

St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office



Phase 1, #7

Update

2003 Report

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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.



SHERIFF GREG CHAMPAGNE

Welcome to the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office's seventh issue of *Update*. In it 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.

This issue explores advances we've made in policing initiatives, community partnerships and enforcement trends — all of which are aimed at keeping St. Charles Parish residents safe and maintaining our unique quality of life.

1.

Champagne named "Sheriff of the Year"

State Crime Victims' Coalition selects SCSO Sheriff for top honor

The Louisiana Crime Victims' Coalition has named Sheriff Greg Champagne "Sheriff of the Year."

The coalition is comprised of Common Sense Against Crime (CSAC), CRIMEFIGHTERS and Louisiana Women Against Crime (LWAC). Collectively, it is the largest victims' rights organization in Louisiana, representing approximately 11,500 members statewide.

Sheriff Champagne was selected from among the state's 65 sheriffs for his work on behalf of crime victims.

"I've dedicated my entire life's work to helping those in my community that have been impacted by

crime," Sheriff Champagne said. "It's an honor to have this esteemed coalition select me for this award."

Since taking office in July 1996, Sheriff Champagne has enhanced deputy training, opened a 600-bed correctional center to ensure criminals remain locked away, and implemented a number of programs designed to assist victims of crime.

"We strive daily to identify victims' needs and to develop programs aimed at better serving the St. Charles Parish community," the Sheriff said. "It is my pledge to continue to work to protect victims of crime."

Sheriff Greg Champagne is presented the "Sheriff of the Year" award by Irvin Magri Jr., founder of CRIMEFIGHTERS, a member organization of Common Sense Against Crime, and chairman of the Louisiana Pardon Board.



St. Charles crime rate reaches 6-year low in 2002

Overall numbers vary little at end of first quarter of 2003; SCSO on track for another record year

St. Charles Parish's overall crime rate fell 8% in 2002, marking the parish's lowest rate in six years. The totals at the end of the first quarter of 2003 are just as promising. According to the latest figures, the Sheriff's Office reported two fewer crimes over the previous quarter, accounting for a .003% drop in crime.

The Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) track seven Index Crimes, which are compiled for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The numbers are used to monitor the crime level nationwide. The seven categories are murder, assault, rape, robbery, burglary, theft and auto theft.

"St. Charles Parish experienced a record-low year in terms of crime in 2002, and these numbers indicate we're on track for another good year," Sheriff Champagne said.

Overall, 555 crimes were committed in the

parish during the first quarter of 2003, down from the 557 during the last quarter of 2002. However, compared to the first quarter of 2002, crime rose slightly, specifically among burglaries, thefts and auto thefts.

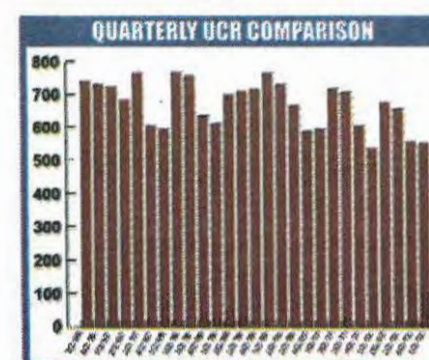
"We're encouraged that crimes against persons — murders, rapes and assaults — were down the first quarter of this year compared to this time last year. We don't have the high violent crime rate some of our neighboring parishes struggle with. Our nemesis continues to be property crimes."

The Sheriff repeated his plea with residents to keep valuables out of the sight of would-be thieves and to lock vehicles and homes.

"Property crimes are, most times, preventable," Sheriff Champagne said. "The brief moment it takes you to secure your belongings can keep you from becoming a target."

OVERALL UCR FIGURES BY CATEGORY						
OFFENSE	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Murder	4	2	2	4	2	3
Rape	9	22	13	11	17	13
Robbery	56	40	51	33	47	26
Assault	813	908	1,010	1,046	964	866
Burglary	482	427	427	475	452	395
Theft	1,232	1,194	1,121	1,046	1,014	1,017
Auto Theft	170	160	113	130	125	107
TOTAL	2,766	2,783	2,737	2,745	2,621	2,427

2003 UCR	
OFFENSE	1st Q
Murder	1
Rape	1
Robbery	8
Assault	209
Burglary	80
Theft	235
Auto Theft	21
TOTAL	555



Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reports, May 1996 – March 2003

Departmental Initiatives



Sheriff Greg Champagne and
Det. Sgt. Rodney Madere

Det. Sgt. Madere Deputy of the Year

Officer disarmed would-be robber

Det. Sgt. Rodney Madere, of the Criminal Investigations Bureau, has been named the SCSO's 2002 Deputy of the Year.

A 12-year veteran of the department, Det. Sgt. Madere is credited with arresting a burglar at a local jewelry store two weeks before Christmas 2002.

After robbing a Boutte jewelry/antique store at gunpoint, the robber deliberated his escape. He was unaware that Det. Sgt. Madere had arrived on the scene and had alerted fellow officers to remain out of view to avoid a hostage situation.

As the robber exited the store, Det. Sgt. Madere drew his weapon and ordered the subject to the ground. A struggle ensued, during which the detective broke a bone in his hand.

The robber was disarmed. "At great personal risk, Det. Sgt. Madere initiated this arrest while still protecting the safety of the victims and innocent bystanders," Sheriff Greg Champagne said. "He exemplified courage and skill in his actions."

