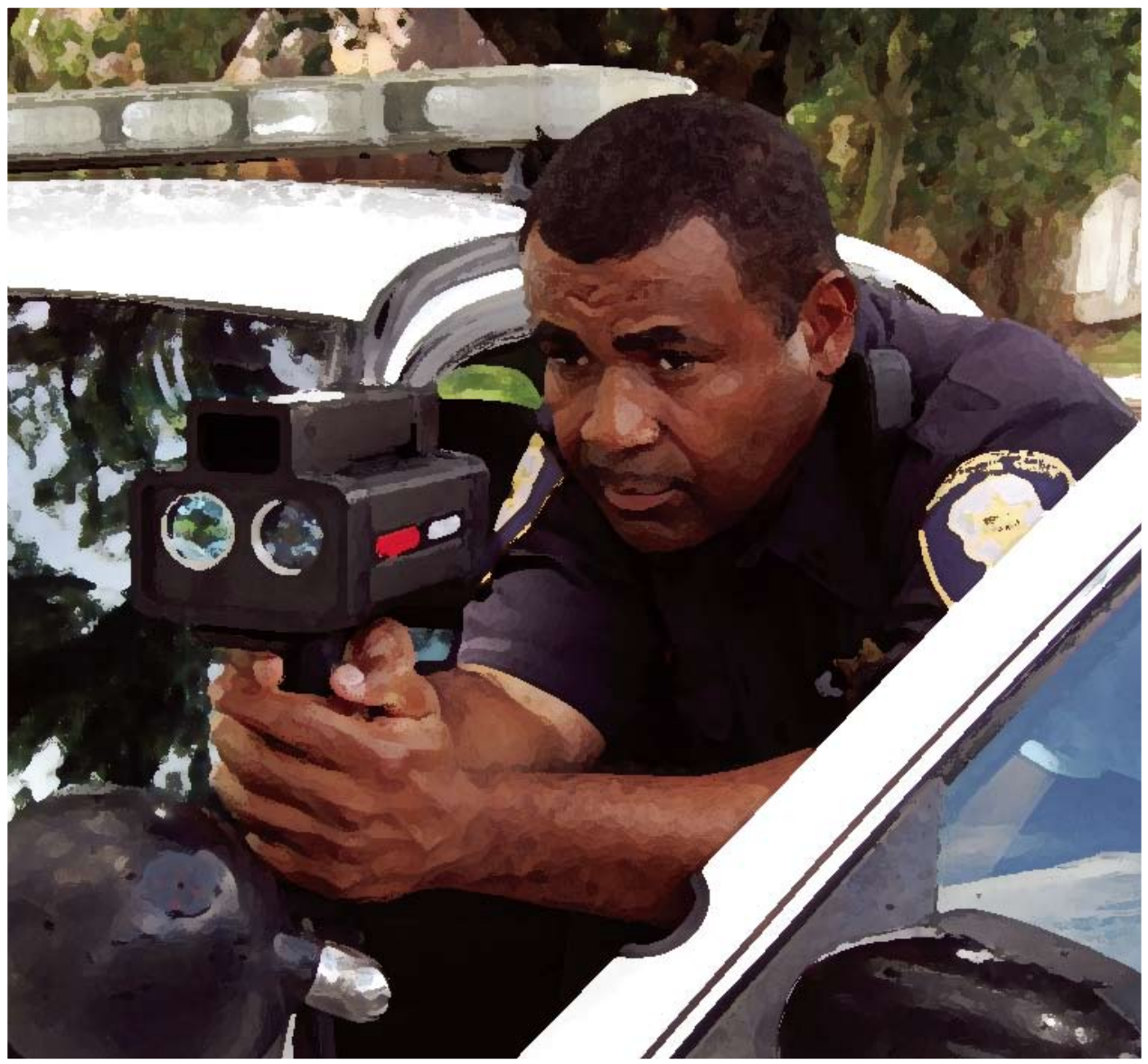


Assumption Parish Sheriff's Office



Annual Report



Dear fellow citizens,

Welcome to our annual report, highlighting just a few of the continuing efforts of your Sheriff's Department to keep Assumption Parish safe.

Teams rarely score points on defense and that's why we work hard to keep the APSO on the offensive side of the ball.

