



St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Department

Update

Phase I, #1

Fall 1997

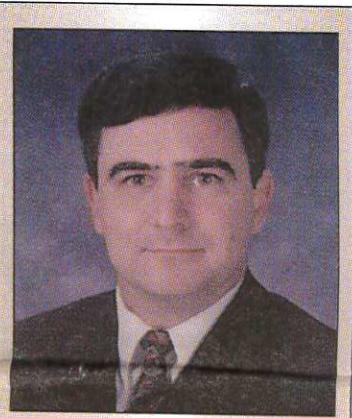
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A BIANNUAL PUBLICATION DEDICATED TO REPORTING THE NEWEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ST. CHARLES SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Postal Patron

This is a free publication mailed to St. Charles Parish residents, law enforcement professionals, community organization representatives, and civic leaders, and government officials. If you are not on the mailing list and would like to receive future issues, please write or fax your request to the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Department.



SHERIFF GREG CHAMPAGNE

Welcome to the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Department's first issue of Update. In it we strive to keep St. Charles residents aware of the many advancements within the department. 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.

This premier issue explores advances we've made over the last year in four major areas — partnerships, policing strategies, manpower, technology and solutions to keeping our community safe.

We've come a long way in one year

When I took office over a year ago, I promised positive change within the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Department. I envisioned a department that was the best in Louisiana and, possibly, the nation. I spoke of a department with an increased capacity to fight crime as well as to deter it before it even happened.

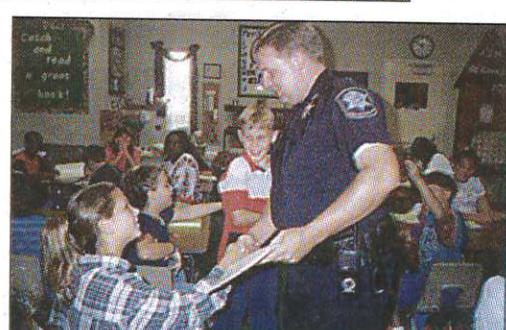
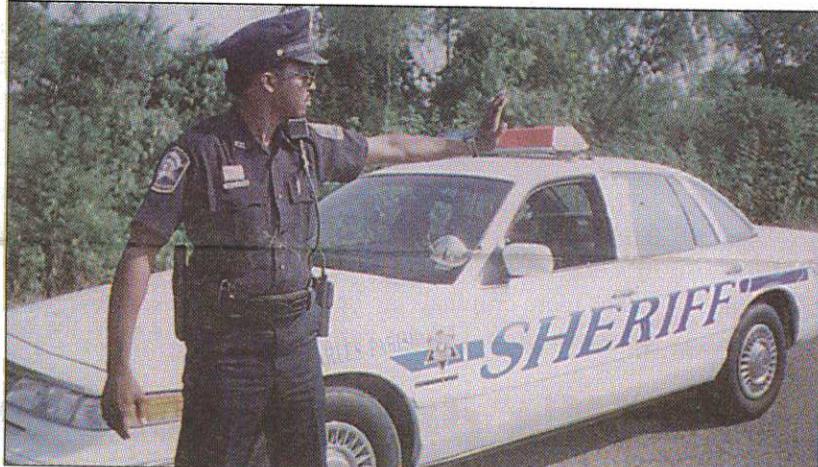
I am proud to tell you that we have made great strides in achieving these goals.

Most importantly, F.B.I. Uniform Crime Reports reflect a steady decrease in overall crime despite an increase in population.

We have more deputies patrolling the streets of this parish than ever before. Stringent hiring standards for new officers insure we hire only the best. Thousands of man hours have been spent in training programs, thus enabling officers to better handle difficult situations and more efficiently solve crime.

We have doubled the number of deputies working in our schools teaching drug and violence prevention to our young people. We have also aggressively sought and obtained hundreds of thousands of dollars in federal grant money to better equip and train our officers.

Triad, a crime prevention program that protects and educates our senior citizens, has been implemented and, thus far, has



been enormously successful. The "Adopt-a-Senior" program and "File of Life" will prove to be very successful in this effort.

We continue to aggressively seek out and apprehend drug dealers in St. Charles Parish. Several major drug traffickers have been apprehended and put out of commission.

Operations aimed at targeting the unlawful sales of alcohol and tobacco to minors have met with success. Also, enforcement

of neighborhood and highway traffic speed laws continues to be a high priority.

I am proud that, with the help of a new salary schedule, your law enforcement officers are now among the highest paid in the region. Through a cooperative effort with Nicholls State University, officers have gone back to class. In time, I predict we will be one of the most qualified sheriff's departments as well. Better morale, education and working conditions will go far in increasing the quality of service to the public.

Despite these successes, there is much that remains to be done. Keeping those who commit

crime incarcerated is a top priority. As we continue to apply a "get tough on crime" attitude, our jail remains full most of the time. The parish correctional center is too small to house the number of pre-trial inmates that we need to hold. A new jail committee composed of the three district judges, the district attorney, St. Charles Parish councilmen, the parish president and myself is looking at a new facility that will meet our needs.

