; 768.0 dosage units of 3,4 methylenedioxy-N-methylamphetamine (MDMA) a.k.a. "Ecstasy", valued at approximately \$15,360.00. ■

Table 1.1 Estimated Value of Drugs Seized per Year

Drugs Seized:	2008	2009	2010*	Total:
Cocaine (powder)	\$127,570.00	\$630.00	\$550.00	\$128,750.00
Marijuana (grams)	\$12,699.00	\$24,238.00	\$33,415.00	\$70,352.00
Crack Cocaine	\$31,744.00	\$8,544.00	\$9,562.00	\$49,850.00
Methadone	\$60.00	\$16,000.00	\$0.00	\$16,060.00
MDMA/Ecstasy	\$1,360.00	\$14,000.00	\$0.00	\$15,360.00
Other drugs:	\$6,740.50	\$16,960.00	\$27,700.00	\$59,6004.50
**Total Drugs:	<b>\$180,173.50</b>	<b>\$80,372.00</b>	<b>\$71,227.00</b>	<b>\$315,632.50</b>

\* This only represents from January 1 - May 31, 2010

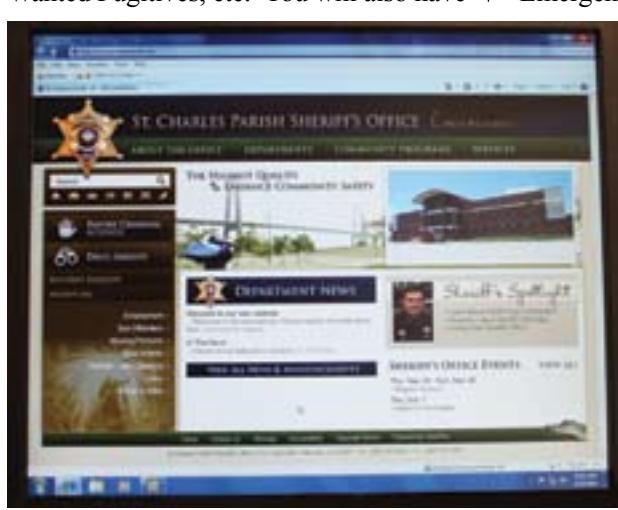
\*\* Total Drugs includes: Marijuana plants, Hashish, Heroin, Methamphetamines and Prescription Drugs.

## Sheriff's Office Website Offers New Information and Options

Welcome to our newly designed website. We have added features and information so that more can be learned about the Sheriff's Office and what is happening in our area. On this website, you will be able to receive up-to-date information such as Sex Offenders, Missing Children Alerts, and detailed information on our Parish's Most Wanted Fugitives, etc. You will also have

the ability to print out job applications and permit forms. A Jail Roster is available containing a complete listing of those incarcerated at Nelson Coleman Correction facility, and you will have the option of registering for notification when the inmate is released or transferred. In the event of a parish emergency, Sheriff Champagne will activate a feature called "Emergency Alert". A green alert box

will appear on the home page containing information needed by residents. An example would be: If you evacuate for a hurricane, we will post details on when you can come home, accessible roads, and conditions you could be facing upon your return. We trust these additions will be of assistance to you. To receive e-mails or text messages, please register on "Notify Me" at: [www.stcharlessheriff.org](http://www.stcharlessheriff.org). ■



St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office home page.

## New Orleans Saint Heath Evans and wife, Beth, offer hope to abused children



With a child's faith, she left the comfort and security of her grandmother's house at age six and moved straight into hell. For the next seven years, she was repeatedly physically abused by her mother and sexually abused by the stepfather, two of his brothers and their father. At age 13, she defiantly stood up and said "no" to all abusers, displaying an outward strength that barely masked the scared kid inside. At that age, her mother nearly caught an incident of sexual abuse between the child and stepfather and told her, "If I ever find out this is going on, I will kill him and beat you half to death." So she gathered up every bit

of inner strength and said, "No, this won't happen again." As she struggled against the five people bent on torturing her, the emotional suffering began. Why didn't her mother protect her? Why didn't the abuse stop when she said no? Could she have stopped it earlier in life by saying "no"? Was the whole thing her fault in the first place? Just a child's way of

into the picture. You know Heath - #44 with the New Orleans Saints? Well as fascinating as his football career is, his life off the field is just as interesting. He and Beth are strong supporters in the fight against child abuse and freely give their time in this endeavor. Through their organization, The Heath Evans Foundation, children are helped in two



Detective Clint Patterson discusses current child abuse statistics with Beth and Heath Evans.

ways. The Hope and Healing portion of this foundation offers counseling by licensed professionals, while Heath and Beth get the message out through speaking engagements. If you have never met these two individuals, try to attend one of their programs. You will never meet more sincere, knowledgeable people anywhere. Beth shares life experiences

- and in case you're wondering, the first paragraph to this story is not about her, but her childhood history is equally painful. Heath speaks from the heart, encouraging all of us to pull together for the protection of our children.