SCSO striving to keep crime at bay

Agency continuously seeks ways to improve services; deliver better law enforcement protection

As we celebrate our nation's birth date this July, our focus remains on the threats America faces abroad and at home.

Our soldiers continue to face opposition in Iraq, and tensions in surrounding areas capture news headlines daily. We salute their courage and hope for their safe return.

Let us not forget the foot soldiers at home in our continuing war against crime. Law enforcement officers throughout our country are charged with the duty of protecting lives and property. These men and women face many unknown dangers in the course of their day.

The St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office has taken great strides in ensuring our deputies are up to the challenge. I take pride in knowing our deputies are some of the best-trained and best-equipped officers the profession has to offer.

Likewise, our agency continues to seek ways to improve the quality of services we deliver to the citizens of this great parish.

Whether it's keeping a watchful eye on our parish's young people or ensuring the well being of our senior citizens, the SCSO is focused on serving you.

Our efforts are paying off, too.

St. Charles Parish's crime rate reached a 6-year low in 2002. The first quarter of 2003 marked the second lowest rate, putting us on line for another banner year.

As you'll see in this issue, we've accomplished a great deal over the past seven years. We've opened a 600-bed correctional center, expanded our crime fight to include a hotline with monetary rewards for tips leading to convictions, and have instituted several programs targeting problem areas.



During in-service training, a deputy conducts a traffic stop scenario. SCSO deputies undergo 40 hours of training annually, more than any surrounding law enforcement agency.

As always, I welcome your comments and ideas as, together, we strive to keep St. Charles Parish a safe place to live.

Greg Champagne

SCSO's Candies awarded CLET designation

First in Louisiana to earn the trainer honor

The Professional Certification Board of the American Society recently awarded Lt. Mark Candies the designation of Certified Law Enforcement Trainer (CLET) for Law Enforcement Training.

As such, Lt. Candies became the first law enforcement officer in Louisiana to be awarded the

designation and only one of 30 officers in the U.S. to be recognized in 2002.

The CLET credential provides an objective measure for an individual's knowledge and competency in law enforcement training and development. Throughout the world, it is the law enforcement training profession's highest recognition.

To earn this designation, Lt. Candies had to comply with eli-

gibility requirements, including demonstrating he had met certain educational, community involvement and work experience qualifications. In addition, he had to pass a written examination demonstrating his knowledge, skills, and abilities in the area of professional training and development.

Lt. Candies, a 16-year veteran of the SCSO, serves as a watch commander in the Patrol Dept.,

with additional duties as an instructor in the agency's field training and in-service programs and POST academy.



Lt. Candies

SCSO POST Academy



Members of the SCSO 2003-01 P.O.S.T. Academy class are pictured with Sheriff Greg Champagne.

Yoes elected to Natl. FOP

Capt. Patrick Yoes, commander of the SCSO's Special Services Division, was elected to the National Fraternal Order of Police's Executive Board in March.

Yoes, who serves as president of the Louisiana FOP State Lodge, was elected National Sgt.-at-Arms. The term will end at the 56th Biennial Conference, which will be held in Providence, R.I., this August, at which time he will seek re-election.

The Fraternal Order of Police is the largest law enforcement labor organization in the United States, with more than 305,000 members, 4,400 of whom belong to the LA FOP.



Capt. Yoes

Departmental Partnerships

TRIAD asks seniors, 'Are You OK?'

■ Free service contacts elderly daily via telephone; help alerted if no one answers the call

For senior citizens and shut-ins with special needs, having someone to check their well-being daily can truly be a lifesaver.

The SCSO's and TRIAD's newest program, "Are You OK?," a telephone reassurance system, provides that connection free.

"The program is designed to provide senior citizens and those home bound with a sense of security and caring, knowing a daily call will be made to confirm they're well," Sheriff Greg Champagne said.

"Are You OK?" features a computerized telephone system programmed to call subscribers daily at the same time each day. Subscribers choose the time of the call.

All calls emanate from the parish's 911 Communications Center in Hahnville.

If the subscriber is OK, he or she simply hangs up the phone after hearing a pre-recorded message from Sheriff Champagne.

If the subscriber doesn't answer or if the telephone line is busy, two more calls are made before an "alert" is issued.

In response to a reported alert, a SCSO deputy will be dispatched to the subscriber's home – or will contact a neighbor that has previously agreed to assist in the event of an emergency – to check on the subscriber's welfare.

"This phone contact system creates a lifeline between the Sheriff's Office and those who most need it," Sheriff Champagne said. "It's one more way we can ensure the safety of our most vulnerable sector of our com-



TRIAD Coordinator Lori Duplessis programs the SCSO's telephone reassurance system. The program, titled "Are You OK?," is a free service available to St. Charles Parish's senior citizens and shut-ins.

munity."

Subscribers of the program will be required to sign a consent form authorizing entrance to the residence by SCSO personnel or a pre-designated key holder in the event the senior or home bound needs emergency medical care or to inspect the premises in an attempt to locate the subscriber.

Also, subscribers are required to sign a waiver of liability before the cost-free service is instituted.

For more information on the Telephone Reassurance System, contact Lori Duplessis at (985) 783-1355.

The TRIAD program – Seniors and Lawmen Working Together – is designed to

promote crime prevention and to help elderly victims of crime through education and mutual awareness. It serves as a vehicle to hear seniors' concerns, share helpful information, and directly team them with the services they need.