The employees of the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office and I are committed to protecting and serving you. We call upon you, the citizens and taxpayers of this great parish, to join the effort as so many of you have already done. Your input is important.

1.

Community Strategies

Crime rate reflects a steady decrease

According to Uniform Crime Reports (UCR), crime in St. Charles Parish was down between July 1, 1996 through June 31, 1997.

The UCR tracks the seven index crimes compiled for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. These are murder, assault, rape, robbery, burglary, auto theft and theft. This information is compiled nationally on a voluntary basis to determine crime trends in America.

"We are very pleased that the overall crime rate has decreased in each of the four quarters during my administration's first year," said Sheriff Greg Champagne. "The decrease occurred despite a steady growth in St. Charles Parish's population. Rapid growth normally correlates with an increased crime rate."

Champagne attributes the drop in crime to several proactive, educational programs enacted over the past year. "We've also increased manpower in our enforcement divisions and are doing a better job with the community policing concept," he said.

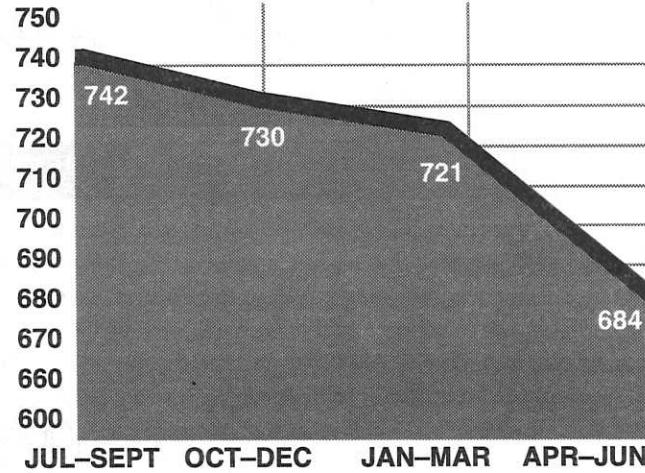
Specialized task forces have targeted

such problems as curfew violations, burglary and theft rings, drug trafficking, and speeding in neighborhoods.

"We've also intensified our commitment to the children of St. Charles by more than doubling the number of officers working in our schools," Champagne said. Key subjects being covered are violence prevention and substance abuse awareness. "Addressing juvenile crime remains a top priority."

Credit for the decline in crime is shared with the parish's other law enforcement entities — the courts and district attorney's office.

"Increased cooperation — between the judges and DA — coupled with the sheriff's department's aggressive efforts, means more criminals are being taken off the streets of St. Charles Parish,"



Champagne said.

As jail space becomes a greater premium, a decrease in the local crime rate is welcomed news. Currently, St. Charles Parish contracts extra space with area sheriff's departments.

"We're running out of room to house prisoners, but we know that keeping criminals incarcerated — especially those who repeatedly victimize law-abiding citizens — is the best deterrent," Champagne said.

Local deputies among state's highest paid

How does St. Charles Sheriff's Department pay compare to other law enforcement agencies in Louisiana?

It's one of the highest for deputies beginning their careers. And opportunities for advancement are there, too.

Effective last December, Sheriff Greg Champagne restructured his payroll and provided employees a 13 percent pay hike. The monies were generated from the Waterford 3 nuclear plant's addition to the parish tax rolls.

Starting patrol deputies now earn \$22,416 annually, making the St. Charles Sheriff's Department one of the highest paying agencies statewide.

"It's essential that we compensate deputies fairly for putting their lives on the line," said Sheriff Greg Champagne. "As long as we are able to maintain fiscal responsibility and our long-term goals are not jeopardized, we'll continue to review our pay levels."

Along with a pay raise, a more equitable pay distribution among employees with similar rank, responsibility and length of service was enacted. Job duties and requirements for advancement have also been clearly outlined for all employees.

In addition, Champagne instituted a holiday compensation policy and reduced medical insurance costs to department employees.

"It's a solid investment in ensuring the public we employ the best and the brightest on St. Charles' force," Champagne said.

Sheriff's department leads way nationwide in hiring women

The St. Charles Sheriff's Department has more opportunities for women than any other law enforcement agency in the United States.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice statistics, the St. Charles Sheriff's Department has 36.5% — the highest percentage nationwide of females in the workforce

among departments with more than 100 officers.

"We were very elated when we learned we lead the nation," Sheriff Greg Champagne said. "Frankly, we never looked at this as being anything unusual. We simply utilized the best people for the job, regardless of their sex."

The report focused on the

makeup of state and local agencies. It examined data on personnel, expenditures, pay, operations, equipment, computers and information systems, policies and programs.

Nearly 39% of the department's supervisory staff is also female, the sheriff noted, making St. Charles' force a leader in that realm too.

Sheriff's offices on the move

Several divisions have moved to new locations throughout the parish. The relocations make best use of the resources available and maximize the quality of service residents receive.

The Criminal Investigations Bureau is now located at 115 James Dr. West, Suite 130, in St. Rose. Included in this office are Criminal and

Juvenile Investigations.

