



St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office

Update

Volume #15

2012 Annual Report

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



**SHERIFF
GREG CHAMPAGNE**

Welcome to the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office's fifteenth 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 the services they offer. Each of these components strives to provide effective law enforcement protection and personalized service.

1.

Meeting Today's Challenges Through Communication

Our annual edition of "Update" has been somewhat delayed by Hurricane Isaac just as we were ready to go to print. Every tropical storm is different and presents its own unique threat. Hopefully, we all have learned that just because a storm is a Category I, does not mean it won't be very destructive and disruptive to our lives. All you need to do is look at our friends in St. John Parish to see the devastating possibilities.

I believe we were very successful in using social media (Face book/email) to keep our residents updated on Hurricane Isaac as it crossed southeast Louisiana and throughout the aftermath. If you have not done so, I urge you to connect with me on Facebook as I continue to provide regular crime updates and other important information.

As we have finally settled in to our new headquarters on Judge Edward Dufresne Parkway in Luling, it provided a great command center for our enforcement activity during Isaac, something we really didn't have before.

With the slowdown in our economy, property crime continues to be our primary crime challenge. Earlier this year, we



Rising water from Hurricane Isaac covered many streets in the parish making travel difficult.

sent employees from our Special Services Division to go door to door with a flyer advising everyone to get into the habit of taking a few simple precautions such as locking their car door and removing valuables at night. The number of car burglaries dropped for several weeks, but now seem to be on the increase as thieves find more of us who are not taking these

precautions. Help us help you, by locking your cars and closing your garage doors. We also welcome and encourage you to not hesitate to contact us about suspicious activity in your neighborhood.

Second St. Charles Parish Citizens' Academy Underway

We all know police work isn't quite what it seems. One hour TV shows make it look easy, but in reality there's much more to it. In an effort to give parish citizens first-hand information on how and why the Department operates, St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office offers a Citizens Academy to local residents. This free academy consisting of nine sessions held one night a week. Classes started Sept. 12, 2012 and runs through Nov. 7, 2012, at the St. Charles Sheriff's Office at 260 Edward Dufresne Parkway, Luling, Louisiana.

The program involves classroom, interactive instruction and a variety of scenarios. Participants are given the same

information that our police recruits and officers receive during in-service training.

To qualify for attending this academy you must:

- Be 21 years of age
- Provide information necessary for a criminal background check
- Work or live in St. Charles Parish
- Commit to attending all classes

"I really enjoyed the Citizen's Academy and think that every resident of St. Charles Parish should enroll," says 2011 attendee Dolly Bergeron. "We learned about the tools officers use to fight crime as well as the community relations side of the sheriff's office. I have a new perspective about how

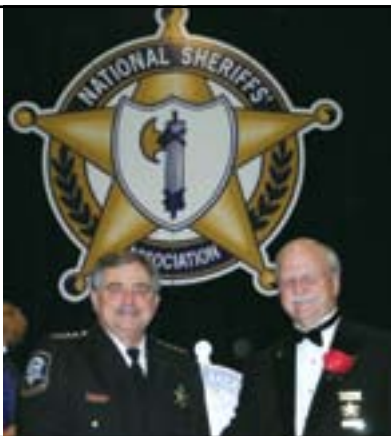
this office operates. My friend and I really appreciate the fact that the Sheriff cares enough to educate us."

If you are interested in attending the next academy, go to www.stcharlessheriff.org, complete the on-line registration and mail it to Christine Carter at 260 Judge Edward Dufresne Parkway, Luling, Louisiana 70070 (phone: 783-1280). You will be notified upon your acceptance into the Academy. Check the website to view the new schedule. ■

Visit the
Sheriff's Office website:
www.stcharlessheriff.org

Sheriff Champagne Elected Secretary of NSA

In June Sheriff Champagne was elected Secretary of the National Sheriff's Association at the annual conference held in Nashville, Tennessee. He is pictured at right with Sheriff Larry Amerson of Alabama, the new incoming President. Sheriff Champagne also chairs the Legal Advisory Committee.



Scholarship Recipient Named

Sheriff Greg Champagne announced that Devin Hernandez of Hahnville High School, has been named the recipient of an academic scholarship from the Louisiana Sheriff's Scholarship Program for the academic school year 2011-2012. He resides in Luling and plans to attend Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond and become a Physical Therapist. His mother is Sharon Hernandez.

