



LAFAYETTE SHERIFF



“Serving the community with courtesy, professionalism and respect.”

Support the 2003 Sheriff Neustrom Open!

“I enjoy the experience and opportunity to help the Special Olympics.”

*-Deputy Mark Brasseaux
Story on page 2*

The Sheriff Neustrom Open is the Lafayette Parish Sheriff’s Office’s annual fundraiser for youth activities such as our annual youth golf clinic and tournament. Each summer hundreds of children look forward to participating in these free events and your participation in our adult tournament is what makes it happen! The planning committee for the 2003 Sheriff Neustrom Open has been working hard on this year’s tournament and promises another great day for golfers! This year’s Sheriff Neustrom Open, a four-person scramble, is scheduled for Monday, May 5, 2003 at Hebert Municipal Golf Course. Tournament entry fees will provide each golfer a 2003 Sheriff Neustrom Open hat, golf shirt, tees, logo golf balls, lunch, a round of golf, and the opportunity to win great door prizes!



Sheriff Neustrom meets with the 2003 Sheriff Neustrom Open Planning Committee

Seated (L-R) Keith Sibille, Amy LeFranc and Sgt Jules Broussard; Standing (L-R) Donna Delahoussaye, Tammy Broussard, Norma Broussard, Sheriff Neustrom, Pat Faul and Sgt Mike Andrus.

Sheriff Neustrom and all committee members would like to thank the 2003 Sheriff Neustrom Open
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ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

Message from Sheriff Michael W. Neustrom

As a message to our employees I wanted to quote a section of an article which stresses the importance of law enforcement working closely with the community on a *daily* basis. It was written by Robert Olsen, Chief of Police, City of Minneapolis and appeared in the Jan. 2003 edition of “Subject To Debate”, a newsletter of the Police Executive Research Forum. He says-
“..I have learned many valuable lessons about the best ways to protect and serve the public. But perhaps the most important lesson is that the bond we have with those we serve must constantly be strengthened through collaborative efforts and mutual understanding.



One facet of this relationship that can not be overlooked is how we interact with our citizens on a *daily* basis. Most people in our community form their opinions of the entire department based on their interaction with beat officers. How we act on routine traffic stops or general patrol calls has more influence than any other action we take when it comes to how we are perceived by the general public.



Sheriff Michael W. Neustrom

(con't on page 4)

The Citizen Recognition Award recipient for this quarter is Ms. Sonya Branch.

Ms. Branch is a member of the SALT/Triad Council and was instrumental in producing the Senior Helplist – a brochure of telephone numbers designed to assist seniors in Lafayette Parish. Ms. Branch is very active in the community and assists not only the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office, but also several other community groups. She is an asset in our mission of "Serving the community with courtesy, professionalism and respect."

1ST QUARTER 2003 AWARD WINNERS

Deputy of the Quarter Winners
for the period of January through March 2003 include:

Administration

Kenny Duhon

Assistant Director of Training & Professional Development

Corrections

Sgt. William Marmottin

Enforcement

Deputy Adam Morris

2003 Fingerprint/Photo ID Event A Success!

The Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office teamed up with the Junior League of Lafayette to offer a free fingerprint/photo ID event for Lafayette Parish kids on Saturday, March 22, 2003 at center court of the Acadiana Mall. Over 450 kids participated as part of this partnership that is funded by the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office and the Junior League of Lafayette's Opportunity Knocks Program.

Kids were fingerprinted, photographed with a digital camera, and then the fingerprints, and disk containing the photo were given to the parents for safekeeping. If a child is abducted or lost, this kit is a valuable tool for law enforcement – having the ability to broadcast a current photo of a child in danger can make the difference in the ability to safely return a child to their family.

Caprice Huval a local babysitter brought three kids to this event...she stated "I think that it is absolutely wonderful that you'll be doing this for the children...if anything happened to the kids these pictures might help get them back home safely."

Debra Eckholdt, project coordinator for the Junior League of Lafayette commented, "The Junior League of Lafayette is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism and to improving the community through effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Each year the membership votes on and adopts an Impact Area. The current Impact Area is Child Health and Development. What better way to promote a child's health and development than by providing for their security? That is why your program was such a good fit with our organization. All of the



volunteers involved felt the project was a great success, and as mothers it was one that was very close to our hearts. It will be recommended to keep this project/partnership for next year's Opportunity Knocks Committee."