The program teams the SCSO, the parish's Council on Aging, Home Health agencies and concerned citizens.

Under the watchful eye of a S.A.L.T. (Seniors and Lawmen Together) committee, TRIAD has developed a number of programs for senior citizens, including Adopt-a-Senior, the File of Life, Operation Quick Response and the 911 Crimewatch Security Light program.

Coleman Center certified

■ State Dept. of Corrections awards full certification

The Nelson Coleman St. Charles Parish Correctional Center earned full certification from the Louisiana Dept. of Corrections near the close of 2002.

According to state DOC Secretary Richard Stalder, the facility meets or exceeds all DOC standards.

"When we set out to build the Correctional Center," said Sheriff Greg Champagne, "the committee sought to design a state-of-the-art facility that would meet the parish's long-term needs. The Nelson Coleman center is doing just that."

The 600-bed correctional center opened on June 15, 2001. It has many unique features, including video arraignments and visitations. Through an innovative agreement with the state DOC, the SCSO's \$13.4 million facility was built without raising any new taxes.

"Having a place to detain those who choose to break the law is proving to be an excellent deterrent," Sheriff Champagne said.



The Nelson Coleman St. Charles Parish Correctional Center is located along LA 3141 in Killona.

CRIMESTOPPERS helping SCSO solve crimes

■ Program rewards tipsters up to \$1,000; promises anonymity

Sheriff Greg Champagne is turning up the heat on criminal activity even more. A partnership with the Crimestoppers organization offers rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and indictment of offenders.

"We have seen the crime rate in St. Charles Parish fall consistently over the past six years," the Sheriff said. "Even though there was an 8% drop between 2001 and 2003, producing a six-year low in our total crime numbers, I believe there is still room

CRIMESTOPPERS
822-1111
1-877-903-STOP

for improvement, especially in the area of property crime."

With the new effort, Sheriff Champagne said he hopes to target auto break-ins and thefts. "We're asking residents to help with this constant battle against crime," he said. "Having a reward system in place serves as one more tool in our arsenal."

Crimestoppers generates funding via a \$2 court assessment on each case, as authorized by state legislation. Currently, about 50 law enforcement agencies in

Louisiana utilize the program.

The Sheriff's Office is actively seeking tipsters to report on criminal activity via the Crimestoppers toll-free hotline. Citizens can call in thefts, robberies or other crimes, and if the information leads to an arrest and indictment, the caller can be eligible for a cash reward.

Callers can anonymously provide information to Crimestoppers at (504) 822-1111 or, toll-free, at 1-877-903-STOP.

You do not have to give your name. Callers will be given a numerical code, and after the

arrest and prosecution of the crime is verified by the SCSO, the reporting individual can then receive the reward.

"I am confident this new tool will assist us in protecting our citizens from criminal activity and will bring more perpetrators to justice," Sheriff Champagne said.

For additional information on the Crimestoppers program, call Executive Director Darlene Cusanza at (504) 837-8477, or contact the Sheriff's Office at (985) 783-6237.

Crimestoppers serves Orleans and the surrounding seven River Parishes, including St. Charles, St. James and St. John the Baptist parishes.



Departmental Trends

Who's being ticketed: Parish's 14-year citation trend

Year	Title 47	Title 32	Speeding	Child Restraint	Seat Belts	Traffic Lights	Stop Signs	Reckless Operation	Hit & Run	DWI	Total Tickets
2002	329	11,420	7,348	50	1,183	140	234	67	42	176	12,034
2001	394	11,883	8,414	59	463	144	212	83	28	213	12,601
2000	214	6,590	3,987	62	577	190	204	79	21	206	7,110
1999	262	8,783	5,821	58	563	182	258	44	14	—	9,103
1998	438	9,404	5,905	231	34	277	407	54	19	—	9,915
1997	499	7,158	3,756	115	54	272	320	50	23	—	7,730
1996	305	3,607	1,542	331	16	88	204	19	13	—	3,944
1995	263	3,538	1,985	69	16	60	111	31	22	—	3,854
1994	321	4,290	2,530	21	21	47	131	29	17	—	4,657
1993	515	5,306	2,550	6	18	82	198	32	11	—	5,864
1992	280	3,591	2,024	4	8	108	160	11	16	—	3,898
1991	146	1,561	631	1	3	77	86	16	7	—	1,730
1990	78	1,924	922	0	3	90	132	26	11	—	2,039
1989	104	1,929	952	0	0	84	123	14	10	—	2,057
Totals	3,149	49,002	27,293	830	657	1,339	2,065	311	150	595	86,542



Equipment Upgrade

The SCSO has upgraded its Patrol and Marine fleet since July 1996, which has enhanced patrol capabilities on the parish roads and waterways. Among the major equipment additions are:

- "Deuce-and-a-Half" – two (for use during hurricanes and floods)
- Radar Smart Trailer – two
- Chevy Bus – two buses (donated by the Charles Parish School Board, and out to transport prisoners)
- Yamaha Grizzly four-wheeler – two
- Harley Road King – seven
- Scully workboat and Wellcraft Coaster
- Hankos Airboat

Criminal Investigations Bureau

Between January 1998 and March 2003, the Criminal Investigations Bureau handled 10,781 cases; of these, 7,696 were closed by either arrest, restitution or exceptional means. Over \$3.8 million in property was recovered.