At the invitation of Detective Patterson, Heath and Beth and their two children visited the St. Charles Parish Juvenile Investigations Division on June 10, 2010 where Heath gave an overview of his foundation inviting all to visit his website at: <http://www.heathevans.org/>.

Sheriff Champagne surprised Heath by holding a swearing-in ceremony and presenting him with an honorary law enforcement commission. Welcome aboard brother, we look forward to working with you in the future. ■



Sheriff Champagne presents honorary commission to Heath Evans.

displacing blame, and it happens all the time. In years past there was very little real protection of children – just empty rhetoric from people who wanted to make a name for themselves at the expense of kids who needed help.

Nowadays with highly skilled investigators such as Detective Clint Patterson of the St. Charles Sheriff's Office, more and more child abusers are finding their way into the judicial system and children are receiving the professional help to put this crime behind them. And that's where Heath and Beth Evans step

# St. Charles Sheriff's Office

## CYBER CRIMES UNIT

You're a St. Charles Parish resident, and the proud mother of a beautiful, teenage daughter, who lives an active life. She is a good student, who is well adjusted, and has a group of friends that are all good kids. You are a protective, responsible parent who knows all your child's friends, their parents, the names of each of her teachers, and you keep up with all her activities. You are the type of parent that knows how to set proper limits, has frequent talks with your child about all the dangers facing young teenagers and you are making sure that your teenager does not become a victim of one of the many pit falls that tragically so many of our young become victims of, the evils that lurk beyond your sight.

One day your daughter's cell phone rings. You look at the number and it shows a blocked, unlisted private number. You wonder and think nothing of going ahead and answering the phone. An adult male is asking for your daughter by name, and you do not recognize the voice as a family member, coach, teacher or parent of one of her friends. You become only slightly alarmed, asking who was calling and what did they want with your daughter. They give you a nickname and say they just want to talk to your child. You then ask questions and learn that the subject calling your nearly adolescent daughter is over thirty years old and he already knows her age. You learn that he first "met her" over the internet in a chat room, and has been texting and calling her cell phone. You protest, tell him to never again call or have any sort of contact with your daughter and then

threaten to report him to the police if he does not stop. You hope that he has never physically met your daughter and hope he does not know enough information about her to find out where she lives or where she goes to school. He laughs at you over the phone and tells you, "I'll call your daughter anytime I want to and there's nothing that either you or the police can do to stop me." He ends the conversation laughing at you, while saying, "Go ahead, call the Sheriff's office, the F.B.I., or anyone else you want, because no one can ever find out who I am. They can't catch me".

You talk to your daughter who never planned to do anything more than talk to this person who has been chatting



with her over the internet for six months. She says she never told this man her full name, address or school that she goes to, nor gave him her cell phone number. You later learn

that he has not only been in contact with your daughter, but similarly with several of her friends. How did he get her phone number, and how was he able to contact her friends too. You wonder if he was right that there is nothing that law enforcement can do to catch this man. You now worry about the safety of your young naive daughter, and you report this incident to the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office. You learn that your case has been assigned to the newly created St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office Cyber Crimes Unit for their investigation. Sgt. Wayne Lee of the SCSO Cyber Crimes Unit contacts you to begin the criminal investigation. Sgt. Lee meets with you, conducts interviews with you and your daughter, and explains how he will conduct his investigation using your home computer, etc. You are not sure if you understand everything that he is explaining, but only hope that he can catch and stop this man that was trying to harm your daughter.

