



# St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office

# Update

Phase 1, #6

2002 Report

www.stcharlessheriff.org

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

## Postal Patron

This is a free 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.

## Crime rate reaches six-year low in 2001

### □ First half of 2002 crime rate shows even further improvement

The crime rate in St. Charles Parish reached a six-year low in 2001, a trend due in large part to solid law enforcement and the opening of the parish's 590-bed correctional center, Sheriff Greg Champagne said.

"We're pleased the long term figures show a decrease in reported crimes. We have implemented a number of new programs to fight crime on all fronts. With increased patrols, enhanced training, and a larger correctional facility within our parish, it is clear we're moving in the right direction," the Sheriff said.

The figures are based on the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports (UCR), which track crimes in seven categories: murder, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, theft and auto theft.

The quarterly figures – their lowest in the 28 quarters since Sheriff Champagne assumed office – indicate the overall crime rate is at an all-time low, and the trend is continuing in 2002.

"Many things contributed to the drop," the Sheriff said. "We consider the jail a major contributor; we have a place to put offenders and they know it."

St. Charles Parish has experienced relatively few murders – only 16 over the last six years.

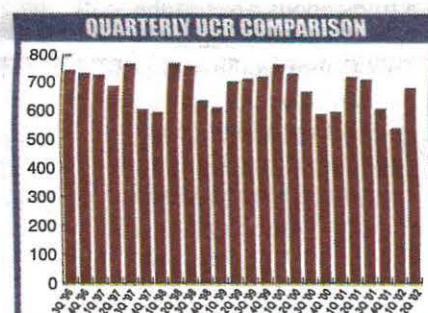
The most common crimes perpetrated locally are crimes against property, namely thefts and auto burglaries.

"We continue to ask people to do their part and help prevent becoming a victim," Sheriff Champagne said. Residents are asked to lock vehicle and residence doors, and to remove unattended valuables from view.

"Also, if you see suspicious activity or persons in your neighborhood, contact us immediately," the Sheriff said.

OVERALL UCR FIGURES BY CATEGORY				
OFFENSE	1997	1998	1999	2000
Murder	4	2	2	4
Rape	9	22	13	11
Robbery	56	40	51	33
Assault	813	908	1,010	1,046
Burglary	482	427	427	475
Theft	1,232	1,194	1,121	1,046
Auto Theft	170	160	113	130
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,766</b>	<b>2,753</b>	<b>2,737</b>	<b>2,745</b>
				<b>2,621</b>

2002 UCR TO-DATE		
OFFENSE	1st Q	2nd Q
Murder	2	0
Rape	4	3
Robbery	8	9
Assault	221	223
Burglary	79	117
Theft	204	301
Auto Theft	20	24
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>677</b>



Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reports, May 1996 – June 2002

## SCSO to host agency's own P.O.S.T. Academy

The Louisiana P.O.S.T. (Police Officer Standards of Training) Council has awarded the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office a certificate of approval to operate a regional P.O.S.T. Academy.

The SCSO is now one of only 25 agencies in Louisiana to provide an officer training academy. In 2001, the Sheriff's Office served as a satellite site for two such academies, however, this marks the first-ever law enforcement academy to be permanently located in St. Charles Parish.

"We have become recognized regionally as being on the cutting edge when it comes to training our deputies. This is another milestone for the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office," Sheriff Greg Champagne said.

The application process began last November with an official request. In February, Sheriff Champagne and agency representatives made an extensive presentation to the P.O.S.T. Council in Baton Rouge. After reviewing the documentation, the Council informed the Sheriff that the SCSO indeed had a need for a P.O.S.T. Academy.

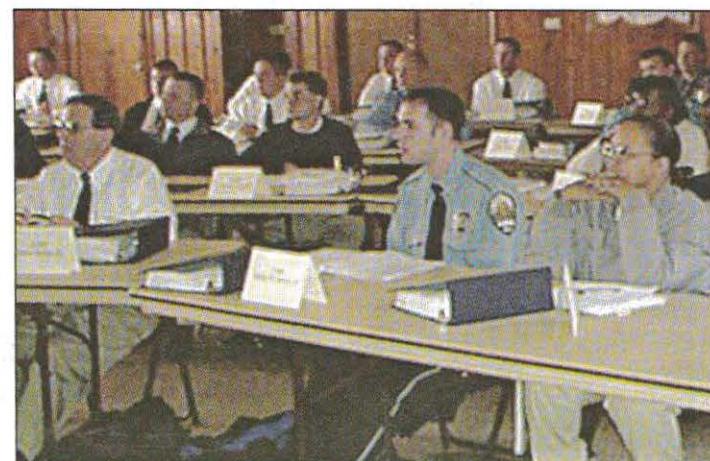
"The P.O.S.T. Council recognized the growth within our parish in recent years," the Sheriff said. "As the population continues to climb, so too will our need to hire and certify more deputies."

Financially, the Sheriff's Office will benefit greatly with its own academy.