Criminal Investigations

Year	Cases Open	Cases Closed	Property Recovered
2003*	331	281	\$199,632
2002	759	698	\$419,589
2001	904	805	\$693,781
2000	868	910	\$768,271
1999	916	1,050	\$695,414
1998	1,125	1,391	\$827,018
Totals	4,903	5,135	\$3,603,705

* 2003 – 1st quarter only (January, February, March)

Juvenile Investigations

Year	Cases Open	Cases Closed	Property Recovered
2003*	224	110	\$510
2002	1,217	491	\$34,026
2001	857	370	\$31,993
2000	1,095	522	\$8,620
1999	1,008	591	\$84,747
1998	1,477	477	\$69,449
Totals	5,878	2,561	\$229,345

Helping local youths

The SCSO's Juvenile Investigations Division provides services aimed at helping troubled youths back on track. Below are the referrals to the Juvenile Offender Mentoring Program (JOMP), Families in Need of Services (FINS), and Probation programs. JOMP is an intense pre-adjudication, court-mandated program, while the Probation program monitors youths after they've been sentenced. The FINS program provides a variety of services to families.

JOMP – 286 youths

Between January 1996 and May 2003

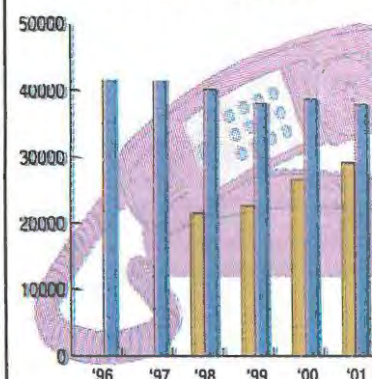
FINS – 331 youths

Between 1997 and May 2003

Probation – 631 youths

Since the program's inception in 1999

'911' calls increase



Calls to the parish's 911 Communication Center (shown in gold) have risen steadily since 1998. In the meantime, SCSO calls (blue) are down slightly due in large part to the new CAD system properly tagging calls for the same incident and to better trained 911 operators directing non-police queries to the proper agency. The SCSO operators dispatch calls to deputies, local EMS and volunteer fire departments.

SID drug arrests a boon for the SCSO

Special Investigations has rid the parish of more than \$102,920 (street value) in drugs since 1999. A provision of the Controlled Dangerous Substances Property Forfeiture Act allows agencies to seize cash, property and vehicles in drug-related cases.

4.

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS SEIZURES

Year	Money	Property	Vehicles
2003*	\$3,258	—	\$3,258
2002	\$16,219	—	\$5,936
2001	\$17,421	\$4,059	\$5,294
2000	\$6,719	—	\$6,500
1999	\$19,347	\$2,950	\$8,483
1998	\$31,395	\$57,390	\$7,907
1997	\$48,654	\$85,781	\$9,959
1996	\$8,931	\$1,619	—
Totals	\$151,944	\$151,799	\$47,377

* 2003 – Totals through May 31, 2003

SCSO deputies heading back to school

Protecting the residents and businesses of St. Charles Parish is priority #1 for the SCSO. Priority #2 is building a well-trained, educated law enforcement agency.

"Since I was first elected Sheriff, I've said I want to have the best educated department around," Sheriff Greg Champagne said. "I'm very proud of the hours my staff has dedicated to education, whether it's attending specialized training courses or college classes."

SCSO deputies have the opportunity to

pursue a degree in bachelor's degree in government or an associate's degree in criminal justice through a cooperative agreement with Nicholls State University. To date, 60 SCSO deputies have enrolled in classes, and five have earned associate's degrees in criminal justice.

The SCSO currently has 55 degreed deputies on staff: 28 hold associate's degrees; 26 hold a bachelor's degree; one holds a master's degree; and Sheriff Champagne has earned a juris doctorate.



Training Dept.: Repetition is key

Proper training in the latest law enforcement techniques is critical. SCSO deputies have completed over 490 hours of in-service since July 1996.

In addition, the Training Dept. has conducted 568 hours of courses to outside agencies annually. These range from bank safety to intoxilyzer testing.

Since July 1996, the agency has P.O.S.T.-certified 206 deputies.

Last year, the SCSO held its first P.O.S.T. Academy. Since then, 30 SCSO deputies have graduated from the academy, saving the department \$18,000 (the \$600 per deputy cost of attending an outside academy).

Reparations aid victims

Several St. Charles Parish victims of crime have received financial relief through the state's Crime Victims Reparations Act. The measure provides compensation for economic losses to victims of crimes involving personal injury and to the victims' dependents in cases of death. It also permits recovery for economic losses incurred as a result of a good faith effort to prevent a crime. The maximum allowed for any one claim is \$10,000. The monies are composed primarily of fines levied on criminal court cases.

Local Victims Reparations Awards				
Year	Claims	OK'ed	Denied	Awards
2002	17	15	2	\$29,337.68
2001	25	21	4	\$47,423.21
2000	9	8	1	\$16,301.86
1999	5	5	—	\$12,537.52
Total	56	49	7	\$105,600.27

Trustees contribute to parish

The Nelson Coleman St. Charles Parish Correctional Center trustees have contributed hours of service to the parish, painting schools and government buildings, helping with renovations to the St. Rose Community Center and picking up trash around the parish. Between January 2002 and May 2003, over 16,537 bags of trash were collected.