We extend a special thanks to the Junior League of Lafayette for their support of this program and to LPSO volunteers Amy LeFranc, Lynette Boudreaux, Laura Metcalf, Trudy Rackliffe, Glenda Prejean, and Deanna Conques, Reserve Deputy Toby Landry, and Explorers Trevor Picard, Tony Solano, and Zack Williams who assisted with this community event!

LPCC CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY

In July 2001, Lafayette Parish voters approved a millage renewal dedicated to maintenance and improvements to the Lafayette Parish Correctional Center. Phase I of this three phase project began on March 24, 2003 and is expected to be complete in early 2004. Phase I consists of the relocation and construction of a new maintenance/storage area and the replacement of broken windows throughout the 19 year old facility. All phases of construction are designed to improve the safety and operating efficiency of the Lafayette Parish Correctional Center. These improvements will make the facility more cost efficient to operate, and therefore a better utilization of tax dollars.

The relocation of the maintenance storage area is designed to improve maintenance operations as well as reduce the cross traffic inside the intake/booking area. The intake/booking area is currently managing many more activities than it was designed to handle, therefore by reducing

the non-law enforcement traffic such as delivery of supplies, we can eliminate some of the stress on this portion of the facility.

Replacement of the windows inside the inmate cells is also planned for Phase I. Currently, windows within the facility continue to be damaged and broken by inmates. The current design of the windows reduces the opportunity to eliminate this practice of vandalism, and as one might imagine, the windows are very costly to replace and repair. The new windows are designed to reduce opportunities for inmate vandalism and are made with vandal resistant materials.

Phase II and III of the project will consist of expansion of the Intake/Booking Area as well as safety and security improvements to the facility. We will include more information about all phases of the project in future issues of our newsletter.

AFIS Has A New Home



Deputy Dana Newcoste verifies fingerprints from a recent arrest.

On February 27, 2003 AFIS moved to its new location at the LPSO Administration Building (1st floor area formerly occupied by Civil Division). Although the actual move consisted of several weeks of planning and coordinating, along with the relocation of phone lines, equipment, etc. the system was only shut down for a short time. According to Sgt Blake Carrol, "we were up and running within two hours." The current staff of AFIS includes Sgt. Blake Carroll, Deputy Will Killion, Deputy Shauntell Pantaleo, Deputy Joycie Leal, Deputy Dana Newcoste, Deputy Stephen Provost, Deputy Debbie Andrus, Deputy Shawn Poirot, Deputy Lisette Savoy, and Deputy Marie Thibeaux.

The Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office Automated Fingerprint Identification System or AFIS is part of our Criminal Investigative Division (C.I.D.), but serves as the host of a fourteen-parish hub for the LA State Police LAAFIS System – Louisiana Automated Fingerprint Identification System. AFIS provides fingerprint identification services 24/7, is connected to the FBI's national database, and provides agencies with mug shots and mug shot lineups – a valuable service to investigators at all levels. Law enforcement agencies benefit from AFIS's ability to provide instant availability of new arrest information as well as to correct deceptive information provided by arrestees during booking. Other benefits of the system include database searches for hits from latent prints lifted from crime scenes, and hits on reverse latent searches. AFIS also performs live scans to enter sex offender registry information into the Louisiana State Police database.

Officials are currently working to connect the AFIS system to the courts by using an arrest tracking system for records that will follow the arrestee from arrest through the court system.

2003 Torch Run for Special Olympics!

The 2003 Law Enforcement Torch Run to benefit Special Olympics is scheduled for Thursday, May 22, 2003. Chief Albert Glaude, Leg Leader for Acadiana is currently recruiting participants and encourages all runners to sign up for this great cause!

The Law Enforcement Torch Run was started by Kansas Police Chief Richard LaMunyon many years ago and is now an International event involving thousands of law enforcement men, women and families. This event is the single largest fund raising and media awareness event for Special Olympics.



Runners will begin here at the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office and continue to carry the torch to Baton Rouge in team format.

Deputy Mark Brasseaux has participated in the torch run for the last two years and will run again this year. "I enjoy the experience and opportunity to help the Special Olympics."