"We're paying travel and housing expenses as well as the \$600 training fee when we send deputies to outside academies," he said. "Being able to P.O.S.T. certify officers here in St. Charles Parish will save us substantially."

Sheriff Champagne credits the SCSO's Training Dept. and its highly qualified instructors for making the concept of a locally-based academy a reality.

"I'd also like to thank District Attorney Harry Morel, who serves as a member of the



Students intently listen to instructors at a satellite academy, which was hosted by the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office last fall. The SCSO's first POST Academy session began in September.

P.O.S.T. Council, for his enthusiastic support of this endeavor," he said.

The Sheriff's Office will host 12-week academies, which will be open to area law enforcement agencies. Upon completion of this training, officers will receive P.O.S.T. certification as mandated by state law.

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# Departmental Strategies

## Deputy Landry retires at age 80

### □ Francis Landry shone with K-9 Unit and Sheriff's Posse

At age 80, SCSO Deputy Francis Landry is ready to enjoy the good life.

After more than 30 years of service with the Sheriff's Office, the K-9 Unit deputy – and his canine partner, Racky – has retired.

The duo plans to join the SCSO's Reserve Unit, and will continue to be available for search and rescue missions.

"Francis Landry has been a tremendous asset to the Sheriff's Office," said Capt. Fred Oubre, commander of the Patrol Dept. "He's been an excellent officer, and he's a great guy."

Deputy Landry joined the SCSO's Patrol Dept. in February 1973. He's held assignments in the K-9 and Search and Rescue units.

An accomplished rider, Deputy Landry also participated in many law enforcement equestrian competitions, and has won numerous awards. Years ago, he headed the Sheriff's Posse.

The SCSO thanks Francis for his years of dedication and wishes him all the best in his retirement.



Deputy Francis Landry and his K-9 Unit partner Racky

## Law enforcement forever changed

### □ SCSO redefines role as we pledge to continue to provide superior law enforcement

Sept. 11, 2001, forever changed the way our nation views law enforcement. The onslaught of terrorism and continued threat on U.S. soil marks a turning point in history.

From the ashes of New York City's Twin Towers, the Pentagon, and a barren field in Pennsylvania, a renewed respect for lawmen and emergency responders has emerged. Now more than ever, citizens recognize that the men and women who choose this profession are the thin barrier between good and evil, order and chaos.

Homeland security remains a chief concern in St. Charles Parish.

Security has been heightened at the local nuclear plant and various industries throughout the parish. Deputies continue to patrol the streets and levees, and I've asked Neighborhood Watch groups to help us monitor suspicious activity.

We'll never forget the men and women whose lives were tragically cut short. Life goes on, but we'll never forget.

Over the past year, the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office continues to undergo many historical transitions.

It's been one year since we celebrated the opening of the Nelson Coleman St. Charles Parish Correctional Center. Today, the facility is completely operational and houses parish and state inmates.

The impact of this 590-bed correctional center is already being realized. In 2001, our parish's crime rate reached a six-year low... and the trend is continuing.

Certainly, a number of initiatives can also be credited: aggressive patrolling, cooperation with the District Attorney and Judges in prosecuting offenders, and sound investigative work have all helped. But having a

place to house prisoners has sent a strong message to would-be offenders: commit the crime and you *will* do the time.

Our agency celebrated another milestone with the announcement that a P.O.S.T. (Police Officer Standard Training) Academy certificate has been awarded to the Sheriff's Office. As our parish and the agency continue to grow, more deputies will be added to our ranks. Being able to provide training at home will potentially save our agency substantial tax dollars.

In addition to P.O.S.T. Academy training, the SCSO continues to provide annual in-services to senior deputies. This continues my pledge to make SCSO deputies the region's best-trained lawmen.

Additionally, an across-the-board pay raise, which was awarded earlier this year, ensures our officers are among the area's highest paid.

Proper training and competitive wages are just part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring the highest quality of service is delivered to the public.

I am pleased to announce we are taking that commitment to the next level, having recently embarked on a journey to excellence. The SCSO is seeking accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.



Major Sam Zinna and Sheriff Greg Champagne, which were seized this past year, are parish history. The drugs have a

## SCSO among area's highest paying agencies

### □ Agency continues to add to deputies benefits, upgrade equipment

A recent 3% pay hike makes St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office the highest paying sheriff's office for deputies in the southeastern Louisiana region.

Since taking office nearly six years ago, Sheriff Greg Champagne has increased deputies' starting pay 37.31%.

In addition to paid overtime and holidays, the SCSO has added the following benefits:

- Deferred Compensation Match (up to \$600 yearly)
- Inservice Training
- Uniform Allowance
- Paid Tuition
- Extended Sick Leave (up to half of sick balance)
- Disability Leave (up to 960 hours)
- Donation of Sick Leave

major concern," Sheriff Champagne said. "Certainly, providing competitive pay and benefits is key to achieving our goal."