Made possible by the Louisiana Sheriffs' Honorary Membership Program (LSHMP), Louisiana sheriffs provide scholarships to graduating high school students from each parish where the Sheriff is an affiliate of the program. The

only limitations are that the applicants be permanent residents of Louisiana; scholarships be utilized in higher education within the State; and students be enrolled as full-time, undergraduate students. Scholarships will be awarded in sixty-three parishes through the State.

"Academic awards by the Louisiana Sheriffs' Scholarship Program to Louisiana students best demonstrate what the LSHMP is all about. This is one of our proudest accomplishments. Simply, it is a means of investing in Louisiana's future. And this would not be possible without the generosity of our Honorary Members," said Sheriff Champagne. ■

Sheriff Champagne Promotes Two Employees

Sheriff Champagne is pleased to announce that he has promoted two employees of the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office.

Eddy Beckendorf was promoted to Major where he commands the Administrative Services Department with direct supervision of Information Technology, Criminal Records, Purchasing, Personnel, and Crime Analysis. In addition Major Beckendorf also remains the Director of the 911 Center and the Commander of the Communications Department. Beckendorf has been with the Sheriff's Office since July of 2006.



Major Edward Beckendorf

Cary Armand was promoted to Captain and is the Deputy Director of the

911 Center and the Assistant Commander of the Communications Department. He is also the Information Technology Administrator. Captain Armand also serves as the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office representative on the Region 3 Interoperability Committee (RIC) and assists with statewide interoperability initiatives for Region 1. Armand has been with the Sheriff's Office since January of 2005.



Captain Cary Armand

Sheriff Champagne stated, "Both officers have demonstrated command leadership over many years, and I am confident they will continue to perform in an exemplary manner." ■

Canine Unit a Vital Asset to Sheriff's Office and Community

The St. Charles Sheriff's Office Canine Unit is a sub-section of the patrol division. The unit is comprised of four officers who handle 6 canines.

The canine team's primary function is to assist members of the Sheriff's Office in apprehending dangerous suspects and to create a safe environment for the public and the deputies that proudly serve. A canine's sense of smell can be over one million times stronger than a human being. That, along with their acute hearing, makes the K-9 a vital asset to the Sheriff's Office and the community.

The Canine Unit is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to respond and assist patrol operations and detective functions, as well as SWAT missions.

In addition to assisting in apprehending dangerous suspects and protecting the handler, a police canine is often called upon to help locate narcotics or evidence such as a weapon or other items



Lt. Jason Guidry and Sunna



Deputy Cantrell, Buddy and Paco

discarded or hidden by suspects.

When not working, the K-9 lives at home with the handler. This is beneficial for both the canine and the handler as it strengthens the bond between them. The handler cares for the canine's daily needs such as feeding, cleaning, exercise, medical care, training, and socializing. This also enables the canine team to respond to a critical incident call with a prompt response time.

The unit is supervised by **Lieutenant Jason Guidry** who is a handler for a Belgian Malinois named Sunna. Sunna is trained for narcotics detection and criminal apprehension. Lt. Guidry oversees the day to day operations and training of the following officers:

Sergeant Roy Gautreaux – handler for a Labrador-mix named Freckles who was rescued from the local animal shelter. Freckles is trained in search and rescue and cadaver recovery.

Deputy Chris Cantrell – handler for a canine named Paco, a Dutch Shepherd trained in narcotics detection and criminal apprehension. Dy. Cantrell is also assigned canine Buddy, a Belgian

Malinois trained in SWAT tactics for use with the sheriff's office special response team.

Deputy Jeremiah Davis – handler for a German Shepherd named Rossi who is trained in explosives detection and criminal apprehension. Dy. Davis is also assigned a German Shepherd named Sierra who is trained for narcotics detection.

In St. Charles Parish, police canines are commissioned, and protected under Louisiana Statute 14:102.8 – Injuring or killing of a police animal – a felony which is punishable by imprisonment and fines. This law also states that the convicted person must make restitution to the agency suffering a financial loss due to death or injury of a police animal.

If there's any doubt about the bond that forms between K-9's and handlers, this will probably convince you otherwise. On June 10, 2012, Interstate 10 was shut down due to a subject holding a



Sgt. Gautreaux and Freckles

gun and threatening to jump from the Spillway overpass. The St. Charles Marine Division responded, and onboard was Sgt. Roy Gautreaux and Freckles. After several hours of negotiations, the subject fired several shots and jumped from the bridge. Freckles immediately "alerted"

on the subject's location in the water. Once the boat was close, Sgt. Gautreaux grabbed the individual who became combative and a struggle ensued.