For ten years now, our office has hosted, with help from the Police Jury and School Board, a summer youth camp. There's a story on the many activities enjoyed by participants in this issue. We communicate to these young people the importance of living a life free of drugs and crime and demonstrate to them that law enforcement officers are on their side and always available to help.

The APSO team has enhanced its offense when it comes to traffic enforcement, with officers cracking down on speeders, DWT's, illegal cell phone usage and littering. Speaking of litter, check out the article in this issue about the new inmate work program that's helping to clean parish streets.

You'll also find stories inside about our K-9 unit and a new, state-of-the-art system to maintain the integrity of evidence gathered in our investigations.

Help us in our efforts to protect you by telephoning us immediately if you see something that looks suspicious or need assistance for any reason. Do not hesitate to dial 9-1-1 and we will respond as quickly as possible. For non-emergency matters, visit our web site assumptionsheriff.com to contact us via E-mail. A directory of all departments and contact information is provided.

We will continue to work hard to keep Assumption Parish safe.

Please let me know if there is ever anything I or this office can do to assist you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael J. Waguespack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

MICHAEL J. WAGUESPACK
Sheriff, Assumption Parish

Highway Safety

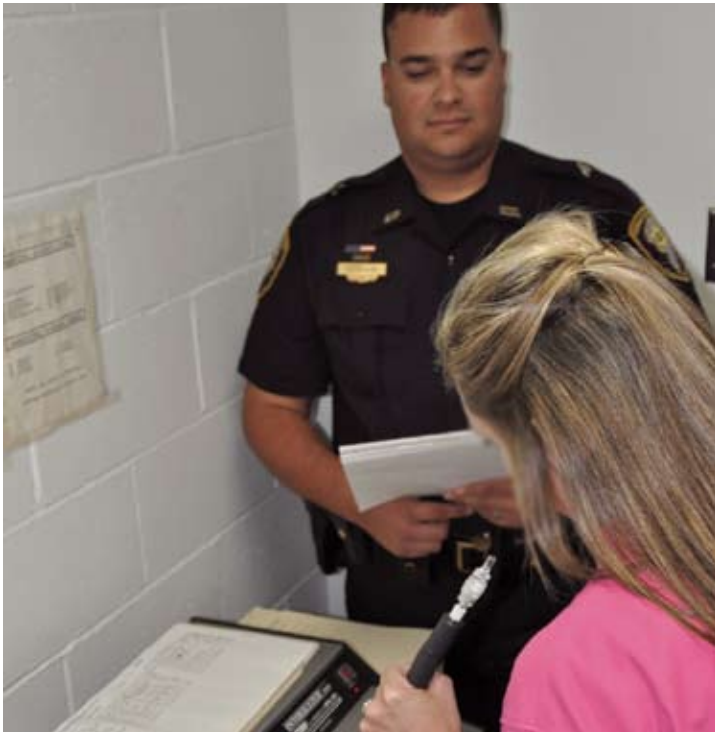
One of the biggest responsibilities of the APSO is keeping our highways and streets safe for motorists. This includes enforcing laws regulating speeding, driving, DWI and now, the use of cell phones.

“Speeding is one of the biggest contributing factors in automobile accidents,” Sheriff Waguespack said. “If you are driving slower, you naturally have more time to react to a potentially hazardous situation.”



Sheriff Waguespack and Deputy Donald "Duck" Andrew use radar to enforce the speed limit on Highway 1.

Drinking and driving is a major issue in fatal accidents. “409 people were killed in alcohol-related traffic accidents in Louisiana in 2009, nearly half of all highway deaths,” he said. “If you refuse to take a breath test, we can get a judge to sign a search warrant and have a blood sample taken whether you consent or not.”



Sergeant Cliff Veillon administers a breath alcohol test to a DWI suspect. The Intoxilyzer® 5000 is by far the most-used evidential breath alcohol tester in the country for collecting evidence in DUI cases.

Texting while driving is now prohibited with a first offense carrying a fine of \$175 and \$500 if caught a second time. Drivers 17-years-old and younger may not use wireless devices including cell phones, text-messaging units and computers while operating motor vehicles.

“These new cell phone laws are ‘primary offenses,’ which means you can be stopped immediately and ticketed if caught in violation,” Sheriff Waguespack said. “We will continue to aggressively enforce these laws to save lives.”



Deputy Mark Matranga and Reserve Deputy Deborah Lillie conduct a search for illegal drugs with Mallie, a three-year-old German Shepherd. The two officers have some 35 years of dog-training experience between them.