As monies become available, Sheriff Champagne said he will continue to explore ways to further enhance deputies' pay and benefits package.

"As this parish's chief law enforcement officer, I'm sworn to protect this department as fiscally responsible as possible," he said.

# Departmental Partnerships

## SCSO inmates repaying debt to society

### □ Trustees give parish schools, roadways, boating docks, community center a fresh look

**S**t. Charles Parish's inmates are loose, and the residents of our parish have reaped the rewards.

Under the watchful eye of SCSO deputies, state trustees assigned to the Nelson Coleman St. Charles Parish Correctional Center have been repaying their debt to society along our community's streets and waterways.

"From the outset, I've said that trustees should be providing a service to our community," Sheriff Greg Champagne said. "There are a number of jobs our inmates – while being closely guarded – can provide."

Under the expanded Community Project Initiatives Program, trustees are doing just that. This outreach program's benefits are three-fold: it limits inmates' idle time, exposes the inmates to new skills, and, most importantly, saves taxpayers and the parish money by providing needed services at no cost.

In recent months, trustees have manned clean-up and painting crews, and performed other odd jobs for the parish.

Any given day, weather permitting, you'll find cleanup crews picking up litter along the parish's interstate, highways and roadways, and near boat launches and waterways. Between January-July 2002, trustees gathered 15,046 bags of trash.

This past spring, in partnership with the Parish Government, trustees helped renovate the parish's Advocacy Center in Luling and the aging St. Rose Community Center.

Over the summer, trustees painted the Adult Continuing Education Building in Boutte, gyms at Carver Elementary and J.B. Martin Middle School, as well as Carver's cafeteria.

In each instance, the Sheriff's Office provided the manpower; the parish and local school system bought the needed materials.

Inmates have also assisted with clean up at several local festivals. During hurricane season, inmates will help provide sandbags in potential flood areas.

"This is the kind of impact we want to have in this parish," the Sheriff said. "Everyone benefits: our parish highways and waters are cleaner, blighted public buildings are getting a facelift, and trustees are developing valuable work skills."

Most importantly, he noted, the program saves taxpayers and the parish money by providing needed services at no cost.

The program is winning high praise from the Parish Government office and School System.

"It just shows how much can be accomplished when everyone works together to



St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office trustees helped renovate the St. Rose Community Center. Above, crews hang siding on the center. At right, Sheriff Champagne talks with trustees about the project. Crews help modify the old jail into an office/store room for the SCSO's Crime Scene. A worker paints the gym at Carver Elementary School. Bottom, trustees pick up trash tossed along a parish road.

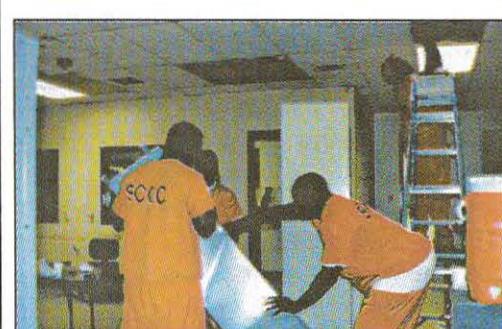
help keep our parish clean," Parish President Albert Laque said of the program. "I really appreciate the job Sheriff Champagne is doing and he can count on any assistance he may need from my administration to assist him in his efforts."

Larry Sessar, executive director of Physical Plant Services for the School System said, "The St. Charles Parish School System is grateful to the Sheriff's Office for providing trustees to paint... Their hard work allowed the district to redirect funds and personnel to be used in other areas. Thanks for an outstanding job."

About 20 state trustees are included in the community service pool. Two full-time deputies are assigned to oversee the crews' work and guard the trustees. Many more are assigned to perform roadside clean-up and other tasks.

"These men are in the final stages of their sentence and pose no threat to the community," said Major Roland Ladreyt, warden of the SCSO Correctional Center. "This is one more rehabilitative effort designed to benefit them when they go to find a job later."

The "working for your keep" concept is nothing new at the parish's Correctional Center. Inmates assist with building maintenance at the Killona facility, provide electrical, plumbing and A/C work, and help with grounds keeping. The kitchen staff – about 40 inmates – helps prepare about 1,000 meals daily, and inmates are assigned to launder all uniforms and bed linens daily.



### Street smarts for women

#### □ SCSO offering self-defense classes

At the request of several women in St. Charles Parish, the SCSO is offering self-defense classes.

Headlines have been filled with news of attacks on females in Baton Rouge and surrounding areas. To help ensure the safety of women locally, Sheriff Greg Champagne has initiated a Women's Self-Defense Training Program.

"We've seen the tragic results when perpetrators attack unsuspecting, unprepared victims," the Sheriff said. "This program is designed to help women apply simple techniques and fight back."

In July, Lt. Pamela Schmitt led 14 mothers and daughters – the girls are LSU-bound – through an abbreviated class.