As Sgt. Gautreaux pulled the subject into the boat, he felt an all too familiar feeling of tightness in his chest; in the past, Roy had had heart problems and knew the symptoms of a heart attack. Sensing that something terrible was happening, Freckles pressed against his trainer and refused to leave his side. Although an ambulance was waiting at the boat landing, Sgt. Gautreaux wouldn't get onboard until Freckles was turned over to another handler. EMT's, who had begun first aid, transported the Sergeant to the hospital where he was diagnosed with having had a heart attack and placed in intensive care.

A lonely and very restless Freckles spent the following days with Lt. Jason Guidry. Officer Guidry's son, Jacob, took on the responsibility of caring for Freckles and even let the K-9 sleep in his room at night.

The outcome to this story is a happy one. Officer Gautreaux was released from the hospital and is back at work with Freckles. ■



Deputy Davis and Rossi

Community Strategies

Captain Kenneth DeCorte Graduates from FBI National Academy in Virginia

Captain Kenneth DeCorte of the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office was among 264 law enforcement officers who graduated from the FBI National Academy on June 8, 2012, in Quantico, Virginia. The 249th Session of the National Academy consisted of men and women from across the United States, including 24 international students from other countries.

Internationally known for its academic excellence, the National Academy Program, held at the FBI Academy, offers 10 weeks of advanced investigative, management, and fitness training for selected officers having proven records as professionals within their agencies.

Training for the program is

provided by FBI Academy instructional staff, Special Agents, and other staff members holding advanced degrees, many of whom are recognized internationally in their fields of expertise.

Captain DeCorte has been with the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office for 18 years. He serves as an Assistant Warden at the Nelson Coleman Correction Center. ■



Captain
Kenneth DeCorte

St. Charles Parish Crime Rate Increases Slightly

Sheriff Greg Champagne reports that crime in St. Charles Parish 2012 increased 8% when comparing the 1st quarter of 2011.

This modest rise is largely attributed to property crimes such as thefts and auto and residence burglaries, in many cases the result of valuables left inside unlocked vehicles. Violent crimes are down. St. Charles Parish

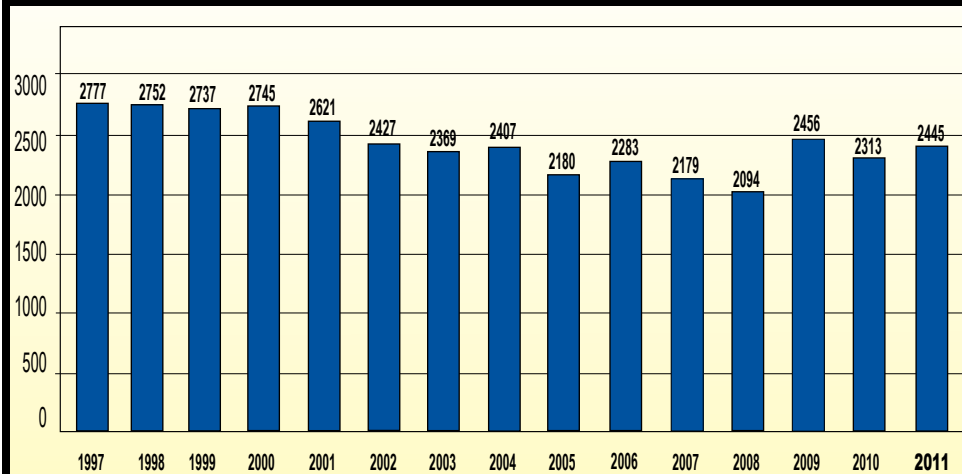
has not had a homicide during the past 12 months.

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 March 2012. ■



ST. CHARLES PARISH ANNUAL UCR TOTALS

Total Index crimes reported to the FBI



Sheriff's Office Website Adds New Features

The St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office has added a new feature to its website. The jail roster was a feature previously on the website, but the new jail roster gives up to date information on who is incarcerated along with their mug shots and charges. Citizens can also type in a person's name and find out if there is a current warrant out for their arrest.

During 2012 Sheriff Champagne also added features that include crime mapping and paying tickets and taxes online. Residents can subscribe to the free crime mapping service at CrimeMapping.com.