Special Investigations has moved to the Third District Station, on Hwy. 90 in Luling. Patrol Operations moved to the Second District Station, which is located at 201 Park Ave. in New Sarpy. The division includes Uniform Patrol, and the Traffic, Community Policing, Marine Patrol, Reserve, and the K-9 units.

The Special Services

Division is now located on the east side of the Courthouse in Hahnville. The modular building houses Public Information, Public Relations, Resource Officer's Unit, D.A.R.E. Unit and the TRIAD program. Bonds & Fines and Internal Affairs have moved across from the Parish Courthouse at 15048 River Rd. in Hahnville.

Community Partnerships

Sheriff, Council on Aging team up to help seniors

In a revolutionary move, the St. Charles Sheriff's Department, the parish's Council on Aging, and area home health agencies have teamed up to protect senior citizens.

Called TRIAD/S.A.L.T. (Seniors and Lawmen Working Together), the program is designed to promote crime prevention and assist victims of crime through cooperative education, mutual awareness, and participation.

Sheriff Greg Champagne and Council on Aging Chairman Richard Keller inked an agreement April 23 at the first organizational meeting. Some 20 people, representing service and civic organizations and the public, were present.

"We have a growing elderly population in St. Charles Parish," Champagne said, noting that the trend is reflective of an aging society globally. "Meeting their needs is a big challenge for law enforcement and community agencies across the country. We believe this innovative approach — sharing our

resources, mobilizing TRIAD members by going to the people to learn more about their concerns and developing acceptable methods to alleviate the root causes for elderly victimization — we can make a positive impact."

The Triad concept is based on a simple belief: when law enforcement and senior service providers pool their efforts, the community's seniors will receive better programs and enhanced services.

The S.A.L.T. board includes Ole Krasts, chairman; Bob Derveloy, vice chairman; Fay Caire, secretary; Robert Phillips, treasurer; Cheryl Eads and Vert Poindexter, public relations; and Margaret Powe and Theresa Theriot, project committee.

Currently, the TRIAD/S.A.L.T. board is seeking input from local seniors for the development of future programs.

To learn more about the program, contact Capt. Patrick Yoes at 783-1355.



Sheriff Greg Champagne addresses guests at Senior Day, the first cooperative effort of the TRIAD/S.A.L.T. program. The event was attended by over 350 seniors from throughout St. Charles Parish.

Deputies come calling with new Adopt-A-Senior program

Imagine being home alone — with limited mobility, medical problems or special needs — and having no one to call.

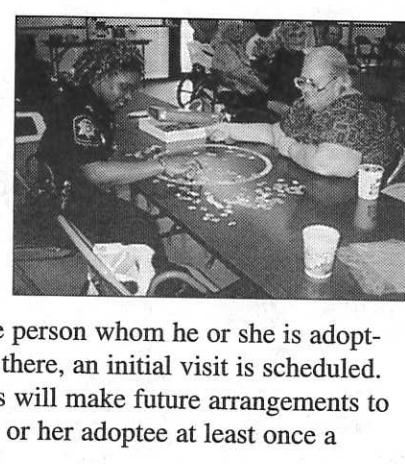
For too many senior adults in St. Charles Parish this is a frightening reality. But the TRIAD program and the St. Charles Sheriff's Department have unveiled a program to make life a little more assuring: Adopt-A-Senior.

Local lawmen will adopt one or more seniors with special needs, regularly check in on them, reassure them and assisting with any questions or concerns they may have. The program is intended to supplement care already being provided by other persons or agencies.

"I believe this will be a very rewarding program," said Sheriff Greg Champagne. "It's designed to provide support, contact and reassurance to older adults with special needs. Sometimes that human contact can make a world of difference."

Similar programs have been enacted in other parishes with overwhelming success, the sheriff said. "They love it — the seniors and the officers."

Adopt-A-Senior requires that deputies receive background information on the person whom he or she is adopting. From there, an initial visit is scheduled.



Deputies will make future arrangements to call on his or her adoptee at least once a week.

During each visit or phone call, special attention will be paid to the seniors' needs. In the event that additional help is required, TRIAD will be notified.

"We want our deputies to be aware of the special needs and problems facing seniors and to treat them with compassion, care and concern," Champagne said. "This program is designed to do just that."

For more information, contact Deputy Judy Lanson at 783-1355.

'File of Life' medical card stacks the deck in your favor

In an emergency, seconds can mean the difference between life and death. Having immediate access to a person's medical history can save precious time and even lives.

The St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Department is now offering "File of Life" cards, free of charge, to all participating residents. The cards, which are designed to hang from your refrigerator, contain residents' complete medical history.

"If we get a call to the house of a woman who is unconscious or unresponsive, we'd have no knowledge of her medical history or how to contact another family member," said Sheriff Greg Champagne. "If we know, for example, that she is a diabetic, then the first thing we would do is check her sugar level."

With an accurate, immediate medical picture, treatment can begin.

The "File of Life" comes with a plastic holder, a magnetic strip to hold it in place, and a sticker to be prominently placed on the outside of the residents' home. The sticker serves as a visible alert to emergency medical technicians that the home's occupants' medical histories and special conditions are on the file card inside.

The sheriff's department has 2,500 "File of Life" cards to distribute free parishwide. For more information, call Deputy Judy Lanson at 783-1355.