The SCSO Cyber Crimes Unit works extensively with multiple federal,



Information Technology Officer Shane Folsom inspects confiscated hard drives for child pornography.

state, and other local law enforcement agencies. Throughout the course of the investigation, investigators serve dozens of court ordered subpoenas. They also track through scores of fake Internet addresses, email account information, and IP addresses with multiple routing systems. It is apparent to the criminal investigator that this new, targeted sexual predator has skills to avoid being apprehended beyond any sexual predator that he has arrested in his collective memory. Just when you were thinking that investigators would not be able to track down this mystery person, you receive a phone call. Sgt. Lee contacts you with the news of the arrest of the man that had been trying to solicit your daughter, along with several other minors in St. Charles Parish.

You learn that the arrested subject is an experienced crafty sexual predator wanted by multiple local agencies within the greater New Orleans Metropolitan and River Parish Region with far greater



charges than you had ever imagined. You are advised that the subject is now in Federal custody, and he is charged with not only your St. Charles Parish charges, but also carnal knowledge and rape of juveniles along with the federal charges of having child pornography. You thank Sgt. Lee and Sgt. Lee thanks you for reporting the crime, which helped all the criminal investigators from all the other agencies work to collectively catch this man and link him to other victims and crimes.

Loving, caring parents are already heroes to their children; but you are informed that you are a hero to the potential unsuspecting juvenile victims across this region and to the law enforcement officers working to protect these juveniles.

\*\*\*\*

Most St. Charles Parish Sheriff's deputies put on a black uniform and gun belt when they report for duty. They attend a roll call meeting to get the latest updates on any criminal activity that may be occurring in their patrol area, and maybe do some paper work left over from the day before. Then it's out to their marked Sheriff's Office police car checking to make sure all the lights and radio equipment are working, making sure the tires are inflated properly, checking the oil, maybe getting some gas, and then it's another day on the streets of St. Charles Parish. Just what thousands of police officers all across the country do everyday, right?

Patrol Officers hit the streets looking for criminal activity. They check on some local businesses, talk to the people that live in their patrol area, answer calls on the radio to take reports of vehicle accidents or take complaint reports from citizens who may be the victims of theft from their car or home. Deputies patrol their assigned beats looking for suspicious activity.

Detective Lee comes to work and logs into four different computers at one time. He checks several databases on Internet crimes for the latest updates, including new scams being pushed that week and fake emails being sent trying to get peoples' passwords and bank account information. He reads dozens of emails from other investigators asking for information on suspicious activity or contact information for Internet based businesses or web sites. Now it's time to get patrolling. He gets on the

See "Cyber Crimes Unit" page 5

### Tips for Parents

1. Monitor your child's Internet use consistently. This is not a violation of your child's privacy; this is a safeguarding measure and part of your responsibility as a parent.

2. If your child belongs to a social networking site (MySpace, Facebook, Tagged, Xanga, etc), look closely at what information they have posted in their member profiles and blogs, including photos and videos. Predators, bullies, profanity, and threats often occur in these types of sites.

3. Find out what other websites your child's social networking site is linked to. Sometimes your child's web pages may be safe but they may be linked to a site which could endanger them (a pornographic site, a site in which a friend mentions your child's phone number, a site slandering school administrators).

4. Talk to your child about your Internet safety concerns in a positive way and give them the opportunity to make safety resolutions that you can both live with (example, how much time can be spent online? Are chat rooms permitted?).

5. Explain that your kids should **NEVER** give out personal information (name, address, phone, school name), **NEVER** meet anyone from online without your permission, **NEVER** open emails from unknown senders, and **NEVER** share their photo with strangers over the Internet. Shared photos are an easy way for a predator to find a child or modify your child's image for pornographic use.

6. Encourage your children to bring anything strange or upsetting to your attention and don't overreact when they do (fear of losing Internet privileges is why kids don't tell parents about problems - and why they may start surfing the web somewhere else).

7. Stay in touch with your kid's online activities. Know who their online friends are (and who is on their buddy list), just as you would their other friends.

8. Learn how filtering and monitoring software can assist you in protecting your children (check with your Internet service provider to find out if filtering or monitoring is available for free with your provider). However, don't rely completely on software to protect your children. **Education and parental involvement are the primary methods of prevention.**

9. Internet accounts should always be in the parent's name. The parent should maintain the primary email account and be in charge of all passwords and parental controls. Kids should never share their passwords with anyone other than their parents.

10. Notify the police if someone your child met online starts calling them, sending gifts, or trying to lure them from home.

11. Check your credit card statements each month for unusual charges that may indicate that a stranger or your child is making unauthorized purchases.