K-9 Unit

The APSO K-9 unit continues to play a big part in the ongoing fight against illegal drugs.

Specially-trained dogs are used to locate drugs in automobiles, homes and schools. Many of these same animals can also help find the body of a drowning victim through their incredible sense of smell.

“These K-9 officers can go where we can’t and locate the tiniest amount of drugs with incredible accuracy,” Sheriff Waguespack said. “They also help us define a search area for a drowning victim by responding to odors coming up through the water.”

The APSO hosts an annual K-9 competition with some 25 teams from seven states participating in the most recent event. Dogs specializing in tracking, drug discovery, cadaver and bomb work are featured in the contest.

Mallie



APSO's Crochet Graduates from FBI Academy

Captain Darren Crochet recently graduated from the prestigious FBI National Academy at Quantico, Virginia. The 10-week session featured advanced investigative, management and fitness training and hosted men and women from 49 states, 26 international countries and five military organizations.

"Captain Crochet has served the people of our parish and the APSO for twenty years," Sheriff Waguespack said. "To attend the FBI Academy is a great honor and our entire department congratulates him on this achievement."

Crochet also graduated from the LSU Law Enforcement Training Academy and is a veteran of the US Marine Corps. He is assigned to the Criminal Investigation Division, serves as the department's training officer and oversees the Neighborhood Watch, Community Emergency Response Team, Women's Self Defense, Children's Self Defense and TRIAD program.



Wild Well in Paincourtville

In late summer, Assumption Parish experienced its own version of the BP oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. Oil, brine and natural gas flowed from a drilling well near Paincourtville for nearly three weeks before finally being capped. No one was injured in the mishap.

"We secured the area, closed two-mile sections of Highways 70 and 1003 and manned the site in a mobile command center around-the-clock for weeks," Sheriff Waguespack said. "This incident tested our emergency response efforts and those of the Parish's Office of Homeland Security and the Department of Environmental Quality. I'm proud to say our department passed with flying colors."

Contractors eventually replaced a blowout preventer on the well, stopping the fountain. The site is now being cleaned up.

Oil, brine and natural gas spew from a blown out well near Paincourtville.



Sheriff Waguespack and Deputy Leroy Rodrigue oversee the litter abatement crew on Bayou Crab Road.

Litter Pickup and Enforcement

Before you throw litter on the ground in Assumption Parish, think about this: Litterers can be arrested and taken to jail.

"I have instructed deputies to no longer issue a summons when someone is cited for littering," Sheriff Waguespack said. "That person will be placed under arrest and booked into the parish detention center. Their name will be made a part of our arrest logs and published in local newspapers."

As part of the effort to fight litter, Sheriff Waguespack has also created a litter abatement crew, made up of inmate, non-violent offenders who have trustee status. The crew, under constant supervision, goes out daily to pick up trash along roadways.

"In one month, our crew picks up an average of 1,200 garbage bags of litter and that is entirely too much," Sheriff Waguespack said. "Citizens should take more pride in their community and not trash our beautiful parish."

If you notice an area with a litter problem, please contact us.



Evidence Custodian Lieutenant Thane Matis and Detective Sergeant Melissa Reedy, Assistant Evidence Custodian, work with the APSO's new evidence management system.

New Evidence Tracking System

A new system using state-of-the-art optical scanners and bar code identification is in place at the APSO evidence room. Employing the same software used by the Louisiana State Police crime lab, every piece of evidence gathered in an investigation is digitally recorded.

Lieutenant Thane Matis, a former state trooper and 28-year law enforcement veteran serves as Evidence Custodian. A complete re-inventory of all evidence, as well as an overhaul of policy and procedures, is ongoing.

"Lieutenant Matis will assist me in developing and implementing the most modern procedures to ensure the integrity of evidence from the time it is collected until a case goes to trial," Sheriff Waguespack said. "We will continue to maintain the highest standards for receiving, logging and preserving evidence."

New Units on Road

Four new APSO units are patrolling the streets of our parish. The new Ford Crown Victorias, equipped with a special police package featuring a stronger cooling system, special suspension, heavy-duty transmission and upgraded electrical system were purchased through a \$68,558 grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.



assumptionsheriff.com

Visit our home on the Internet; assumptionsheriff.com where you will find the latest news from your sheriff's office, contact info for APSO personnel and much more useful and timely information.