3.

Community Manpower

Service directory

Police/Fire/Medical Dial 911

Administration 783-6237

Sheriff Greg Champagne

Chief Deputy Joseph Cardella

Major Sam Zinna

Major John Cornwell

Civil Division 783-6237

Civil Chief Meriel Loupe

Accounting

Bonds and Fines

Budgeting/Payroll

Property Tax Collection

Occupational Licenses

Seizures

Sheriff's Sales

Subpoenas

Corrections Division 783-6238

Captain Roland Ladreyt

Correctional Facility

Court Security

Community Service

Chaplain

Transportation

Communications Division. . 783-2949

Rick Faina, director

911 Center

Data Entry

Internal Affairs 783-6237

Maintenance 783-6237

Electronics

Mechanical

Personnel 783-6237

Training Division 783-6237

Training

Inventory

Criminal Investigations Bureau ...

..... 443-0334

Captain Al Theriot

Investigations

Crime Scene 783-6237

Investigations

Evidence

Licenses

Permits

Juvenile Investigations 443-0334

Investigations

JOMP Program

Court School

Special Investigations 785-1941

Narcotics

Surveillance

Patrol Operations 764-7157

Captain Jonathan Walsdorf

Patrol Shifts

Marine Patrol

K-9 Unit

Traffic Unit

Street Crimes/Community Policing

Reserve Unit

Records Division 783-6237

Criminal Records

Data Processing

Special Services Division .. 783-1355

Captain Patrick Yoes

Crime Prevention

D.A.R.E.

Public Relations

Public Information

Resource Officer/Safe Schools

Program

TRIAD/S.A.L.T. Council

Youth Services

Published as a public service by the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Department.



SHERIFF GREG CHAMPAGNE

Sheriff Champagne was born and reared in Luling.

Prior to being sworn in June 1996, he served for 14 years as the assistant district attorney in the St. Charles Parish District Attorney's Office.

He is a 1975 graduate of Hahnville High School. From there, he received a bachelor of arts degree in government from Nicholls State University in 1978 and went on to receive his Juris Doctorate from the Louisiana State University Law Center.

He and his wife, the former Alice Landry, reside in Luling with their two children, Rochelle and Gregory Jr.



4.

St. Charles Par

Chief Deputy Joseph Cardella is the chief criminal deputy. He manages the day-to-day operations for the 250-member department's civil and criminal enforcement.



CARDELLA

Ten of his 24 years in law enforcement were spent as an FBI special agent. Cardella holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Loyola University. He is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Va. He is a member of several professional organizations, including the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Capt. Roland Ladreyt is the warden of the St. Charles Parish Correctional Center.

He began his law enforcement career in June 1975 in Orleans Parish. During his rise in the field, he completed numerous supervisory, management and law enforcement seminars. Capt. Ladreyt pursued degrees in business administration and criminal justice at the University of New Orleans, Our Lady of Holy Cross and Nicholls State University.



LADREYT

Major John Cornwell is commander of the enforcement division. As such, he manages the correctional center, patrol and criminal investigations.

He began his law enforcement career in 1971, serving as a counselor at the Youth Study Center in New Orleans. The following year, he joined the Louisiana State Police where he served for 22 years. He holds a bachelor of arts degree in sociology from Lake Forest College and a master's in business administration from UNO.



CORNWELL

Major Sam Zinna is commander of administrative services. As such, he is in charge of the department's record divisions, data processing, the 911

Communication Center, personnel and training departments.

Major Zinna joined the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Department in September 1982. A graduate of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Va., he has attended the University of Louisville (Ky.), and the Southern Police Institute & Homicide School.



ZINNA

Meriel Z. Loupe is chief civil deputy and chief deputy tax collector.

She joined the St. Charles Sheriff's Department in July 1972. As such, she manages the following departments: tax collection, accounting, bonds and fines and civil.

A graduate of Hahnville High School, Meriel resides in Amite with her husband, Terry, and son, Scott.



LOUPE

Capt. Alfred Theriot Jr. is commander of investigations. As such, he oversees the operations and planning for criminal, juvenile and special investigations.

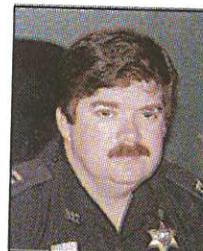
He has 39 years of service in law enforcement. Capt. Theriot served in the Navy VA. He received a bachelor's degree in criminalistics from Loyola University. Theriot is currently a member of Cross Keys Honor Society.



THERIOT

Capt. Jonathan A. Walsdorf is commander of the patrol division.

A 19-year law enforcement veteran, Capt. Walsdorf began his career with the City of Harahan Police Department after attending the University of New Orleans. He has received extensive training in the field, including graduating from the LSU Law Enforcement Institute and the LSU Certified Government Manager Program. He is currently enrolled at Nicholls State University.



WALSDORF

Capt. Patrick Yoes is commander of the special services division and the department's public information officer. His responsibilities include overseeing the school resource officer, D.A.R.E., Triad/S.A.L.T. Council, victims' reparation, neighborhood watch, crime prevention, and community relations programs.