The St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office is empowering area citizens to build a stronger and safer community by providing them with an interactive website that will enable them to map out crime activity either by neighborhood or near their residences.

Users are able to subscribe to Crime Alerts and receive email updates when new crimes occur. Law enforcement staff can also reach out to subscribers by sending out crime tips and bulletins.

Crime reports displayed on the Crime Mapping system occur once the reports are approved by the reporting officer's supervisor. While most reports will appear within 24 hours, in some instances it may take 36 hours for approval.

"A well-informed public has always been an essential element in the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office fight against crime. Offering crime awareness through CrimeMapping.com is an excellent communication channel between the Sheriff's Office and St. Charles Parish residents," said Sheriff Champagne.

Paying citations is made easy on the Sheriff's Office website. Enter the

citation holder's first name, last name, date of birth, address and citation number. Then press the continue button to make your payment.

The Sheriff's Office website can be accessed at: www.stcharlessheriff.org. ■



Sheriff Champagne Encourages Residents to Stay Connected During Emergencies

With hurricane season ending on November 30, Sheriff Greg Champagne reminds residents that awareness and preparedness are the keys to securing the safety and well-being of your family and property in any emergency, not just hurricanes.

"While officials in St. Charles Parish will be as vigilant as ever in looking out for the safety of its residents, 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 an emergency," says Sheriff Champagne.

The information sources listed here provide valuable information as the local emergency management officials have the most up-to-date information for your area. Follow their recommendations before, during, and after an emergency. ■

Parish Web Site
www.stcharlesparish-la.gov

SCSO Web Site
www.stcharlessheriff.org
Emergency Alert Module

Text Alerts
Sign up at SCSO Web Site

Parish Radio, 1370 AM

WWL Radio, 870 AM

COX, Channel 6

3.

Community Crime Prevention

TRIAD Provides Programs and Services for Senior Citizens

Sheriff Greg Champagne and the St. Charles Council on Aging created a local Triad program on April 23, 1997.

"We have a growing elderly population in St. Charles Parish, so meeting the needs of these citizens is a big challenge for law enforcement and community agencies," Champagne said. TRIAD is a national concept operating under the belief that together, with sheriffs, police chiefs, and seniors globally joining forces, better programs and services can be provided to the elderly.

TRIAD'S PURPOSE

- Support the involvement of law enforcement practitioners, as well as citizens of all ages, in the development, implementation, and evaluation of acceptable solutions to reducing crime against the elderly.

- Mobilize community resources to continually ascertain the needs and concerns of older citizens and provides a mechanism for meeting those needs.



Sheriff Champagne welcomes senior citizens to Triad's Senior Day event.



- Enable law enforcement agencies to share resources that can effectively be utilized to develop and achieve a highly visible and effective means of identifying available programs or possible solutions to reducing the criminal victimization of the parish's elderly population.

- Foster the development and maintenance of a local advisory panel to law enforcement called Seniors and Lawmen Working Together (SALT).

St. Charles Parish Triad has several outreach programs (see right). As a non-profit organization, Triad has been supported by funding through United Way of St. Charles since 2002. The Triad program has been able to reach out to more senior citizens and provide additional services since funding by United Way became available. ■

For more information about this program, please contact the Triad Coordinator at 985-783-1355.

Protect Your Identity

Identity theft occurs when someone uses your personal identification, like your name, Social Security number, or credit card number, without your permission, to commit fraud or other crimes.

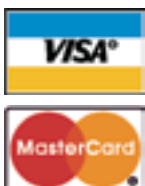
It is estimated that as many as 9 million Americans have their identities stolen each year. Identity thieves may rent an apartment, obtain a credit card, or establish a telephone account in your name. You may not find out about the theft until you review your credit report or a credit card statement and notice charges you didn't make or until you are contacted by a debt collector.

4.

Skilled identity thieves may use a variety of methods to get hold of your information, including dumpster diving, skimming, phishing, changing your address, false pretense, and old-fashioned stealing.

Awareness is an effective weapon against many forms of identity theft. Be aware of how information is stolen and what you can do to protect yours, monitor your personal information to uncover any problems quickly, and know what to do when you suspect your identity has been stolen.

Armed with the knowledge of how to protect yourself and take action, you can make identity thieves' jobs much more difficult. You can also help fight identity theft by educating your friends, family, and members of your community. ■



FREE PROGRAMS For Seniors

Adopt A Senior

Law enforcement officers meet with eligible senior citizens on a regular basis to provide reassurance of safety and open lines of communication between senior citizens and law enforcement officials.