"Everyone, no matter your sex or age, can fight back," Lt. Schmitt said. "If you have a voice to yell, a leg to kick or an arm to swing, you can stall your attacker and possibly draw attention until help arrives."

For more information on self-defense classes, call the SCSO's Special Services Dept. at 783-1355.



Classmates test their elbow jab abilities during a self-defense course for women.



# Departmental Enforcement

## CID: Solving crimes – from auto the

### Bureau goes hi-tech in crime war

It's been over a year since Major Sam Zinna assumed command of the SCSO's



Major Sam Zinna

Criminal Investigations Bureau. Since then, CIB continues to be transformed.

The following high-tech advances have been added:

- LOCATOR hardware and software, provided by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, enables JID to create posters and e-mail other agencies when a child (or adult) is missing.
- AMBER alerts, radio and TV broadcasts, are also available to the SCSO.
- JID has forensic interviewing capabilities, thus lessening the trauma on children called upon to testify in sexual abuse cases.
- SID has added Drug Tracking computer software to centralize information related to drug arrests/investigations.

"Every day, things change," Major Zinna said. "We're just trying to stay ahead of the offenders and give our detectives the resources they need to efficiently solve crimes and serve the community."

### □ Property crimes most frequently committed offense, leaving detectives chasing endless stream of thefts

A stack of reports awaits Lt. Deborah Johnston each morning she reports to duty. It's a compilation of last night's worst-case scenarios.

As the head of the Criminal Investigations, Lt. Johnston's sees it all: from murder to domestic disputes to home and car burglaries. In all, CID's six investigators handled 1,412 cases last year.

This year's caseload hasn't slowed, either. On any given day, detectives are working an average of 21 cases.

St. Charles Parish has relatively few murders – only 16 over the last six years. The bulk of CID's cases are property crimes, the majority of which are preventable.

"That's the most frustrating part," Lt. Johnston said. "When I was growing up here you didn't have to worry about locking your house or car. It's not like that anymore... People think nothing of leaving high priced valuables unsecured in plain sight."

CID detectives can tell the war stories of victims who've had computers, guns, CD collections and other valuables stolen from unlocked cars; four-wheelers and bicycles stolen from front yards while the owners were inside the residence; and even of vehicles – windows down and the ignition running – being stolen while unsuspecting victims left it unattended to run an errand.

"Most of the burglaries and thefts are crimes of opportunity," Lt. Johnston said. "The offender was walking by, the goods were sitting there unsecured and unattended... Next thing you know, our detectives are assigned the case."

Had the owner just taken a moment to lock the door or remove their possessions from sight, the crime may never have happened, she said. "Just locking homes and cars would reduce our parish's property crime rate at least 40%."

CID assigns priority to cases based on severity: personal injury cases always take precedence.

In the event of a homicide, one of three detectives – specially-trained to investigate the uniqueness and complications in murder cases – is assigned to the case. Two of these three detectives are also trained to investigate child fatalities.

The Bureau, and more specifically, the CID also works closely with a regionally based task force. Led by State Police investigators, information-sharing meetings are held monthly. Detectives from the River Parishes, metro New Orleans, Northshore and Baton Rouge area compile and share information on a broad spectrum of cases the various agencies are investigating. This win-win exchange led detectives to the perpetrators in a vehicle theft ring in the Hahnville/Killona area earlier this year.

By being an active player on the task force,



Detectives Claude Adams, Roscoe B. in the Investigative Division share information. Investigators – six in all – handled 1,412 cases last year. To Lt. Deborah Johnston, were burglaries.

tion, utilize the expertise of other agencies to find the missing link in solving cases.

The CID also exchanges information with the auto theft task force started by the National Insurance Crime Bureau. In the Metro area, participants include State Police and FBI. A CID detective serves as the SCSO contact person and is responsible for coordinating efforts with that task force.

In computer-related investigations, heavily on the Attorney General's Computer Crimes Unit as well as the FBI. These agencies have the resources to investigate these cases to provide objective, independent findings.

To enhance communications and as a result, Bureau investigators attend meetings at the Second District Office in New Orleans, sometimes a week. This continuous exchange of information ensures deputies on the street are involved in ongoing investigations and that assistance in investigating cases is readily available.

"We urge citizens to get involved with law enforcement and witness a crime," Lt. Johnston said. "When subjects go unpunished, they get bolder. They'll commit more crimes... and more brazen crimes... That's what's wrong with our community. Innocent people being victimized. We need to encourage law-abiding, conscientious citizens to let us know when crime's are being committed in their neighborhood."

# JID strives to keep youths on right track

Juvenile Investigations' four detectives handled 531 cases in 2001. So far this year, that number is holding steady, according to JID head Lt. Bobby Dale.

Juvenile offenders account for the majority of each of JID detective's 130-per-year case-load.

With school back in session and the bad element reunited, JID is bracing for an influx.