A 13-year veteran of the department, Capt. Yoes attended Loyola University and is currently enrolled at Nicholls State University.



YOES



Sheriff's Department 1997

Community Technology

Department awarded \$200,000 COPS grant

The St. Charles Sheriff's Department was awarded nearly \$200,000 in grant funds earlier this year from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS).

The monies will be used to improve technology within the force.

According to Sheriff Greg Champagne, the department was given \$190,890 to upgrade its computer system.

The overhaul will include a "real time," department-wide informational system that will yield greater productivity.

The grant will also pay for related training.

"We're developing a network that will not only improve our interdepartmental system, but will allow access of vital departmental information to the courts," Champagne said.

At a glance, local judges and the District Attorney will be able to glean information about a person's previous criminal history, he said.

"Without the grant, none of this would be possible."

The COPS grant, which totalled over \$4 million, was shared among 14 law enforcement agencies statewide, including the St. Charles Sheriff's Department.

6.

AFIS ensures deputies always get their man

Gone are the days of thumbing through messy ink fingerprints and manually matching criminals' prints.

The St. Charles Sheriff's Department unveiled its fingerprinting computer this summer at the International Association for Identification's educational conference, which was hosted by the St. Charles sheriff's office.

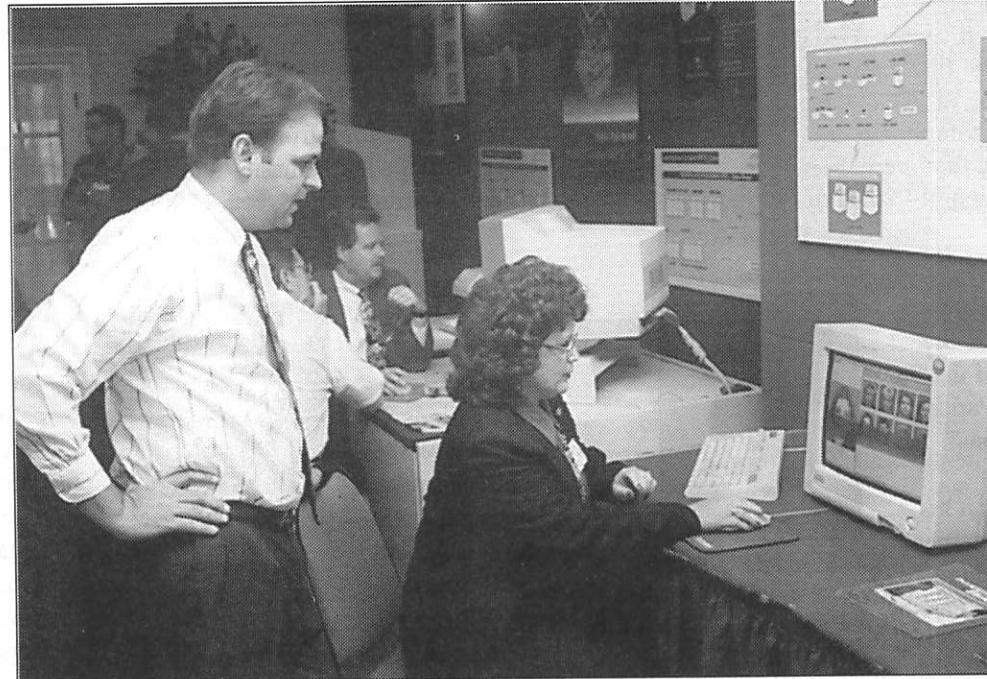
The computer reads the prints, sends them to a regional hub in Baton Rouge, and compares them with prints around the state, explained Sheriff Greg Champagne.

If the prints match a person who is wanted by another department, the arresting department knows not to free the arrestee on bond.

"Louisiana leads the nation in adoption of this technology," said Lt. Sherry Gutierrez, head of St. Charles' crime scene division. "St. Charles has had the network up and running since last year."

With a quick punch of a few computer keys, deputies can identify suspects and determine their previous criminal activity, Champagne said.

"This technology represents the cutting edge of law enforcement technology," the



sheriff said. "Although many police and sheriffs' departments do not yet have computerized identification tools, the day is coming when they will."

Once surrounding police forces have the system on line, it will change the face of law enforcement more than any other tech-

nological advancement, he said.

"We're excited to have this equipment on-line in St. Charles Parish," Champagne said. "Already, we have noticed a huge difference in the booking process and in being able to quickly ascertain suspects' prior criminal activity."

Department gets a unique loan

The U.S. Customs Service made a unique donation to the St. Charles Sheriff's Department's water patrol this past spring: a 30-foot boat.

"It looks like something from Baywatch," said Sheriff Greg Champagne of the newest addition to the marine division. "It looks like something you'd expect to see on TV, not in St.

Charles Parish."