File of Life

Miniature Medical File for immediate access to one's medical history, current medications and emergency contacts.



Flashing Security Light

Developed for crime prevention, it helps emergency units find your home quickly by auto flashing capabilities. Also, a steady light comes on automatically at dark and shuts off during daylight hours.



A Survivor's Journal

This is a small book, which acts as a guideline to assist senior citizens and their families to prepare, in advance, their own wishes during a disability and/or death.

A Survivor's Journal

A guide to help prepare your loved ones for your disability or death.

St. Charles Parish Triad

Senior Citizen Self-Defense Class

A class teaching senior citizens how to verbally and physically defend themselves. It also teaches them how to prevent being a victim of crime.

Drug Disposal Program

This service is designed to reinforce the safe use and disposal of expired and unused medications of all types.



For more information about these programs, please contact the Triad Coordinator at 985-783-1355.

24 HOUR DRUG HOTLINE (985) 785-4450

Sheriff Greg Champagne announces yet another tool in aggressively pursuing dealers and abusers of illegal drugs in St. Charles Parish. With a 24-hour drug hotline, residents are urged to call to report drug activity. These anonymous tips will be used by deputies to aggressively investigate drug activity.

Experts suggest that as much as 90% of all criminal activity has some correlation to illegal drugs, whether it is directly or indirectly. "Those who abuse drugs often go to extreme levels to obtain them, even if it means robbing or stealing from those they love," said Champagne.

"The St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office is committed to the war against

drugs, but we can't do it alone, we need the residents to be our eyes and ears in efforts to rid our neighborhoods from illegal and harmful drugs. Aggressive enforcement, education of children about the harmful effects of illegal drugs, and community involvement are all key elements in battling drug activity," added Sheriff Champagne.

To report drug activity, call the drug hotline at **(985) 785-4450**. All calls will be kept confidential and will be instrumental in making St. Charles Parish a safe community. ■



Explorer Post #15

Area teens are getting a head start training for a career in law enforcement through Explorer Post #15, a program started in 1997 through the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office. The Explorer Programs were established in 1962 by the Boy Scouts of America, along with representatives of the criminal justice community, and have three guiding goals:

- Recruit young men and women to qualify for future careers in law enforcement, offering a positive relationship between police and the youth of our community.
- Provide a forum in which young people can provide non-hazardous community service, thereby relieving deputies for other assignments.
- Provide solid training toward the development of better citizens and better physical fitness for all who participate in

the program.

Explorer #15 members actively strive to create a better outlook for their future. Their commitment to education and community service broadens members' goals and develops a sense of leadership. Explorers strive to build public awareness of their commitment to the citizens by working in conjunction with the sheriff's office. They better serve our community with the knowledge they've gained through training and accumulated experiences.

The Explorer program keeps teens off the streets, encourages youth in the community to look to deputies as role models, and instills in them discipline and purpose in life. ■

For more information please contact Sergeant Burley McCarter at (985) 783-1355.

Left to right: Back row, Sgt. Burley McCarter, Cadet Andre Smart, Cadet Carson Benoit, Deputy Vicki Carter, Deputy Dwayne Chiasson. Front row, Cadet Anthony Smart, Cadet Tony Alvarez, Cadet Abdullah NurMahamed, Cadet Mark Koederitz.

Award Winners: Anthony Smart - Third Year 3rd Place Firearms and Most Motivated 3rd Year Male Cadet. Abdullah NurMahamed - Outstanding Youth Staff Cadet.



Lock Your Vehicle Doors & Store Valuables

LOCK YOUR VEHICLE

- ✓ Shut windows tightly whenever you park. Even a small gap will allow a thief room to insert a wire to pry up the lock button.
- ✓ Lock all doors and the trunk or hatchback every time you leave your car. Lock the garage door too.
- ✓ Never leave a car running unattended.
- ✓ Avoid leaving keys with a garage or lot attendant by choosing a place where you park your own car when possible.



- ✓ Lock packages in the trunk, or put them under the front seats.
- ✓ Engrave your car's VIN on radar detectors, CD players, mobile audio or video equipment, etc., in your vehicle. If the equipment is found later it will make it easier to identify as yours.
- ✓ Don't use the glove compartment as a "traveling safe." Take your valuables, including personal papers, with you.