It's a sign of the times, according to Lt. Bobby Dale. "When we were little, juvenile crime consisted of shoplifting or joyriding," he said. "Today, it's assaults and burglaries, and the offenders are younger and younger..."

JID investigates all crimes involving juveniles, victims of sexual abuse, as well as juvenile offenders. It also includes JOMP (Juvenile Offender Monitoring Program), an intense pre-adjudication program, and the Juvenile Probation Program, for post-adjudication offenders.

Juvenile offenders referred to JOMP partic-

ipate in a six-month mentoring program. About 43 youths completed the program last year.

A judge determines sentences of youths assigned to the Probation Program. Last year, 175 offenders went through the program.

Investigators also verify the addresses in the sex offender database and, along with the state's Alcohol Beverage Commission, conduct local compliance checks.

In recent months, the SCSO and the parish's Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse has begun providing counseling for victims of child abuse, as well as parenting classes to help stop the abuse.

"We're trying to be proactive in our approach to juvenile cases," Lt. Dale said, "but the bottom line is parents must be a part in their kids' lives and have an interest in what they're doing and who they're doing it with. Children need their parents to be good mentors."



The SCSO's Juvenile Division handles all cases involving the parish's young people.

## CSI:

Techs follow criminal's lead to discover who dunnit...



Crime Scene technicians gather fingerprints off an automobile.

Television's "CSI" glamorizes Crime Scene technicians' work. In reality, crimes aren't usually solved in an hour; however one thing's certain: evidence is paramount.

"Evidence can make or break a case. Our role is to be certain to follow the national guidelines when we're working a case," said Lt. David Guzzardi, who oversees Crime Scene.

The division processes crime scenes, carefully collecting and securing evidence for analysis. The four technicians, along with detectives, try to determine the "who, what, when, where and how" specific crimes occurred.

Crime Scene techs identify and gather evidence – from the obvious to trace clues such as fingerprints and clothes fibers – photograph and sketch the scene, and collect and label evidence.

Evidence requiring extensive analysis is forwarded to crime labs with the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office's or Louisiana State Police.

"The technology people see on TV is real and it's all available to us," Lt. Guzzardi said.

"Because our agency sends forensic evidence out, the turn-around takes a bit longer. But the technology itself is available, making it possible to solve a crime with the smallest bit of evidence."

Once materials essential to the case are analyzed, the division's evidence custodian catalogs and stores it until the case goes to trial.

To alleviate a recent space crunch, work is under way to relocate Crime Scene to the old jail. The move will provide needed space for crime analysis and additional secure storage.

The move will also centralize processing for citizens' licenses and employment checks, yet another aspect of Crime Scene.

Job fingerprinting and background searches are provided free of charge Tuesdays and Thursdays between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Bartenders and taxicab drivers can also obtain permits for a fee.

Once cases are resolved, Crime Scene moves quickly to return victims' personal property. Evidence that remains unclaimed after 90 days is legally auctioned or destroyed.

## Database tracks sex offenders

Schools, day cares can ID convicted offenders in area

If you've ever wondered how many convicted sex offenders live near your child's school or day care, that information is a mouse-click away.

Sheriff Greg Champagne has contracted with Watch System, a Louisiana-based company that lists sex offenders on the Internet.

Residents can visit the site free at: [www.iCrime-watch.net/StCharles/OffenderBroker](http://www.iCrime-watch.net/StCharles/OffenderBroker).

The web site uses mapping technology, combined with a sex offender database, to display exactly where offenders reside.

"Of all the resources in our parish, nothing is as valuable as our children," Sheriff Champagne said.

"This service is intended to assist parents and those caring for your children."

iCrimeWatch is one of the country's most comprehensive databases, tracking over 70,000 sex offenders nationwide and growing daily.

Area schools and day care centers are also subscribed, courtesy of Sheriff Champagne, to the commercial web site's automated notification service.

iCrimeWatch sends e-mails to institutions if a registered sex offender moves within a mile of the monitored address.

At the end of the one-year subscription, schools and day care centers can decide whether to sign up for the paid service.



The SCSO relies on technology to help track offenders and aid victims.

## Special Investigations

### Division hustles to end drug trade in parish

Drug Hotline, watchful neighbors tip detectives to street pushers, meth labs

A simple phone call – an anonymous tip – can topple illegal drug trafficking. Just ask SCSO Special Investigations detectives.

In recent months, attentive neighbors have helped deputies close two methamphetamine labs and arrest several street dealers.

"Caller leads have resulted in a number of arrests," said Lt. Roddy Landry, who heads SID. "Our callers live in the community; they know who belongs and who doesn't. They see the traffic flow and can more easily identify strange goings on."

The SCSO's drug hotline, instituted in March, makes it possible for citizens to anonymously report illegal drug activity 24



Billboards on the east and west banks advertise the SCSO's drug hotline.

hours a day.

"We don't take caller's names or insist on their personal information," he said. "Our focus is on the tip; who's out there dealing and where."