APSO Summer Camp

2010 marks the tenth consecutive year the APSO has hosted its free summer camp for the young people of our parish. Funded by the Sheriff's Office, Police Jury and School Board, the three week session is always a welcome retreat.

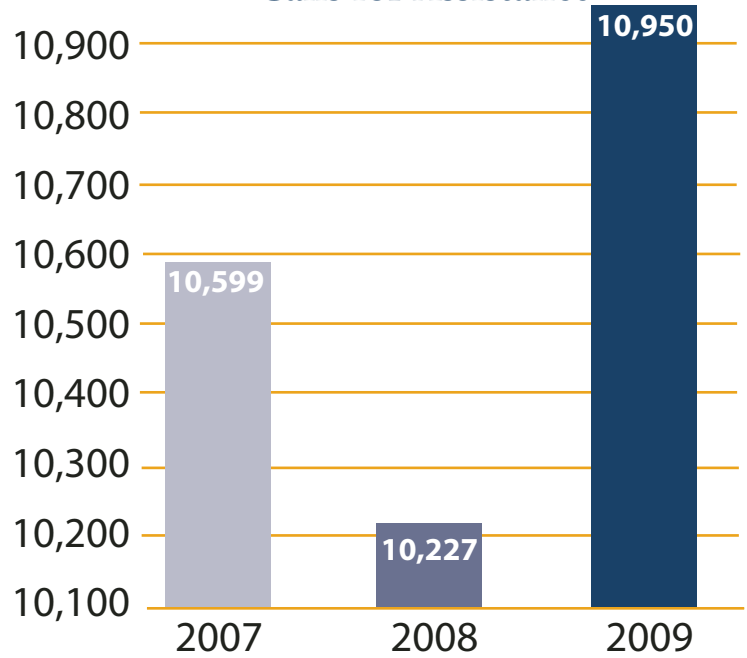
Deputies and volunteers staff the camp, where attendees complete arts and crafts projects, learn life skills, computer applications and participate in dance and choir. Numerous sporting activities and field trips round out the days while a message to live free of drugs and crime is instilled.



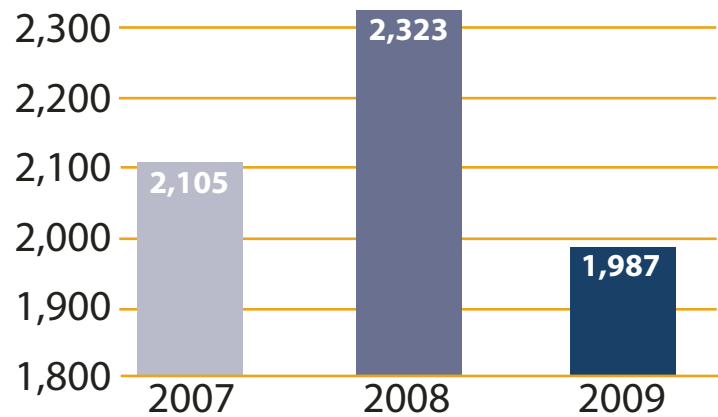
Law enforcement personnel interact closely with some 500 youths, building trusting relationships that will last a lifetime.

Youth crime in the parish drops significantly during camp sessions. "If children have something to do, they are not going to be out looking for or getting into trouble," Sheriff Waguespack said.

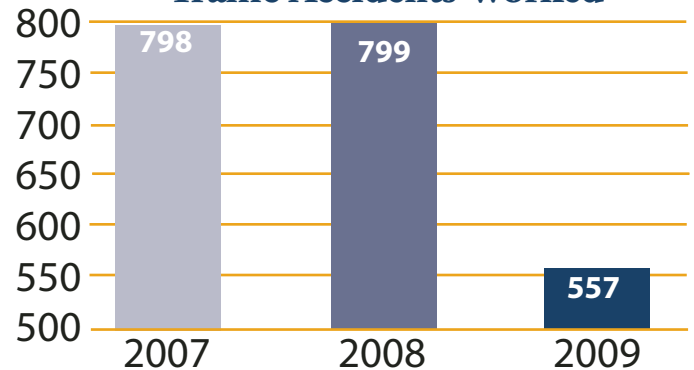
Calls for Assistance



Arrests



Traffic Accidents Worked



Drug Arrests DWI Arrests