DARE message reaches masses



The SCSO's DARE officers have reached 32,283 St. Charles Parish elementary and middle school students since the 1996-1997 school year. The program provides youngsters with the necessary skills to avoid drug abuse and violence. During the 2003-04 school year, the program will be expanded to include refresher courses for parish ninth graders. At left, Sheriff Greg Champagne addresses Sacred Heart School DARE graduates.

Funding war on crime

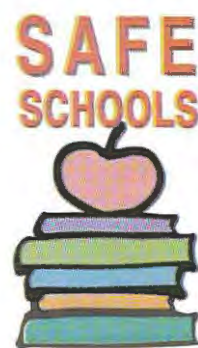
GRANTS

■ Federal and state grant monies have made it possible for the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office to put new deputies on the street, develop new programs, and outfit our officers with needed equipment. Listed are the most substantial awards.

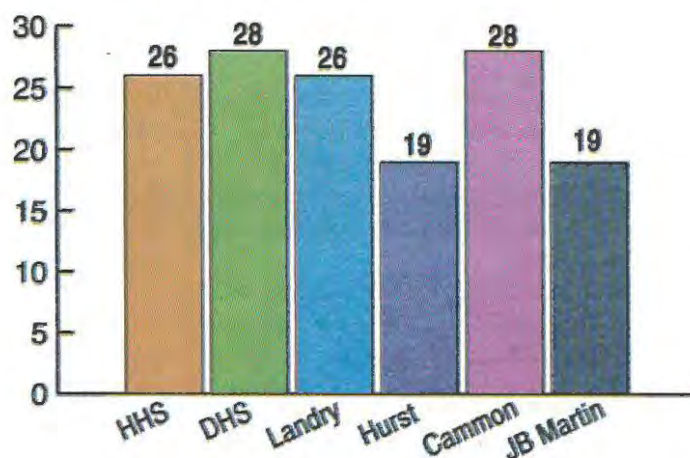
COPS More '98, \$237,600 – funded crime analysis technology, new AS400, NCIC state interface
 Universal Hiring, \$218,580 – four deputies hired for COPS program; 3-year grant
 Universal Hiring, \$208,420 – four deputies hired for COPS program; 3-year grant
 COPS More '96, \$190,890 – purchased 70 laptop computers, trained and redeployed 11.5 officers; 2-year grant
 Law Enforcement Block Grant 1996, \$134,098 – two deputies hired for SRO Program; 2-year grant
 COPS Fast, \$115,398 – two deputies hired and assigned to COPS Unit; 3-year grant
 Law Enforcement Block 1998, \$114,614 – SRO and equipment upgrades; 2-year grant
 Law Enforcement Block 1999, \$111,542 – mobile information systems, NCIC; 2-year grant
 Law Enforcement Block 1997, \$107,723 – technology upgrades; 1-year grant
 Stop Abusive Violent Episodes, \$105,083 – domestic violence training/prevention; four 1-year grants
 Law Enforcement Block 2001, \$101,422 – continued technology upgrades; 2-year grant
 Law Enforcement Block 2000, \$95,053 – mobile data radio; 2-year grant
 FEMA, December 2003, \$66,968 – Tropical Storm Isidore and Hurricane Lili protection
 DARE '97-98, \$65,916 – funds DARE instruction to grade school students; 1-year grant
 DARE '99-00, \$59,153 – funds DARE instruction to grade school students; 1-year grant
 DARE '00-01, \$58,836 – funds DARE instruction to grade school students; 1-year grant
 DARE '96-97, \$58,794 – funds DARE instruction to grade school students; 1-year grant
 DARE '98-99, \$57,248 – funds DARE instruction to grade school students; 1-year grant
 Combination Investigation Grants, \$55,208 – investigative work; 1-year each
 Juvenile Accountability Grant, \$44,438 – juvenile probation officer salary, benefits
 DARE '01-02, \$43,342 – funds DARE instruction to grade school students; 1-year grant
 SAVE '99, \$39,000 – funds domestic violence prevention and education program; 1-year grant
 Juvenile Accountability Grant, \$33,672 – juvenile probation officer salary, benefits
 Juvenile Accountability Grant, \$32,829 – juvenile probation officer salary, benefits
 Juvenile Accountability Grant, \$32,818 – juvenile probation officer salary, benefits
 STEP '98, \$30,000 – funds traffic enforcement; 1-year grant
 DARE '02-03, \$25,652 – funds DARE instruction to grade school students; 1-year grant
 JOMP '99, \$18,631 – intensive juvenile supervision program; 1-year grant

❖ **Total Grant Dollars: \$16,626,203** ❖

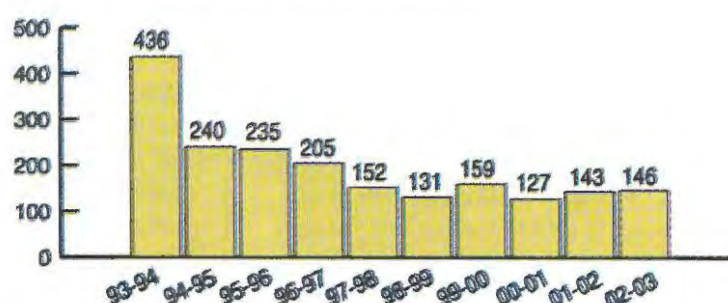
Fighting on the decline: Incidents remain relatively low



2002-2003 Safe School Incidents



10-Year Safe Schools Overview



During the 1993-94 school year, the Sheriff's Office teamed with the St. Charles School System, District Attorney and the 29th Judicial District Judges to create the Safe Schools Program. The Resource Officer program serves as a model for other school systems across the country. Statistically, fighting in the parish's middle and high schools has remained low. At left is a 10-year overview of the program, as well as a breakdown of incidents during the 2002-03 school year.