Because today's drug dealers are more cautious, traditional undercover operations are less reliable. "It's getting harder to snare the big fish," Lt. Landry said. "We're having to redirect our focus to street corner

drug dealers."

Armed with citizens' tips and leads from deputies patrolling the community, SID's four investigators have been busy.

"Drug traffic in our parish has remained steady," Lt. Landry said. Lured by what they consider "easy money," street dealers and buyers are often willing to risk arrest. "It makes citizens' tips that much more crucial to stopping the drug flow."

Once dealers are behind bars, detectives press hard to develop offenders into informants. "Ultimately, we're looking for information on the suppliers," he said.

In addition to investigating narcotics cases, SID handles all vice complaints against alcohol beverage outlets and monitors nudity at local clubs. Also SID investigates complaints of prostitution.

SID also has a recognized technical support unit that conducts all electronics and surveillance work for the SCSO.

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# Departmental Storm Watch

## Isidore, Lili soak parish; season isn't over



Sheriff Greg Champagne answers questions from WWL-TV's Jim Henderson.



Ominous rain clouds threaten to overflow a make-shift levee near Des Allemands.



Trustees raced to build levees before the Lake Salvador's tides crested.



Flood waters closed streets and high winds from Hurricane Lili downed trees in the parish.

### □ Tropical storm leaves Airline impassable; hurricane sends more water into already flooded areas

After several close calls – hurricane trackers would have to go back to 1985 when Danny, Elena and Juan pounded our coastline – St. Charles Parish was not as lucky when Tropical Storm Isidore and Hurricane Lili came calling.

The two storms struck within eight days of each other, pelting the parish with heavy rain and causing tidal surges. Homes were flooded in St. Rose and lower Bayou Gauche, and parts of U.S. 61 and other low-lying streets were left impassable.

With colder temperatures predicted to soon reach lower Louisiana, meteorologists say the worst of 2002's hurricane season should soon be over. However, Sheriff Greg Champagne urges residents to continue to be aware when stormy weather approaches.

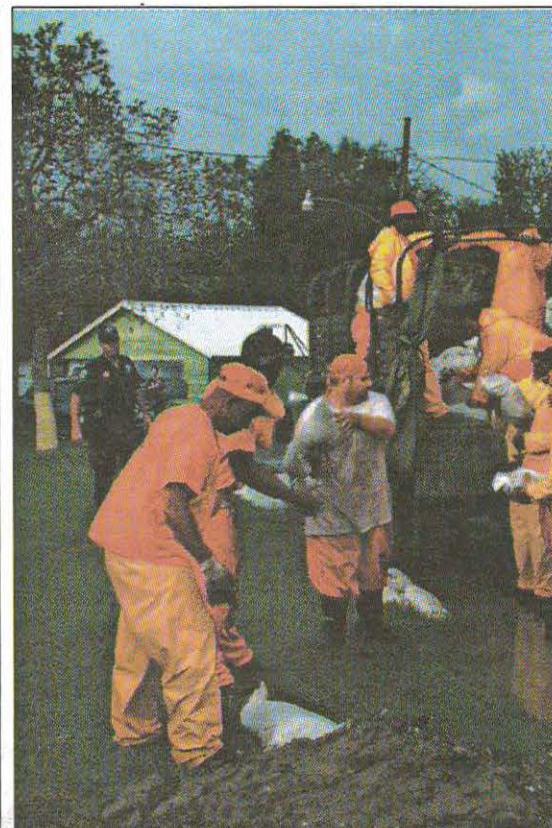
"Hurricane season doesn't officially end until Nov. 30," the Sheriff said, "so we're not letting our guard down yet. Isidore and Lili both seriously impacted our area. We were fortunate the damage wasn't more severe."

As Tropical Storm Isidore reached the Gulf of Mexico, Sheriff Champagne put St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office employees on storm alert. In all, deputies clocked over 2,700 hours working both storms.

In anticipation of a direct hit, trustees helped fill sandbags at the East and West Bank Bridge Parks and assisted with building make-shift levees along flood-prone streets.

Extra deputies patrolled the parish's roads throughout the storms. Sheriff Champagne also enacted a curfew to keep people off the streets and ensure public safety.

"Looting is always a concern during a major storm," Sheriff Champagne said. "While law-abiding citizens are taking nec-



Back-to-back storms – Tropical Storm Isidore and Hurricane Pontchartrain, flooding nearby streets. Trustees from the Center helped sandbag near residents' homes to keep the water out.

essary precautions, the criminal element is at work too. They seize upon that time when people's guard is down."

In fact, a couple was arrested in St. Charles Parish, ending a four-parish crime spree.

Deputies were also assigned to assist at J.B. Martin Middle School in Paradis and Harry Hurst Middle School in Destrehan. Nearly 550 residents sought shelter from Isidore and Lili.

In all, the two storms damaged about 70 homes in St. Charles Parish. The combination of rain and a 5.75-foot tidal surge caused havoc on the east bank.