12. Don't think of the Internet as a baby-sitter. Kids on the Internet need adult supervision. Keep the computer in a public area of the house.



## Boys learn new skills at Sheriff's summer camp



**Sheriff Champagne along with campers and Law Enforcement Officers.**

The 15th annual "Operation First Class Sheriff's Camp" was held during the week of July 11 - 16 at the Boy Scout's Camp Salmen located in the pine forest of Kiln, Miss. Over 60 boys between

the ages of 12 - 16 attended the five-day camp along with 10 deputies serving as chaperones.

The camp promotes trust and interaction between the parish's youth and the deputies. "Campers and deputies have raved about this experience. The summer camp provides the boys the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, make new friends, and develop new skills. For many of the boys, it's the first time they've ever been camping," said Sheriff Champagne.

The St. Charles Sheriff's Office sponsors this annual event allowing local youth an opportunity to develop leadership skills. During the five-day camp, the youth had the opportunity to experience the outdoors, camp fires, swimming, canoeing, archery, rifle shooting, repelling, and rock wall climbing. Since 1996 over 500 St. Charles Parish boys have attended this summer camp. ■



**Cooling off period!**

## CYBER CRIMES UNIT *continued from page 4*

Internet and starts looking for activity. Today he is looking for people with child pornography; people who are in possession of pictures and videos of children being abused sexually by adults.

He observes something and watches intensely, looking for clues that will help him find the person with the computer that is offering to send him pictures of a small child being sexually abused. He sees the image and knows it's child pornography. Now it's paperwork time. He sends a subpoena to the ISP, another subpoena to another ISP, and more subpoenas to web sites. Weeks go by as he waits on answers from companies that were sent subpoenas. More clues come in, along with an address of a house. More clues, more time on the Internet and more paperwork.

Det. Lee now has a search warrant for the suspect's house and his computers. It's early in the morning when officers knock on the door of the suspect's house. The suspect's mother comes to the door.

Det. Lee introduces himself and explains why he is at her house. Her thirty-year-old son is asleep and Det. Lee wakes him up. In his bedroom the officers find pornographic magazines depicting adult women dressed as very young girls in school clothing. A Laptop computer is in the room. It is connected to the Internet and it is turned on. Stacks of homemade CDs, along with other digital storage devices, are in the room. Det. Lee talks with the suspect who admits that he has been collecting images and movies from the Internet for years. Det. Lee has the Sheriff's Office forensic examiner conduct a field preview of the laptop computer to confirm that it contains child pornography. The forensic examiner, a highly trained officer using special computer equipment, examines the laptop computer hard drive and confirms that it contains hundreds of images of very young children being sexually abused. The suspect is arrested and now the task of collecting all the computer

## Health & Wellness Committee

The Health & Wellness Committee was formed in the summer of 2009 with the purpose of promoting health awareness to St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office employees. Sheriff Greg Champagne said, "I see the need for health awareness among our officers and support staff to improve eating habits and lower the stress level that is part of this job."

Through the United Healthcare website, [www.myuhc.com](http://www.myuhc.com), Sheriff's Office employees have the option of completing a confidential health assessment. United Healthcare will keep the Sheriff informed of the health topics of most interest to his employees. The Sheriff will in turn share these points of interest with the committee.

All results of the health assessments are kept strictly confidential.

Thanks to United Healthcare, guided by their Regional Director of Health & Wellness Strategies, not only is the committee able to get access to training

material and incentives to accomplish its goals, but every employee will also have instant access to tools to help them influence health behaviors, identify high-risk health needs, increase productivity, reduce absenteeism, and improve overall health satisfaction.



**Sheriff Champagne leading by example.**

its first Biggest Loser contest with 107 employees participating. Dy. Lennie Brown of the Special Services Department won this competition, losing 33 pounds by exercising and changing his diet. Dy. Brown is continuing his healthy lifestyle and has lost seven more

pounds since the competition ended. Congratulations to Dy. Brown on being the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office's first Biggest Loser! ■

**Sheriff's Office employees participate in United Way Bridge Run/Walk.**



to drive this new faster technology called an automobile. Back then the old sheriff had to learn how to drive a car just to keep up with the criminals using the new technology. Now the criminals have gotten off the streets and turned to their computers. The St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office too has had to learn how to use this new technology to keep up with the new criminals. So patrolling today is still not that much different from years ago. We just don't mount up our horses or jump in our patrol cars.