5.

Departmental Profile

Civil Dept. tracking citizens' dollars and cents

SCSO's Civil Dept.:

Tax Collection

Between 1996 and 2001, over \$409 million was collected parishwide; over \$65 million was collected for the law enforcement district

Tax Collections		
Year	Parishwide	Law Enf. Dist.
1996	\$63,008,792	\$10,154,630
1997	\$64,245,253	\$10,415,791
1998	\$66,199,732	\$11,001,397
1999	\$69,890,463	\$11,156,641
2000	\$70,260,556	\$11,136,920
2001	\$76,192,271	\$11,540,979

Bonds & Fines

24-hour info line: 985-783-6437

Bonds & Fines Annual Total Collections

July '96 thru June '97	\$2,710,970
July '97 thru June '98	\$2,712,409
July '98 thru June '99	\$2,574,640
July '99 thru June '00	\$2,774,333
July '01 thru June '01	\$2,954,443
July '02 thru May '03	\$2,442,662

Civil Process

Since June 1996, held 91 sheriff's sales, generating over \$2.8 million
Monthly serve 400-500 criminal and 100-150 civil subpoenas

Annual Occupational Licenses		
Year	Licenses	Total
1996	2,184	\$752,767.97
1997	2,071	\$745,844.49
1998	2,342	\$950,702.12
1999	2,257	\$852,274.32
2000	2,314	\$846,938.98
2001	2,292	\$887,263.14

Finance

Revenue in Fiscal Year 2000-01

- Ad Valorem Tax - 73%
- Intergovernmental - 13%
- Fees, Charges, Commissions - 11%
- Interest Income - 3%
- Other Sources - less than 1%
- Miscellaneous - less than 1%



Expenditures in Fiscal Year 2000-01

- Personal Service & Benefits - 64%
- Contracted Service (insurance) - 9%
- Operation & Maintenance - 8%
- Contracted Service (other) - 5%
- Auto Fuel & Maintenance - 4%
- Equipment (vehicles, radios) - 3%
- Equipment (office, computers) - 1%
- Deputy Uniforms & Supplies - 1%
- Deputy Training - 1%



No one likes paying taxes or fines, but the SCSO's Civil Dept. strives to go 'above and beyond'

The "men and women in blue" may be the easiest recognizable members of the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office, but it's generally the Civil Dept.'s staff that citizens most frequently call upon for help.

The department coordinates and manages the SCSO's finances and payroll, sheriff's sales, tax collections and tax sales, and bonds and fines collection. In addition, the staff issues occupational licenses and serves civil and criminal subpoenas, evictions and seizures.

The 22 staff members fall under the command of Civil Chief Deputy/Tax Collector Meriel Loupe.

"Our mission is to provide prompt, courteous, and accurate services to the public and to assure that public dollars are spent wisely," Loupe said. "We also strive to provide assistance to our deputies in employment-related matters."

The Civil Dept.'s branches are Finance, which includes Bonds & Fines, Civil Process and Tax Collection.

Finance's four-person staff maintains and controls the SCSO's general accounting fund, including budgeting and investments, accounts payable, accounts receivable, fixed assets and payroll.

In addition, Finance staffers handle other related functions such as employee time and attendance records, employee benefits, insurance policies, and the sale of assets at public auction.

Bonds & Fines is housed at 15408 River Rd., across from the Parish Courthouse in Hahnville. For citizens' convenience, a voice recording of all traffic fines is accessible 24 hours a day, and fines can be paid in person or by mail.

Bonds & Fines's eight staffers collect all traffic and criminal fines. Once the Courts deem the bonds/fines satisfied, the monies are dispersed twice monthly to the various parish and state agencies.

Civil Process' five-person staff handles all seizures of foreclosed property that are ordered by the courts by virtue of writs of seizure or sale, garnishments, attachments, fieri facias, sequestration and possession.

Movable and immovable property is seized and, after time delays and advertisements are published in the local legal journal, is sold at public auction.

Auctions are held at the front door of the Parish Courthouse on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Items are sold to the highest bidder and payment is due in full at the time of the sale.



The SCSO's Civil Dept. is comprised of four branches: Finance, Bonds & Fines, Tax Collection and Civil Process (Sheriff's seizures and sales). The department's 22 employees fall under the command of Civil Chief Deputy/Tax Collector Meriel Loupe. Pictured above are the Finance, Tax Collection and Civil Process staff.

The branch also processes wage garnishments and handles all civil and criminal subpoenas. Evictions are also conducted on property that has been seized and sold if the occupant fails to vacate as directed.

The five-person Tax Collection staff prepares and sends notices from the annual tax rolls for collection on property within the parish. This division also issues tax certificates verifying property tax payments.

Only the state's Tax Commission can order changes to the parish's tax roll, Loupe said. To ensure the correctness of the tax roll, it is balanced and audited annually.