The surge flowed onto main arteries, including U.S. 61 near the Kenner Parish

### State of Emergency

Information to know in the wake of the storm



#### FEMA Info

Residents who sustained wind or water damage during Tropical Storm Isidore or Hurricane Lili should contact FEMA to apply for assistance. The number is 1-800-621-FEMA.

Callers should be prepared to provide your Social Security number, describe your losses, provide financial information, and give directions to the damaged property.

#### Shelter Reminder

• In case of an evacuation... All residents are urged to heed evacuation orders. If you live in a flood-prone area, seek shelter with family or friends north of 10, or go to a certified American Red Cross public shelter.

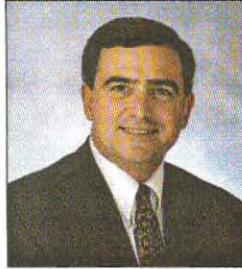
Those who choose to stay at last resort shelters, such as the middle schools, are responsible for providing their own food and bedding.

# Departmental Initiatives

## NSA taps Sheriff for two national com

Sheriff Greg Champagne has been appointed to the National Sheriff's Association's Congressional Affairs Committee and Legal Advisors Steering Committee.

The Congressional Affairs Committee, which consists of selected sheriffs from



Sheriff Champagne

throughout the United States, considers issues that affect law enforcement and the office of sheriff at the national level.

Recommendations are made to the NSA and presented to Congress. The committee also considers and proposes legislation that is important to law enforcement to the Congress.

"I am honored by these appointments," Sheriff Champagne said. "Now I'm able to get involved in law enforcement issues at a national level. The two committee appointments ensure agencies

such as ours have a voice in Washington, D.C., through the National Sheriff's Association."

The Legal Advisors Steering Committee considers legal issues that impact law enforcement agencies nationally.

Sheriff Champagne's legal background and former experience as a prosecutor in St. Charles Parish were pivotal considerations in the appointments. He served as a prosecutor for 14 years, before he was elected sheriff, a position he's held for

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## SCSO's Lewis, Self promoted to Captain

Two Sheriff's Office deputies, Raquel Lewis and Troy Self, have been promoted to the rank of Captain.

Capt. Lewis, who is assistant warden, and Capt. Self, deputy warden, are both assigned to the Nelson Coleman St. Charles Parish Correctional Center.

Capt. Lewis, a 19-year veteran of the SCSO, administers state and federal programs affiliated with the correctional facility. She performed the same role in the parish's former jail in Hahnville.

A graduate of Inter American University in Puerto Rico, she resides in Luling.

Capt. Self, a 17-year veteran of the

SCSO, oversees employee training, developing and maintaining policies and procedures, inmate care control, security procedures, and supplies management.

A 1977 graduate of Destrehan High School, Capt. Self completed the 83rd BTA LSU Police Academy. He is a certified P.O.S.T./A.C.A. corrections instructor and is



Capt. Lewis



Capt. Self

certified in the use of restraints, force and chemical weapons.

Capt. Self resides in Luling with his wife Barbara and their two children.

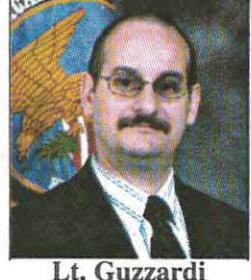
The transition to a 590-bed correctional center has been a significant undertaking," said Major Roland Ladreyt, warden of the facility. "Both of these officers have risen to

the task and are well deserving of the appointment."

## Guzzardi completes FBI National Academy

Lt. David Guzzardi, who heads the SCSO's Crime Scene Division, was among 244 law enforcement officers to graduate from the FBI National Academy program.

The 209th Session, which was held in Quantico, Va., was comprised of men and women from the 50



Lt. Guzzardi

states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, 21 international countries, and six military and three federal civilian organizations.

Known for its academic excellence, the program offers 10 weeks of advanced investigative, management and fitness training for selected officials. FBI Academy instructors, special agents, and other staff members holding advanced degrees provide training.

Since 1972, academy students have

earned undergraduate and graduate credits from the University of Virginia because many of the National Academy's courses are accredited by the university.

Lt. Guzzardi has been in law enforcement for more than 25 years. Prior to joining the SCSO, he served with the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office.

Lt. Guzzardi resides in St. Rose with his wife Tammy and four children.

## Capt. Yoes to head LA FOP

Capt. Patrick Yoes, commander of the Special Services Dept., has been elected president of the Fraternal Order of Police, Louisiana State Lodge.



Capt. Yoes

come from the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office," said Sheriff Greg Champagne. "Pat has worked very hard to earn this position and I know he will do a great job representing our deputies at the state level. I will continue to support him in this endeavor."

Capt. Yoes has served on the State FOP's executive board for 10 years. He was named National FOP Member of the Year in 2000. He now serves as the National

## ASLET appointment

Lt. Rocco Dominic, of the SCSO's Training Dept., was recently appointed Louisiana's representative on the American Society for Law Enforcement Training (A.S.L.E.T.) executive board.