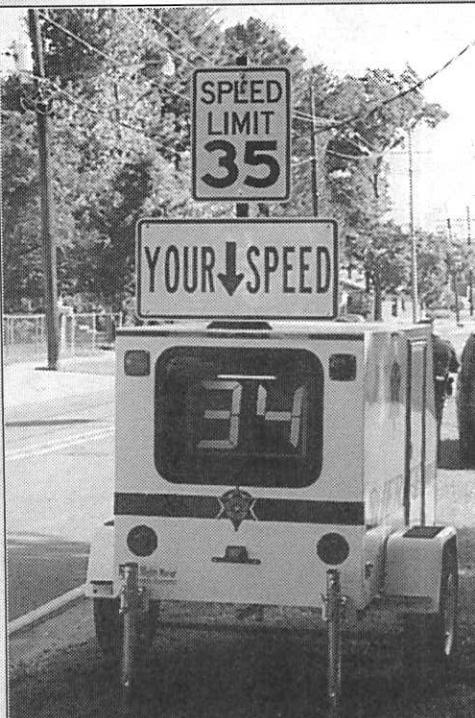
During his presentation to the department in June, Resident Agent In Charge Howard Gillette said, "It's a tribute to your department because a lot of law enforcement agencies ask us for boats, but we only give them to departments that are really going to use them."



Neighborhood speeders beware

Sheriff Greg Champagne unholstered a new weapon from his arsenal this past summer. This one targets neighborhood speeders. Two Smart Trailers, mobile units equipped with a radar and a large panel that displays approaching motorists' speed, have been popping up in various neighborhoods.

"The units remind motorists to be more conscious of their speed and record important information for deputies to use in their effort to curb excessive speeding in neighborhoods," Champagne said.



Community Profile

Parish's 911 Communications Center there when you really need them

Dial 9-1-1 in St. Charles Parish, and, rest assured, help is on the way.

Lately, 911 centers have been the focus of the media — television accounts have shown 911 in a negative light by not answering calls properly or expediently. Somewhere along the way, the *real* news has gotten lost — that this simply remembered, universal telephone number is saving lives.

St. Charles Parish's 911 system, which is operated under the watchful eye of the St. Charles Sheriff's Department, provides immediate, direct access to local police, fire and medical services.

Dispatchers field, on average, 1,833 emergency calls monthly, according to Director Rick Faina.

From the central hub in Hahnville, 911 operators are in constant communication with emergency respondents and 911 callers.

Earlier this year, the system was equipped with the Medical Priority Dispatch System.

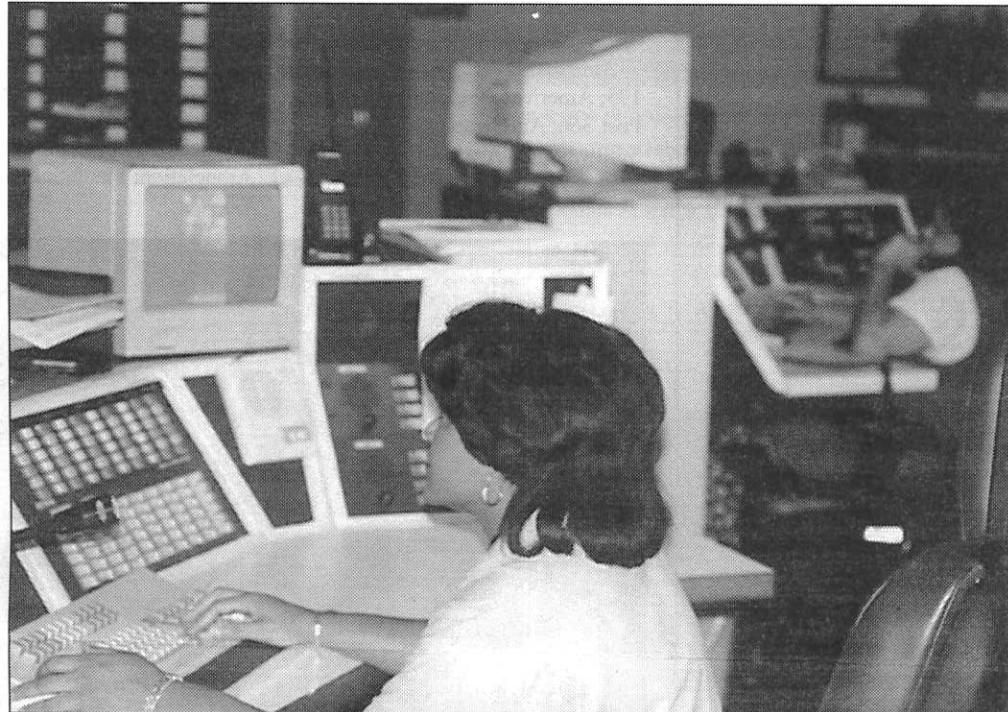
Through a series of questions, emergency dispatchers are able to obtain a better picture of the emergency — information that is passed on to medical, fire or law enforcement officials responding to the scene. And, in many instances, the caller is able to initiate some basic emergency treatment until professional help arrives, Faina said.

"The person on the scene is provided a list of 'do's' and 'don'ts,'" said 911 Supervisor Vanessa Johnson, "so the medical response can be immediate."

The priority system is comprised of 32 flip chart cards, each consisting of a series of questions related to the chief complaint. The questions range from "What is the problem?," "How many people are hurt?," "How old is the person?," to "Is he or she conscious/breathing?"