DON'T TEMPT A THIEF

- ✓ Carry as few valuables in your vehicle as possible. Cell phones, money, mobile audio or video equipment, etc., are lures for thieves looking to make a quick grab.

Programs for Children Free Child ID File

Imagine one second your child is by your side and the next he or she is gone. It is a parent's worst nightmare. Having the needed information readily available the first few moments of the search can be invaluable to law enforcement authorities. Realizing this, Sheriff Greg Champagne is making available free Child ID Files for your children. A Child ID File is a packet of information about a child, gathered, stored and regularly updated by a parent. The file focuses on a child's unique characteristics. Many children disappear each year. Some are runaways, others are kidnapped by an unknown person or a noncustodial parent. Whatever the reason a child is missing, finding that child quickly is vital. A Child ID file can help. Have your child's fingerprints taken. Fingerprints can be used to identify children who can't identify themselves due to injuries, disabilities, trauma or because they're too young to speak. They can also be used for older kids who refuse to identify themselves or

who give incorrect information or for victims who have died. Children's appearances change, making photos less useful as time passes, but fingerprints stay the same. The St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office offers free child fingerprinting and a booklet about keeping a Child ID File. For more information, contact the Special Services Department at 783-1355. ■



Youth Programs Focus on Safety

As a service to the community, the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office regularly visits schools, local events and meetings. Also, the Special Services Dept. offers community programs designed to promote safety and crime prevention. The objective of these programs, which are offered at no charge, is to provide residents with vital information and needed skills to lessen their risk of becoming a victim. Through education, we hope to reduce crime locally.

To arrange a presentation for your group or organization, contact Susie Gauthier at (985) 783-1355. Scheduling is flexible. ■

Topics and demonstrations include:

- * Child Fingerprinting
- * K-9 Demonstrations
- * Crime Scene Presentations
- * Halloween Safety
- * Narcotic Awareness
- * Seatbelt Safety
- * Bicycle Safety
- * Vehicle Safety
- * Tips for Latchkey Kids
- * Personal Safety
- * Drug Awareness
- * Self Defense



SAFE SCHOOL PROGRAM MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Taking a proactive approach in promoting a safe learning environment, the Sheriff's office and school board are in the forefront with their partnership in creating a safe schools program that has become a national model. Since implementation 15 years ago, the St. Charles Parish Violence Prevention Program has yielded as much as an 88 percent reduction in violent incidents on school campuses. Seven deputies, serving as school resource officers, are assigned

to the parish's middle and high schools where they serve as safety officers, teachers of law related education, and reality based counselors. The St. Charles Parish Safe Schools model has been duplicated by agencies nationwide. ■

Community Partnerships

911 Operator Recognized for Life Saving Actions

Sheriff Greg Champagne presented the "First of our First Responders" award to Communications Operator, Arielle Lege, at a luncheon hosted by Magnolia Companies of Louisiana. The luncheon was held on Sept. 21, 2012, in St. Rose, LA, and the award was presented in recognition of her life saving actions.

On June 22, 2012, Communications Specialist Lege received a call from Magnolia Companies in reference to a co-worker who was stung by a bee and having trouble breathing. The caller reported the patient was allergic to bee stings and did not have his epipen with him at this time. The caller later reported the patient was not breathing.

Communications Specialist Lege and her team members on B-shift worked together to dispatch EMS, Police, and Fire personnel to the scene. She relied on her training and followed the National Academy of Emergency Medical Dispatch (NAEMD) protocol and was able to successfully guide the caller and others on the scene through CPR. The subject in need of attention spent several days in ICU at Kenner Regional Hospital and has since made a full recovery.



**St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office
Communications Specialist,
Arielle Lege**

Communications Specialist Lege was able to stay calm and took control of the situation during the call. She was instrumental in providing needed medical assistance and possibly saving the life of the victim. Without her assistance and hard work, this call may very well have ended in tragedy. ■

New Maintenance Shop Opens



**Mickey S. Bergeron Memorial Fleet Maintenance Facility
services all sheriff's office vehicles.**

It was always Lt. Mickey Bergeron's dream for the sheriff's office to have its own maintenance shop. A mechanic by trade, he laid the foundation for the department's maintenance shop.