A national organization, A.S.L.E.T. provides law enforcement training across the U.S.

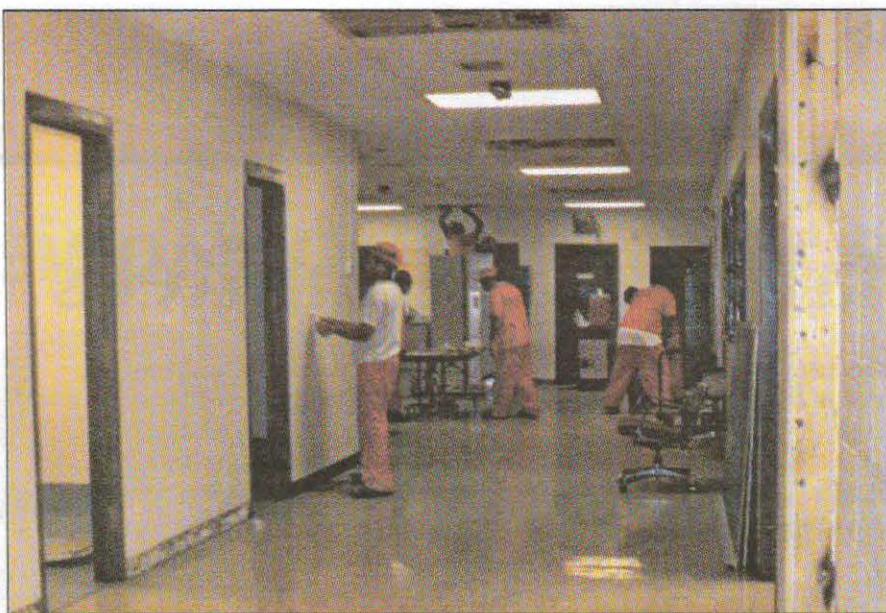
During his term, which expires Oct. 31, 2003, Lt. Dominic is responsible for coordinating A.S.L.E.T. training statewide, promoting membership in the organization, and developing local training.

Lt. Dominic has headed the SCSO's Training Dent. for



Lt. Dominic

## Jail renovations under way



Sheriff Greg Champagne announced the old jail space, located on the third floor of the Parish Courthouse, is being converted to much-needed office space. The former 119-bed jail was considered to house juveniles, however, the facility failed the state's strict guidelines for youth offenders. "This is our next best option," the Sheriff said. Work is currently under way to renovate the space to house the SCSO's Crime Scene Division. In addition, cells are being converted to storage centers, which will provide crucial over-flow storage space for the Sheriff's Office's various departments and the parish Clerk of Court. "Throughout our parish government, space is a premium," the Sheriff said. "We just saw this as a way to serve the community and make maximum use of the old jail."

## Buckle Up St. Charles

Sheriff Greg Champagne is warning drivers in St. Charles Parish to buckle up.

The SCSO has joined agencies statewide in the NO EXCUSES campaign enforcing Louisiana's seatbelt law. State law requires all front seat occupants and children under 13 to be restrained in an appropriate restraint system.

"Buckling your seatbelt is the quickest way to improve safety, save yourself and the state money, and prevent needless injury and death," Sheriff Champagne said.



Sheriff Greg Champagne sent 52 St. Charles Parish boys to Operation First Class Sheriff Camp in Kiln, Miss., July 5-12. In addition to honing their leadership skills, the campers enjoyed swimming, boating, rifle and archery shooting, the boys learn basic camping skills including first aid. The camp is hosted by the Boy Scouts of America and is sponsored by the region's sheriffs. This marks the sixth year that the SCSO has participated.



## Ministers gather for 2002 Prayer Luncheon

Ministers from across St. Charles Parish joined Sheriff Greg Champagne at a Prayer Luncheon and tour of the Nelson Coleman Correctional Center on June 13. The annual gathering serves as a forum for the Sheriff to update clergy members on efforts to deter crime and to provide information on the SCSO's many community services. In all, 14 clergymen attended the event.



## Meth lab busts

### □ Protect your family, home; recognize the signs of a lab

SCSO raids in Norco and Ama this past June uncovered methamphetamine (meth) labs operating. In both cases, most neighbors had no idea the illegal drug was being manufactured in their own backyard.

"Crystal meth is called 'the poor man's cocaine,'" Sheriff Greg Champagne said. Like cocaine, the white, odorless powdered stimulant is highly addictive.

Because the illegal drug is so volatile and highly flammable in the "cooking" stage, it is extremely dangerous. The combination of certain products produces hydrogen chloride gas, which can cause death or serious injury not only to the individuals making the methamphetamine, but to others who may be living in an adjoining house or apartment.

"We need citizens living in the area to be watchful of the activities in your community," the Sheriff said. "Meth labs pose a serious threat to safety and well-being of your property, your family, and our parish. It's important residents help