Monies received from tax collections are balanced, deposited, and disbursements are made monthly to St. Charles Parish's various taxing bodies.

The Tax Collection division researches taxes by request.

Mortgage companies remit requests for tax bills; the owner's name, property identification number and legal description of the property must be provided, Loupe said.

Upon receipt of the tax roll, the records are researched and copies of the homeowner's tax bills are forwarded for payment.



The Bonds & Fines staff, pictured, operate from 15408 River Rd., which is located directly across from the Parish Courthouse in Hahnville.

Tax sales are held annually. All advertisements are first listed in the parish's legal journal. Purchasers must attend tax sales and payment by cash or check is required at the time of purchase.

Property owners have three years to redeem their property from the date of the tax sale.

The Civil Dept.'s Tax Collection division also issues occupational licenses, alcohol beverage licenses, taxicab and bingo permits, and the like. Certain requirements must be met before licenses can be issued.

"Our dedicated staff considers it an honor to be public servants," Loupe said. "We are constantly striving to upgrade our technology and the services we provide."

Departmental Technology

SCSO laptops impacting enforcement ability

■ Vital information just a click away for Patrol deputies patrolling the parish's streets

It's late at night. Deputies stop a subject along a dark stretch of highway. With lights flashing, they wait for dispatchers to "run" the person's license plate. Vehicle owner information, outstanding warrants, prior offenses: Deputies want to know as much as they can about the subject inside before approaching the vehicle.

But this is a busy night. Radio traffic is heavy; 911 dispatchers are rapidly handling the flurry of requests and incoming calls.

In the meantime, the deputy on the side of the road waits. Until now...

The St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office has installed laptop computers in 80 patrol units, each of which is connected to the department's DATATAC 800-mhz data radio system. In a fraction of the previous time, deputies will receive responses to queries via the laptops.

Within 12-15 seconds, the information is transmitted wirelessly through DATATAC to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), the state Dept. of Motor Vehicles, the Law Enforcement Messaging Switch (LEMS), and the SCSO's crime database. Corresponding information is then electronically relayed back to the deputy's laptop.

The information is available to all deputies tied into the system, thus eliminating any confusion about the relay. At a glance, any officer linked to the radio system can obtain the information.

Likewise, dispatchers at the parish's 911 Communications Center are hard-wired to the system, so they also receive the information relays.

"The number of queries generated by patrol deputies at any given moment can be staggering," Sheriff Greg Champagne said. "When our deputies are responding to a call, every second counts. This proven technology provides them with a way to quickly gather vital information before entering a potentially dangerous situation."

To ensure the most accurate data within the southeast region is reported, Sheriff Champagne has invited area law enforcement agencies to partner with the SCSO. To date, the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office and St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office have accepted the offer.

Plans to tie other regional agencies into the system are also in the works.

"Sheriff Harry Lee and Sheriff Jack Stephens have joined this information exchange, significantly improving our ability to catch suspects," Sheriff Champagne said. "This will really help when BOLOs — all points bulletins — are issued. In addition to alerting SCSO deputies, it will immediately advise agencies tied into the system to be on the lookout."

Via the JPSO's radio towers, computer transmissions reach from the Sunshine Bridge to Houma and as far south as Grand Isle and Hopedale.

"We're saturating the area," Sheriff Champagne said. "From any of those points, deputies can submit queries and get a quick response."

The partnership with neighboring law enforcement agencies offers an added



SCSO Deputy Harold Jackson demonstrates how deputies are able to quickly access pertinent data from their patrol units. Within seconds, officers can learn if a subject is wanted or has had previous encounters with law enforcement officers.

benefit, too: Deputies can quickly learn if a subject is wanted in an adjoining parish. "We've all heard the stories about officers pulling a suspect over and, unaware he is wanted for a crime committed in another jurisdiction, setting him free," Sheriff Champagne said. "This will improve communication between agencies and help close that gap."

As other departments are connected to the DATATAC system, those criminal databases also will be available. For instance, if a subject is wanted in St. Charles, Jefferson or St. Bernard parishes, those charges will be transmitted. If a protective order or restraining order has been served against a subject, deputies

will know.

And the database continues to be expanded. "Court motions should be available via the wireless system within a few months," SCSO Information Technology Division Director Wayne Lee said.

Because the information is available to all deputies' laptops, this real-time messaging capability could potentially prove to be a lifesaver. "Before approaching the vehicle, deputies can know if the person has a violent history with police," Sheriff Champagne said. "Ensuring the safety of deputies and the community remains our chief concern. This technology is one more tool in achieving that goal."



SCSO 911 operators are able to provide "real time" updates to deputies, emergency medical personnel and area volunteer fire departments via the new computer aided dispatch (CAD) system.

CAD system streamlines 911 calls

SCSO deputies, volunteer fire departments and emergency medical services are better able to communicate in "real time" thanks to the 911 Communications Center's new computer aided dispatch (CAD) system.

"The feedback since the new system was implemented last May has been tremendous," said Capt. Craig Petit, director of the 911 Communications Center. "The 'live' updates have sped up dispatching time, and those responding to the scene are receiving more information than ever before."

DB Sysgraph, a Metairie-based firm, developed the CAD software.

"The 911 system transmits real-

time mapping, helping dispatchers and respondents quickly locate callers," Petit said. It also provides expanded messaging capabilities and premise information.