Designed by a team of experts in the medical emergency field, the cards have proven nationwide to be foolproof, Johnson said. "Depending on the answers given, dispatchers are routed to the correct card."

However, it is essential that callers do their part by staying on the line, listening carefully to the questions and following the instructions dispatchers give, she



added.

The misconception that by asking questions, a dispatcher is not getting the needed professional help is just that, a misconception.

911 dispatchers work as a team, making certain that one operator is able to stay on the line with the caller, offering instructions and reassurance. Simultaneously, other operators direct the needed help to the site.

"What does determine the response time for a unit is the type of emergency and the information that is relayed to the 911 personnel," Johnson said. "Calls received by 911 personnel are prioritized according to whether the situation is life-threatening or in progress."

Callers should be specific about the information they relay, she said.

"By all means, do not fabricate information in hopes of getting a higher priority and a faster response from the unit," Johnson added. "Sure, every person feels their emergency is the ultimate one, but be realistic, if one emergency can occur, so can and will other emergencies."

That's the reason for prioritization.

"In our dispatch center, we have a saying that we cannot dispatch one ambulance without needing three or four, yet the population for the area we serve mandates only two ambulances," she said.

St. Charles Parish residents can employ a few simple steps around the home to ensure fast service in the event of an emergency.

First, make certain the outside of your home is clearly marked with your house or apartment number. Many times, ambulances and fire trucks drive through the area trying to locate a home.

Because of the recent renumbering of many streets, not all house numbers correspond with information on file at the 911 center. Remember to provide the address where the emergency is taking place and stay on the line until the operator can confirm this location.

In the event of a serious injury, these simple steps can save lives.

911 operators will need to know the following:

- The telephone number from which you are calling;

• The address where help is needed;

• And the nature of the problem.

Callers should answer the questions as best they can. Also, Johnson advises, callers should remain on the line until the operator advises them to hang up.

"911 was implemented as a service for you, but misuse of 911 could have negative results for the community as a whole. If it fails for one, it affects the entire community," Johnson said.

When to call; when not to

Calls received by 911 personnel are prioritized according to the severity of the emergency.

Be specific about the incident, but do not fabricate information.

Remember, help is being immediately dispatched. A 911 operator, however, will remain on the line with you to ascertain the location of the emergency and other pertinent information.

When possible, 911 operators will advise callers of basic medical help they can provide at the scene until help arrives.

Remain on the line until the operator advises you to hang up. Do not take for granted that because you dial 911, that 911 personnel know from where you are calling. Generally they do, but remember, these addresses are generated by computers and can be wrong. It only takes a few seconds to verify your address from the computer; it could take much longer if the response unit has to search for you.

In the case of a crime in progress; a fire; any medical emergency; or any situation requiring the immediate response of a fire truck, ambulance and/or a police unit, call 9-1-1.

Do not tie up the 911 center lines with non-emergency calls. Instead, use the seven digit non-emergency number 783-6807.

Do not use 911 for road travel or severe weather information, repair for your household appliances, inquiry purposes, pets stuck up a tree, legal advice, or to obtain the time of day.



Start a Neighborhood Watch in your community

Neighborhood Watch is a system of organizing residents in a given neighborhood so that the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Department can teach crime prevention techniques. Together, residents can watch out for each other and lessen the likelihood of becoming a victim.

To get the effort started, Sheriff Greg Champagne has his troops erecting Neighborhood Watch signs in communities throughout St. Charles Parish.

Neighborhood Watch increases citizens' awareness of burglary through a continuous information program. It trains citizens in the proper techniques of securing their property and assists in marking possessions with their Louisiana's driver's license number. It also develops a neighborhood action program where neighbors watch each other's property and report suspicious activities and persons to the sheriff's department.

The program maintains a cooperative system of surveillance over one another's property, children, etc. Neighbors report suspicious activities, persons or crimes in progress to the sheriff's department accurately and immediately.

To start a Neighborhood Watch program in your neighborhood, talk to your neighbors and set up a meeting date, time and location. Then call L. Dwayne LaGrange in the Special Services Division at 783-1355. Deputies will work with your group to aid in getting your program under way.

Community donations to vest campaign saving St. Charles deputies' lives

Thanks to the generosity of several civic-minded individuals and companies, 101 ballistic vests were presented to St. Charles sheriff's deputies.

At special ceremonies held in January and October at the FOP Hall in Destrehan, contributors presented vests to the deputy who will wear it.