Now, in an effort to protect children and other victims of cyber crime, some of us "mount up" on computers and patrol the Super Information Highway called the Internet. ■

# Community Awareness

**Sheriff Champagne Urges Parish Residents,**

## Establish Hurricane Emergency Preparedness Plans

### TIPS FOR BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER A STORM

**H**urricane. The mere mention of the word causes concern for south Louisianans inland and those along the coastal region of the state. And it is with good reason, too. A hurricane is an enormously powerful force of nature, with winds as high as 160 miles per hour, which can wreak havoc on anything that may chance upon its path.

### THE HURRICANE SEASON BEGINS JUNE 1 AND ENDS NOVEMBER 30.

"Because forecasters are predicting a higher incidence of potential hurricane activity this year, it's important that we remain very cautious this hurricane season. Awareness and preparedness are the keys to securing the safety and well-being of your family and property," cautioned Sheriff Champagne. "We know that even without hurricanes, tropical storms can cause damage and even worse, death."

Sheriff Champagne advises St. Charles Parish residents to familiarize themselves with, and incorporate, this basic safety information as part of their hurricane emergency preparedness plan.

#### BEFORE A HURRICANE

- ✓ **Plan an evacuation route.** Have disaster supplies on hand (flashlights and extra batteries; first aid kit and manual; battery operated radio and extra batteries; emergency food and water; non electric can openers; essential medicines; cash; credit cards and sturdy shoes).
- ✓ **Make arrangements for pets.**
- ✓ **Ensure that family members know how to respond.**
- ✓ **Teach children how and when to call 9-1-1, police or fire department.**
- ✓ **Protect windows.**
- ✓ **Trim back dead or weak branches from trees.**
- ✓ **Check into flood insurance.**
- ✓ **Develop an emergency communication plan so that family members can reunite if separated.**

### KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A HURRICANE WATCH AND A HURRICANE WARNING

According to the Emergency Management Agency, a **HURRICANE WATCH** is issued when there is a threat of hurricane conditions with 24-36 hours.

A **HURRICANE WARNING** is issued when hurricane conditions (winds of 74 miles per hour or greater, or dangerously high water and rough seas) are expected in 24 hours or less.

- ✓ **Store drinking water in bottles, jugs, and in a clean bathtub.**

#### DURING A HURRICANE WATCH

- Listen to a battery-operated radio or television for hurricane progress reports.
- Check emergency supplies.
- Fuel cars.
- Bring in outdoor objects such as lawn furniture and anchor down larger or heavier items.
- Secure buildings by closing and boarding up windows. Remove outside antennas.
- Turn refrigerator and freezer to coldest settings. Open only when necessary.
- Review evacuation plans.
- Moor boats securely or move into a safe place. Use tie-downs or anchor to the ground.

#### DURING A HURRICANE WARNING

- Listen constantly to a battery-operated radio or television for official instruction.
- If in a **mobile home**, check tie downs and evacuate immediately.
- Store valuables and personal papers in a waterproof container on the highest level of your home.

- Avoid elevators.

#### IF AT HOME:

- Stay inside. Keep away from windows or glass doors.
- Keep a supply of flashlights and extra batteries handy. Avoid open flames such as candles.
- If power is lost, turn off major appliances to reduce power "surge" when electricity is restored.

#### IF YOU MUST EVACUATE:

- Leave as soon as possible. Avoid flooded roads and bridges.
- Unplug appliances and turn off electricity and the main water valve.
- Tell someone out of the storm area where you are going.
- Elevate furniture to protect it from flooding, if time permits.
- Bring preassembled emergency supplies and warm protective clothing.
- Take blankets and sleeping bags to shelter.
- Lock up home and leave.
- Be on guard.
- Once at your new location, log on to [www.stcharlessheriff.org](http://www.stcharlessheriff.org) for updated parish information.

Electrocution, clean-up accidents, fires and other recovery-related accidents can become part of the aftermath of a hurricane and cause deaths. Don't be lulled into a false sense of security just because the wind and rain have subsided.

#### AFTER A HURRICANE

- ✓ Remain where you are until you receive official word from authorities that the storm has ended and it is safe to leave. Remember, it is probable you will be without power, water, and other services. Monitor local radio, TV broadcasts and local parish websites for information regarding emergency medical aid, food, and



other types of assistance.