Dedicated last January, two years after his death, the department's maintenance shop is named the Michael "Mickey" S. Bergeron Memorial Fleet Maintenance Facility. ■

Visit the Sheriff's Office website:
www.stcharlessheriff.org

SHERIFF CHAMPAGNE OFFERS HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

Halloween is a time when creativity and imaginations flourish. However, it is also a time when there are a variety of dangers. To ensure that children have a safe and happy Halloween, Sheriff Champagne has some suggestions to ward off unforeseen dangers.

There are a number of safety precautions that will help eliminate the possibility of becoming a victim of crimes such as drunk driving, abduction and home invasion.

TRICK-OR-TREATERS

- Openly discuss appropriate and inappropriate behavior at Halloween time.

- Children should always trick-or-treat with a parent or guardian.
- Plan costumes and accessories that are bright, reflective, and flame resistant.
- Add reflective tape or striping to costumes and Trick-or-Treat bags.
- Secure emergency identification (name, address, phone number) discreetly within Halloween attire or on a bracelet.
- Carry a flashlight. Even though it may be daylight when you leave your home, darkness falls quickly this time of year.
- Trick-or-treat in your neighborhood at homes that are familiar.
- Stay on sidewalks in well-lit areas. Never cut through yards or alleys in pursuit of a short cut.
- Candy tampering is rare, but to be safe, always inspect your child's candy before allowing them to eat their treats. To be on the safe side, discard anything that looks suspicious. ■

6.



Community Outreach



In Louisiana, the Law Enforcement Torch Run® began in 1985, with a mere handful of officers carrying the Olympic Torch to the Opening Ceremonies of the State Summer Games at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond. St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office was one of the agencies to participate.

Since 1985, the Louisiana Law Enforcement Torch Run® has grown from a handful of officers participating in an annual event, to more than 2,000 law enforcement officers from over 100 agencies, volunteering year-round.

The officers join together for two common goals: to spread awareness of the capabilities of individuals with intellectual disabilities and to generate funds ensuring that Special Olympics can provide year-round sports training and competition programs at no cost to the athlete or their family.

During the week prior to the Special Olympics Louisiana State Summer Games, Law Enforcement officers from virtually every corner of the state begin their 1,000 mile run to deliver the Olympic Torch to the Opening Ceremonies. This year the officers met on Friday, May 18th to light the "Flame Of Hope".

The Law Enforcement Torch Run is the single largest fundraiser for the Louisiana Special Olympics. St. Charles Sheriff's Deputies contributed a total amount of \$1,626.00 to Special Olympics this year ensuring the flame of hope be delivered to the games. ■



2012 St. Charles Sheriff's Office Torch Run participants.



LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD



Pictured from left to right, Greg Hoffman (Chairman of the Board for Crimestoppers), Sheriff Greg Champagne, Major Sam Zinna, Darlene Cusanza (Executive Director for Crimestoppers), and Norman Robinson.

Crimestoppers presented Major Sam Zinna with the Law Enforcement Award at their annual awards luncheon held on March 20, 2012. The award honors individuals who have helped both Crimestoppers and our community in the mission of taking criminals off our streets.

Major Zinna has been with the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office since September 1982 and prior to that, he served five years as a Deputy and Homicide Detective with the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office. He was appointed

to command the SCPSO's Criminal Investigations Bureau in May 2001. For over 15 years Sam has served as the Crimestoppers liaison.

During his service, he has been awarded numerous citations including certificates of merit, certificates of participation and appreciation and many, many, letters of congratulations and thanks from local schools, industries, businesses and government. ■

CRIMESTOPPERS
1-877-903-STOP



Annual Sheriff's Summer Camp teaches lesson for life

The 17th annual "Operation First Class Sheriff's Camp" was held during the week of July 15 - 20 at the Boy Scout's Camp Salmen located in the pine forest of Kiln, Miss. Over 50 boys between the ages of 12 - 16 attended the five-day camp along with 13 deputies and 6 Explorer Cadets serving as chaperones.

"When I was elected Sheriff of St. Charles Parish, one of my pledges was to create a summer program for parish youth in an effort to promote trust and interaction between young people and the Sheriff's Office," Sheriff Champagne said. "The cost to send these boys to camp for one week is roughly the same as incarcerating two juveniles in a correctional facility for a month."

At camp, these boys are taught the

value of honesty, integrity, and leadership. The program blends education and instructional skills, career education, and lessons in the value of combating violence and crime in at-risk neighborhoods.

Throughout their five-day stay, the boys also enjoy a variety of outdoor activities including swimming, archery, and crafts.