Sgt Dale Thomas has participated in this event since 1994. "It is for a real good cause.... my personal benefit is attending the Opening Ceremony and seeing the smiles on the faces of the kids. It is worth everything! The Opening Ceremony is the Olympics in Barcelona to these kids. We take a lot of things for granted and these kids take everything in stride. I realize how fortunate my kids are to have what they have."

If you would like to participate in this year's Law Enforcement Torch Run, or if you cannot run in this event, but would like to support this great cause contact Chief Albert Glaude at 236-5613 or email him at albert.glaude@lafayettesheriff.com. Runners must pay a registration fee of \$15, which will cover the cost of one commemorative Torch Run t-shirt, one lapel pin, and insurance.

Congratulations to Retirees!

Sheriff Mike Neustrom and the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office would like to extend a special thank you to our recent retirees. Thanks for your many years of dedicated service to the citizens of Lafayette Parish! Enjoy your retirement!

Lt. Janelle Benoit (February 1972 - December 2002) Civil/Tax Division – 30 Years – WOW!

Deputy Barbara Abbott (April 1987 - December 2002) CID

Deputy Glenn Ortego (September 1989 - January 2002) Finance (Bonding)

Deputy Oray Choplin (October 1990 - September 2002) LPCC

Sheriff Neustrom Open

Elite Sponsors - Hub City Ford, Acadian Ambulance, Cingular Wireless, and Attorneys Preis, Kraft & Roy. We would also like to recognize Walter Comeaux, Gerald Boudreaux and Mike Guidry of Lafayette Consolidated Government for their continued support of this annual fundraiser for youth activities! Committee

members include Sheriff Neustrom, Amy LeFranc, Sgt Jules Broussard, Sgt Mike Andrus, Keith Sibille, Sgt Greg Kirsch, Major Ursula Leblanc, Sgt Norma Broussard, Pat Faul, Jim Edney, Donna Delahoussaye and Tammy Broussard.

Committee members are continuing to seek additional



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sponsorships from local businesses and individuals. If you have not yet been contacted about corporate or tee box sponsorship opportunities, or if you would like to sign up for the tournament, please call 236-5614 or email us at lpsoinfo@lafayettesheriff.com.

This publication is still accepting suggestions for a new title. Please send your ideas to Donna Delahoussaye at donna.delahoussaye@lafayettesheriff.com

Sheriff's message

For it is in these interactions that community members will form their opinions of the department. It doesn't take much for a department to lose credibility with an entire section of the community. Treat just one citizen with disrespect, and he or she will undoubtedly tell others about the incident. And if several citizens are treated without professionalism and courtesy, it won't be long before citizens are questioning the fairness of policing. The feelings citizens have for the police are formed on the front-lines of officer-citizen encounters.

That is why relationships with the community must be cultivated before there are any feelings of disrespect; so that when there is an incident, there will already be lines of communication open between the police and community to diffuse the situation.

Sometimes the harm to a department's reputation comes from incidents not even in its jurisdiction. High-profile police brutality cases, shown repeatedly in the national media, can rightfully have citizens questioning policing methods-whether or not they live in the city in

which the incident occurred.Perhaps the biggest factor in whether or not a department is successful in its mission is the support the community gives it officers. With a high level of trust and understanding, the community will be more willing to report crime and aid the department. But if the community feels they are not respected and valued by the department, then our jobs will be made infinitely harder."

I feel that our office has engaged our community individually on the streets, in our correctional facility, and in all the other services we provide to the community. I encourage the continued, daily treatment of citizens, by all areas of our office with "courtesy, professionalism and respect."

Please keep the troops in Iraq, victims of violent crime, and employees who are recuperating, especially Roy, Ursula and Jim, in your thoughts and prayers. Please also keep the family and friends of Denny Alvarez in your intentions.

Calling All Volunteers!

The Planning Committee for the 2003 Sheriff Neustrom Open is currently seeking Deputies to volunteer to assist on Tournament Day - Monday, May 5, 2003.

If you are interested in assisting with this fundraiser for Youth Programs, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator Tammy Broussard at 236-5415 or email her at tammy.broussard@lafayettesheriff.com