✓ Avoid driving, as roads may be impassable. Also, emergency vehicles and relief workers will be able to respond more efficiently without additional traffic congestion.

✓ Stay clear of downed power lines.

✓ Look out for snakes, insects, and animals driven to higher ground by storm surge and flooding.

✓ Beware of weakened tree limbs.

✓ Secure your pets to keep them safe.

✓ Clear your street, making a path for emergency vehicles. Get neighbors to pitch in.

✓ Avoid the use of candles, matches, and other open flames in your home.

✓ Open windows and doors for ventilation.

✓ Use your telephone only for emergencies.

Sheriff Champagne concluded, "Officials in St. Charles Parish will be as vigilant as ever in looking out for the safety of its residents. And, it is up to every one of us to do his or her best to establish good, sound plans to help prevent injuries and property damage in the event of a hurricane."

**DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE." ■**

#### 2010 Hurricane Names

Alex	Hermine	Otto
Bonnie	Igor	Paula
Colin	Julia	Richard
Danielle	Karl	Shary
Earl	Lisa	Tomas
Fiona	Matthew	Virginie
Gaston	Nicole	Walter

## STAY CONNECTED DURING EMERGENCIES

WWL Radio  
870 AM

COX  
Channel 6

Parish Radio  
1370 AM

Parish Web Site  
[www.stcharlesparish.la.gov](http://www.stcharlesparish.la.gov)

SCSO Web Site  
[www.stcharlessheriff.org](http://www.stcharlessheriff.org)

Text Alerts  
Sign up at SCSO Web Site

# Community Strategies

## New Parish Law Enforcement Complex Nearing Completion

Sheriff Greg Champagne is pleased to advise that as of August 1, 2010, the St. Charles Parish Law Enforcement Complex located on Sugarland Parkway, is 90% complete. Under the direction of Major Sam Zinna, the 39,000 square foot building and 8,500 square foot vehicle and storage facility is set for completion on October 4, 2010. This two-story building, rated to withstand 150mph winds, will be beneficial to enforcement operations. The Patrol Department and Criminal Investigations Bureau will be moving from cramped, inadequate space to a building designed to accommodate current employees and future additions to each division.

From the front entrance of the complex, the hallway to the right leads to a 6,000 square foot Crime Scene Division which will house the crime scene technicians and clerical staff. The evidence processing room has stand-alone climate controlled systems and refrigerated areas.

To the left of the main entrance is a 6,000 square foot Patrol Department. Officers will be able to report for shift change briefing in a large roll-call room before hitting the streets. Also included here are the K-9, Marine, Motorcycle, Patrol Shifts, Reserves, and Traffic

Divisions.

A hallway toward the back of the building leads to a 2,900 square foot multi-purpose room, which will be utilized for training, meetings and media events. This room will contain state-of-the-art audio and visual equipment with individual laptop hook-ups for officers receiving advanced training.

The second floor will house Executive Offices and a 16,000 square foot Criminal Investigations Department. Individual divisions are: Detective Division, Juvenile Investigations Division, Cyber Crimes Division, Special Investigations and Special Operations Divisions.

Walking out the back door downstairs leads to an 8,500 square foot vehicle and storage building which will house specialized command / response vehicles and also includes an area for K-9 dogs.



Fourteen months later.



Groundbreaking ceremony, June 15, 2009.

The above divisions are currently scattered out all over the parish in buildings that they have outgrown, several of which should have been condemned years ago.

According to Sheriff Champagne, this new complex will bring all enforcement divisions together for enhanced initial and investigative response to residents of our parish. ■