By reaching the youths at this age, the Sheriff said he hopes to make a difference before they end up in the



Campers and Law Enforcement Officers at Operation First Class Sheriff's Camp 2012

judicial system. "This program is a tremendous success and a positive experience for the boys who participate, as well as the deputies who accompany them," Sheriff Champagne said.

Since 1996 over 500 St. Charles Parish boys have attended this summer camp.

For more information, please call (985) 783-1355. ■

7.

Two St. John Parish Deputies Fall in the Line of Duty

Deputy Sheriffs Brandon Nielsen and Jeremy Triche were shot and killed in LaPlace, Louisiana, on Aug. 6, 2012, by members of a domestic terrorist group known as the Sovereign Citizens. They were shot while investigating an earlier ambush shooting that wounded a sheriff's office investigator.

The investigator was working an off duty security detail at a remote parking lot used by a construction company for contract employees at about 5:00 am when someone opened fire on him as he sat in his department vehicle.

Responding units located a car they believed had been involved in the early shooting in a nearby trailer park. As deputies Triche and Nielsen, and a third deputy questioned two men outside of a mobile home, a third man suddenly exited the home and opened fire with a semi-automatic rifle, striking all three deputies. Deputies Nielsen and Triche both died as a result of their wounds. The third deputy, who was related to Deputy Triche, was



**DEPUTY
BRANDON NIELSEN**
St. John Parish Sheriff's Office



**DEPUTY
JEREMY TRICHE**
St. John Parish Sheriff's Office

seriously wounded.

Seven subjects were arrested and held in connection with both separate shooting incidents. ■

Salute to Fallen Heroes

The St. Charles Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #15 held the annual Police Officer's Memorial on Friday, May 25, 2012 at the Law Enforcement Complex, 260 Judge Edward Dufresne Parkway. The Fallen Heroes Memorial honors the three St. Charles deputies who died in the line of

duty. The FOP raised just over \$50,000 for the construction of the monument that stands in front of the new complex. The names of contributors are engraved into bricks that make up the Memorial's Legacy Walk. The memorial was dedicated May 19, 2011, with about 500 people in attendance. ■



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. ■

30 YEARS

Fourroux, Olga F.
Ladreyt, Roland J.

25 YEARS

Candies, Mark T.
Smith, Frederick J.
Oubre, Frederick J.
Dufrene, Wayne D.
Taylor, Clyde
Favaloro, Cyril G.
Duhe, Ramona
Granier, Roxanne
Gauthier, Susan C.
Luquette, Melissa T.

20 YEARS

Phillips, Catherine D.
Dufresne, Steven M.
Miguez, Richard L.

15 YEARS

Campbell, Trina
Perret, Kathryn
Walker, Patrick Todd
Cunningham, Alice Marie
Gilboy, Sandra Anne
Byrd, Shantrell Ingram
Cortez, Simone Poche

10 YEARS

St Pierre, Gloria Dean
De Corte, Charles Kenneth
Burge, James Douglas
Loupe, Justin Joseph
Lawrence, Brock R.

10 YEARS (continued)

Hoffmann, Jonathan Michael
Pertuis, Derek
Chiasson, Dwayne A.
Stevenson, Raymond
Morehouse, George Leon
Weems, Jody C.
Mayville, Thomas E.
Warren, Jessica Michele

5 YEARS

Holmes, Kenicer Monique
Gros, Darren Ernest
Grimaldi, James Wilson
Dubus, Richard M.
Cummings, Charlonda W.
Wright, Michael Patrick
Troxler, Jason T.
Richardson, Douglas E.
Galeano, Joseph M.
Louque, Cheryl A.
Patterson, Clint M.
Scott, Alex G.
Green, Yvonne Nichele
Lewis, Denise Alexander
Gales, Rachell
Sparacello, David A.
Dabney, Terry
Mitchell, Amber Lee
Lavergne, Devin R.
Fontenot, Maria Abbate
Cantrell, Christopher J.
Gautreaux, Roy J.

RETIREES

Cardella, Connie H. - 5/31/12
Cazenave, Gary L. - 6/30/12
Edwards, Susan P. - 3/1/12
Hills, Michael - 6/18/12
Rook, John E. - 7/31/11
Smith, Wayne Lee - 4/4/12
White, Anita L. - 7/15/11

SEND YOUR GIFT HOME

SCSO employees enthusiastically gave to the United Way of St. Charles in 2011 for the eleventh consecutive year, with contributions reaching \$8,541.48.

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.