"We can give deputies directions to the scene, notify them of past calls to the address, and provide hazard warnings and other crucial information to protect lives and property," Petit said.

The new CAD system will also enable dispatchers to track "special needs" information. Parish residents can obtain the needed form at the 911 Communication Center.

"This allows us, at a glance, to tell those en route to the scene, if someone has a mobility impair-

ment, is on a life support system, is speech or hearing impaired or the like," Petit said. "We can even log allergies or medical conditions."

Enhancements continue to be made to the CAD system. Plans are under way to overlay subdivisions, mark fire hydrants and water systems, incorporate the floor plans of major businesses and parish schools, and expand the Phase II wireless capability, which will provide cell phone callers' identity and location.

7.

DEPT

FTOs complete training



Deputies Steven Stewart, Chris Olivier, Roger Adams and Laurie Songy recently graduated from the SCSO's 12-week Field Training Officers (FTO) program. FTOs lead new deputies through the department's rigorous training program. New recruits that successfully complete POST Academy must train an additional 12 weeks on the job with an FTO. "It's an extensive training program," said Sheriff Greg Champagne. "In fact, our agency has a reputation for having one of the region's most thorough, rigorous training programs around." All FTOs are hand-picked for the program by their immediate supervisor and Patrol Division Commander Capt. Fred Oubre. The SCSO has 32 FTOs on staff.

Summer curfew now in effect

■ Minors out after 10 p.m. can result in citations for parents

It's after 10 p.m. Do you know where your children are?

Parents are reminded SCSO deputies are strictly enforcing the parish's curfew law. It is unlawful for any minor under the age of 17 to be on public streets and other places between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.

Ordinance No. 66-3-6 reads, "minors are prohibited to loiter, idle, wander, stroll, drive any motor vehicles or play in or upon public streets, highways, road, alleys, parks, playgrounds, wharves, docks, or other public grounds, public places and public buildings, bus stations, places of amusement and entertainment, vacant lots or other unsupervised places between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m."

Exceptions are made in the following instances:

- When a parent, guardian or other adult person with care and custody of the minor accompanies him or her;

- In emergencies or legitimate purposes when a parent, guardian or other adult with care and custody of the minor directs the minor;

- During chaperoned church, school, social, fraternal or recreational activities providing the minor immediately and directly returns home at the conclusion of the event.

Violations are punishable by a \$100 fine or 30-day prison term or both.

"Children have no business being on the streets after 10 p.m.," Sheriff Greg Champagne said. "We know when your people are out at that hour they're more prone to criminal behavior. We don't want them on the violating or receiving end of unlawful activity, and the curfew helps ensure that."

Youngsters found in violation of the curfew will be returned to their parents. Citations will be issued, and parents will be required to follow up with a juvenile officer within five days. If cause exists, the child could be arrested.



Wanted: Old cell phones

Have you changed cell phone companies and been left with an unwanted cell phone? The parish's 911 Communications Center has just the program for you.

Safe Call – St. Charles Aid for Emergency Cellular Assistance Life Line – is giving the phones new life. Operational phones are programmed to dial 9-1-1 and passed along to the parish's Council on Aging for distribution.

"The phones are provided to seniors and shut-ins to insure they can contact 9-1-1 for help," Sheriff Greg Champagne.

Citizens can drop unwanted cell phones and chargers off at the SCSO's Special Services Dept. weekdays.

For more information about the Safe Call program, call (985) 783-1355.



HHS's Brou awarded scholarship

Lindsey Brou, of Hahnville High School, was this year's recipient of the Louisiana Sheriff's Association Scholarship. Sheriff Greg Champagne awarded Brou the \$500 scholarship for her outstanding academic performance. Brou is the daughter of Sharon and Byron Lietzke of Luling. She plans to attend Louisiana State University where she will study interior design.



Rec vehicles banned from parish roads

Before you pull that recreational vehicle out of the garage this summer, remember unlicensed motorized vehicle are not permitted on parish or state roadways.

Sheriff Greg Champagne issued a reminder to residents that violators will be cited for equipment violations and the vehicle will be impounded.

"Unlicensed vehicles – dirt bikes, go-carts, three- and four-wheelers – are prohibited on public roads and levels throughout St. Charles Parish," the Sheriff said.

A simple rule to detect if your vehicle is legal, he said, is to determine if it has a license plate, brake tag and insurance. If not, it cannot be operated on public streets. Also, only licensed drivers are allowed to operate properly licensed vehicles.

"In many cases, children are driving these recreational

vehicles on public streets with the consent of their parents," Sheriff Champagne said. "I need parents' help in stopping these violations."

Fines can be assessed against the owner of the vehicle as well as the offender.

"Initially, we tried issuing warnings to violators with hopes it would encourage compliance," Sheriff Champagne said. The get-tough approach has been necessitated by a growing number of recreational vehicle-related accidents that have left people seriously injured.

"These vehicles aren't designed to be operated on public streets," he said. "Please be aware that deputies will be patrolling the area and violators will be dully prosecuted."

Send your gift home

Sheriff's Office employees enthusiastically gave to the United Way of St. Charles, increasing contributions for the sixth consecutive year.

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.

Interested in becoming a Reserve Deputy?

The SCSO is planning a Reserve Deputy Academy this fall. Anyone interested can contact Connie Cardella in Personnel at (985) 783-6237 for more information.

Visit us online today at: www.stcharlessheriff.org.