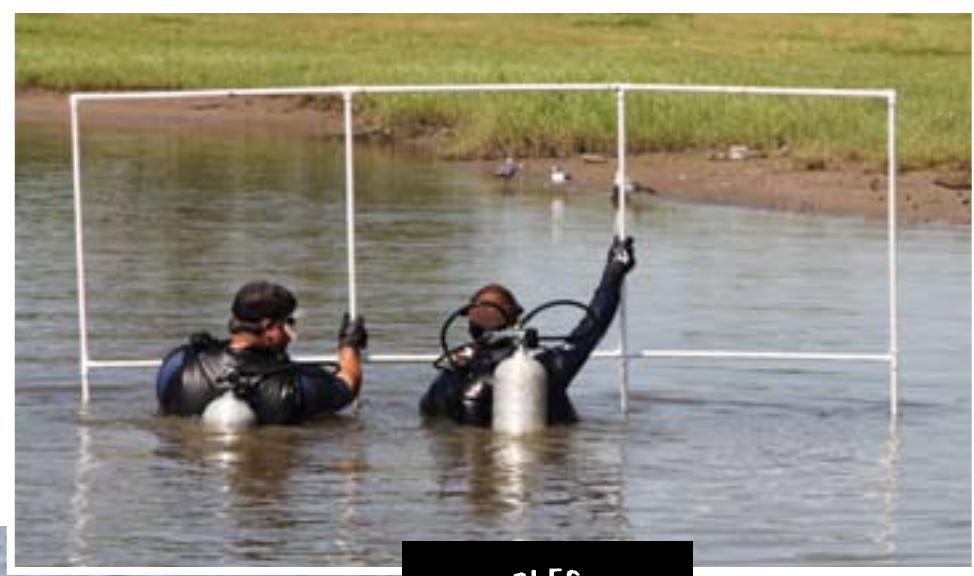
## New Dive Team Training To Prepare For Deployment

St. Charles Parish is comprised of 286,691 acres containing 93,389 acres of large water areas in the form of lakes and bayous. To better serve these wetlands, Sheriff Greg Champagne recently expanded the Marine Division by forming a new dive team which will focus on incidents requiring an underwater response.

Under the supervision of Lt. Irvin Sandy Dares of the Marine Division, the four man St. Charles Sheriff's Office Dive Team includes: Patrol Department Deputies Greg Cosse and Michael Wright; Criminal Investigations Bureau Detective Jody Fahrig; and Marine Division Deputy Clint LeBlanc. Deputy Cosse has extensive dive training and experience, and is a certified dive master. Deputy Wright was previously certified as an open water diver. In January, Deputy LeBlanc and Detective Fahrig attended classes and did pool dives for the Open Water Certification. To complete the open water certification, Wright and LeBlanc traveled to Florida in March and made the necessary dives, earning their certificates.

The Dive Team trained in Vortex Springs, Florida for further dive experience necessary to qualify for Advanced Diver training. The team then made another trip to Florida in May, with Wright, LeBlanc and Fahrig receiving their certification to the advanced level.

Future training will include the Public Safety Diver Course. Plans are also in progress to obtain SCUBA equipment. The Dive Team will utilize an equipment truck formerly assigned to the SRT for equipment storage and response. It is anticipated that the team will be mission-ready by 2011. ■



Above: Dive team members Greg Cosse and Clint LeBlanc set up search grid.



Left: Diver Clint LeBlanc conducts grid search for evidence.

# St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office Fallen Hero Memorial



The St. Charles Parish Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #15 is seeking to construct a memorial for Fallen Officers. Sheriff Champagne has graciously set aside an area in front of the new St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Complex, which is presently under construction and set for completion this fall. FOP Lodge #15 is utilizing the sale of bricks to be placed as a walkway at the memorial as a method of funding this endeavor.

The bricks are of various sizes and prices and are an excellent way to remember a fallen friend or relative, or even individuals, families, or businesses that want to openly support Law Enforcement. The names of

individuals and things such as insignias, logos, badges, crest, and even images of individuals from photographs can be put on these bricks/granite stones. The limitations are determined only by the size of the brick. The names of any Law Enforcement Officer from any jurisdiction or agency may be placed on the bricks, including their respective emblem and/or badge.

If you are interested in purchasing a brick, or know someone who is, please contact George Breedy (504-201-7012, 504-840-1178) or Patrick Yoes (985-783-1355).

The cost of the bricks are considered a contribution and are tax deductible. Thank you for your support. ■

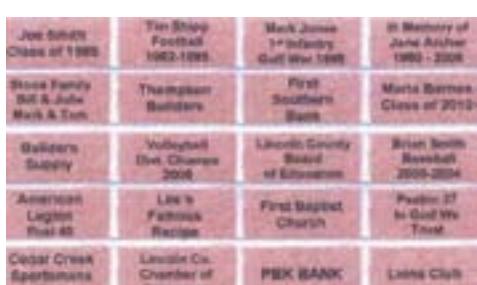
4" x 8" Brick with 3 lines of text —  
1 for \$100, 2 for \$175, or 3 for \$250  
4" x 8" Brick with 2 lines of text & logo —  
1 for \$125, 2 for \$200, 3 for \$300  
8" x 8" Brick with 3 lines of text & 1 or 2 logos —  
1 for \$150, 2 for \$275, 3 for \$400.  
*All Bricks (16 characters per line)*