The department offered thanks to the following who donated to the vest campaign:

American Legion Spillway Post 195; American Legion River Road Post 366; American Legion Spillway Post Auxiliary; American Legion Auxiliary Unit 131; Charles

and Helen Bartha; Bridgeline Gas Distribution, LLC; Alwyn and Jerrie Buckland; Bunge Corp.; Cardinal Insurance; Catholic Daughters of America No. 1583; Delta Petroleum; East St. Charles Volunteer Fire Department; Entergy; Cecil and Jean Dufrene; First American Bank; Clyde "Rock" Gisclair; Gnots Reserve, Inc.; IMC Agrico; JFC Enterprises; International Matex Tank Terminals; J&K Printing and Alken Office Supplies; Landeche Refrigeration; Lillia LeBlanc; MOG Communications; Monsanto Company; Occidental Chemical Company; Oil, Chemical & Atomic Workers Union; Ormond Civic Association; Plantation

Chiropractic; Real Estate Partners, Inc.; Riverbank Civic Association; River Parishes Friendship; River Parish Oil, Co.; Rotary Club of St. Charles; St. Charles Borromeo; St. Charles Humane Society; St. Charles Women's Club; St. John Fleeting Company; Saints Board of Realtors; Ralph and Jean Sergent; Shell Oil Company; Southern Coffee Service; St. Rose Primary School 4-H Club; St. Charles Family, Community, Education; TransAmerican Refinery; Clyde Trevathen, CPA; Total Transportation, Inc.; Quality Janitorial & Wholesale Supplies; Union Carbide Cypress Plant; and Wilson Oxygen and Supply Company.



YOUNGSTERS in St. Rose Primary School's 4-H Club held bake sales to raise money to purchase ballistic vests for Sgt. John Pollard and Sgt. Ricky Oubre. The two officers patrol traffic at the school.

St. Charles deputies go back to class

Several St. Charles Parish sheriff's deputies are going back to school with the aid of a federal community service block grant.

The Eastern District of Louisiana Community Policing Grant covers part of the tuition — \$220 per semester — so officers in the outlying metro New Orleans area can attend class at Nicholls State University.

Deputies are allowed to work toward a bachelor's degree in government with a minor in criminal justice, or an associate degree in criminal justice. Classes are scheduled around officers' shifts, making it possible for them to attend.

NSU, the University of New Orleans (UNO), and the participating sheriffs' offices and police

departments jointly run the program.

Since it began this spring, over 25 St. Charles deputies have entered the program.

In exchange for paying the difference on their tuition, officers are asked to sign an agreement to stay with the department for one year for each semester he or she is enrolled.

"This is a tremendously good situation for the officers and it's a good situation for the public. I believe you can't have too much education," Champagne said. "I want to have the best educated sheriff's department around," he said. "I can't think of any negative drawbacks at all from this program."

Send your gift home

As the annual United Way campaign reaches a high pitch, it's time to consider where you would like your dollars to go.

The United Way of St. Charles asks that residents of the community remember to designate to send your gift home to the parish.

Unless you designate a different parish, your gift will go to the parish in which the campaign is held.

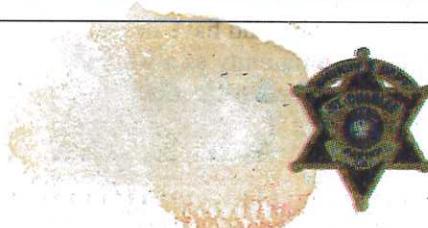
Designating your dollars be given to St. Charles is easy and will go a long way in helping a neighbor.



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Start a Neighborhood Watch in your community

Neighborhood Watch is a system of organizing residents in a given neighborhood so that the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Department can teach crime prevention techniques. Together, residents can watch out for each other and lessen the likelihood of becoming a victim.

To get the effort started, Sheriff Greg Champagne has his troops erecting Neighborhood Watch signs in communities throughout St. Charles Parish.

Neighborhood Watch increases citizens' awareness of burglary through a continuous information program. It trains citizens in the proper techniques of securing their property and assists in marking possessions with their Louisiana's driver's license number. It also develops a neighborhood action program where neighbors watch each other's property and report suspicious activities and persons to the sheriff's department.

The program maintains a cooperative system of surveillance over one another's property, children, etc. Neighbors report suspicious activities, persons or crimes in progress to the sheriff's department accurately and immediately.

To start a Neighborhood Watch program in your neighborhood, talk to your neighbors and set up a meeting date, time and location. Then call L. Dwayne LaGrange in the Special Services Division at 783-1355. Deputies will work with your group to aid in getting your program under way.

Community donations to vest campaign saving St. Charles deputies' lives

Thanks to the generosity of several civic-minded individuals and companies, 101 ballistic vests were presented to St. Charles sheriff's deputies.

At special ceremonies held in January and October at the FOP Hall in Destrehan, contributors presented vests to the deputy who will wear it.

The department offered thanks to the following who donated to the vest campaign:

American Legion Spillway Post 195; American Legion River Road Post 366; American Legion Spillway Post Auxiliary; American Legion Auxiliary Unit 131; Charles

and Helen Bartha; Bridgeline Gas Distribution, LLC; Alwyn and Jerrie Buckland; Bunge Corp.; Cardinal Insurance; Catholic Daughters of America No. 1583; Delta Petroleum; East St. Charles Volunteer Fire Department; Entergy; Cecil and Jean Dufrene; First American Bank; Clyde "Rock" Gisclair; Gnots Reserve, Inc.; IMC Agrico; JFC Enterprises; International Matex Tank Terminals; J&K Printing and Alken Office Supplies; Landeche Refrigeration; Lillia LeBlanc; MOG Communications; Monsanto Company; Occidental Chemical Company; Oil, Chemical & Atomic Workers Union; Ormond Civic Association; Plantation

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