16" x 16" Custom Black Granite Corner Stones and Center Pieces —  
1 for \$1,000 (Each made to order)

8" x 12" Granites\* — \$250  
8" x 8" Granites — \$200  
12" x 12" Granites — \$500  
4" x 8" Granites — \$125

TO SEE BLACK GRANITES GO TO  
[www.diamondyardsbricks.com](http://www.diamondyardsbricks.com)

\*Same Specs as (4x8) and (8x8) Bricks



## SEND YOUR GIFT HOME

SCSO employees enthusiastically gave to the United Way of St. Charles in 2009 for the tenth consecutive year, with contributions reaching \$10,085.28.

By designating the parish's United Way agency as the recipient of your pledge, you can ensure that neighbors like you will



receive crucial services in their time of need.

Unless you designate St. Charles Parish, your gift will go to the parish in which your office campaign is held.

*Please, send your gift home to the United Way of St. Charles.*

8.

Want more information on the services or programs offered by the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office? Whether you're seeking a listing of departments, services, or a brief history of the agency, you can find it on the World Wide Web. Visit us today at: [www.stcharlessheriff.org](http://www.stcharlessheriff.org).

## SERVICE PIN RECIPIENTS HONORED

Congratulations to the following personnel on receipt of the department's service pins. We are indeed fortunate to have employees dedicated to this agency and community by providing many years of faithful service. Thank you for sharing your talents and experience with us. ■

### 25 YEARS

Ellis, Tina R.  
Landry, Roddy R.  
Pollard, John P.  
Schmitt, Pamela L.  
Troxler, Jan P.  
Yoes, Patrick J.

### 20 YEARS

Champagne, Rory A.  
Frickey, Boyd M.  
Kinler, Drauzin B.  
Weber, Duane E.

### 15 YEARS

Adams, Paul L.  
Beard, Mark E.  
Champagne, Johnny A.  
Faucheux, Chad M.  
Hebert, James A.

### 10 YEARS

Becker, Alan J.  
Brooks, Shannon Marie  
Ganote, John Joseph  
Hargrove, Scott D.  
Jackson, Harold  
Lee, Samuel W.  
Ober, Lacie Lynn  
Smith, Wayne Lee  
Ulicsni, David K.  
White, Keioka LaGrange

### 5 YEARS

Altemus, April A.  
April, Daniel P.  
Armand, Cary R.  
Bailey, Sheldon Louise  
Banegas, Stephen Miguel  
Baugh, Kimberly Puglise  
Carter, Vicki Lynn  
Chambers, Malcolm Gabriel  
Charles, Kecia Ann  
Chevis, Joseph  
Cortez, Jessica Schaubhut  
Crochet, Ryan J.  
Cummings, Charlonda W.  
De Corte, Frank J.  
Dent, Ravelan Quencia  
Doody, Kenneth John  
Dufrene, Brian J.  
Dufrene, Wendy Faye  
Gelston, Maureen S.  
Guidry, Kenny J.  
Hebert, Justin J.  
Hibbs, Jude Paul Anthony  
LaGrange, Dwayne M.  
Lawrence, Brandon W.  
LeBlanc, Clint  
Lebouef, Tara Brandstetter  
Leflore, Leonard J.  
Levet, Daniel A.  
Lewis, Denise Alexander  
Lewis, Zelda C.  
Maranto, Edward J.  
Marlowe, Rickie R.  
Morales, Tiffany Poche  
Newman, Ronald Allen  
Oubre, Bridgette Rene  
Perrilloux, Keysla Joseph  
Richards, Lance Charles  
Sylvas, Shaun M.

*Congratulations!*

## TRIAD Senior Day 2010

All St. Charles Parish Senior Citizens are invited to attend

Tuesday • Oct. 12, 2010 • 9:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

JERUSALEM SHRINE CENTER IN DESTREHAN  
1940 Ormond Blvd., Destrehan

Flu Shots will be available through  
St. Charles Community Health Center.  
No out of pocket expense with Medicare Card.  
Without a Medicare Card cost is \$10.

For transportation call  
**985-783-6683**

For more information call  
Joyce Gullage  
**985-783-1355**

