

Genesee County Probation Department Newsletter



Celebrating Community Partnerships Over 70 Years

County Building #1, 15 Main Street, Batavia, New York 14020

(585) 344-2550 x2255

probation@co.genesee.ny.us



Working Together as a Team

Jason Mindler
Probation Officer/ Instructor

This newsletter is very special for our Department, as 2017 was the 70th year of our existence. We felt it important to highlight and celebrate the partnerships we have built over the years with other community agencies, whose services are utilized to enrich the level of supervision provided.

As you may know, Probation starts in the Court system. There we are charged with the task of monitoring probationers as they remain in the community. They are often re-



Batavia Drug Treatment Court team members, pictured, meet more than once per week to review cases and develop a strategy to address offender needs.

quired to participate in treatment programs, cooperate with Social Services and work on seeking employment, while they address the behaviors that brought them to our doorstep in the first place.

Before coming to Probation, however, many offenders begin their journey toward recovery during pre-trial re-

lease, which is monitored by Genesee Justice. Genesee Justice is overseen by Cathy Uhly, and she believes that Genesee Justice and Probation are complementary agencies. Genesee Justice facilitates community service, provides victim advocacy and assists with restitution assistance for victims. All of these play an important factor in determining the proper sentence for offenders, as well as providing ways for the offender to attempt to repair a portion of the harm caused to the community. Many offenders are required to go through mental health and alcohol/substance abuse treatment if needed. Cathy indicated that both Genesee Justice and Probation benefit society by allowing offenders, who are safe to remain in the community, to support their families and gain a sense of empowerment through their quest for betterment.

Another program that strongly highlights the very close working relationships of agencies in Genesee County is the Batavia Drug Treatment Court (see left). Drug Treatment Court brings together

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Genesee County Probation Department

County Building 1, 15 Main St, Batavia, NY 14020 Tel: 585-344-2550


Staff Directory 2018




Timothy Michalak
Probation Director II
Ext. 2270



Kevin Wright
Probation Supervisor
Ext. 2271




Rachel Sanfratello
Probation Supervisor
Ext. 2252



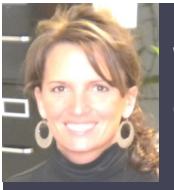
Michele Tucci
Senior Probation Officer
Ext. 2262



Jeremy Barber
Senior Probation Officer
Ext. 2259



Traci Russo
Senior Probation Officer
Ext. 2265



Sarah Welker
Probation Officer
Ext. 2274



William Bogan II
Probation Officer
Ext. 2309



Carly Luttrell
Probation Officer
Ext. 2272



Jason Mindler
Probation Officer
Ext. 2254



Terri Buchholz
Probation Officer
Ext. 2216



Benjamin Heale
Probation Officer
Ext. 2263



Nicole Williams
Probation Officer
Ext. 2273



Jeffrey Hyde
Probation Officer
Ext. 2266



Bryan Pike
Probation Officer
Ext. 2283



Vicki Athoe
Principal Clerk
Ext. 2257



Carrie Everett
Principal Financial Clerk
Ext. 2255

Genesee County Probation Department Newsletter



STAR Program

Carly Luttrell
Juvenile Probation Officer

There are many agencies in the Genesee County community that our Department partners with to assist us in effectively carrying out our duties. One program that is highly beneficial to the Juvenile system is the Student Transition And Recovery (STAR) program.



Officer Luttrell (center) with STAR staff members.

The STAR program addresses the needs of students between the ages of 9 and 15 who have committed school or community offenses and have been determined to be able to benefit from the program. The areas of focus include the student's education, teamwork, discipline and life skills. The Genesee County Probation Department, along with the STAR program, work collaboratively with schools, parents and other service providers in an effort to deter criminal behavior and keep juvenile offenders in their homes and out of the Court system.

A juvenile can access the STAR program through three different avenues. They can be referred by their home school, Court Ordered to the program through Genesee County Family Court or referred by

this Department as part of their Conditions of Probation or Diversion Agreement. STAR is also used as a consequence for non-compliance while under supervision. Once in the program, the student is required to abide by the STAR Code of Conduct and General Orders and engage in a daily routine of physical exercise, school attendance, tutoring and counseling. In addition, parents of the student are required to participate in a parenting group which meets weekly.

This Department maintains close contact with the STAR program instructors to ensure the juveniles are held accountable for their actions and maintain good academic standing. The working relationship between our agencies has proven to be successful in diverting juveniles from the Court System and keeping them in the community.

Overheard...

"Hi, I may have accidentally lit a car on fire." -

Probationer reporting police contact.

PO: *"Why are you not looking for a job?"*

Probationer: *"Being unemployed feels good, like I have a secret identity, or I am a secret agent."*

Probationer: *"Is my PO here?"*

Probation Staff: *"Yes, did you leave a message?"*

Probationer: *"Yes, but I have been waiting since I got here..."*

Probation's Most Wanted

If you have any information regarding the whereabouts of these individuals, call

Genesee County Probation Department
(585) 344-2550 x 2255

<p>WANTED BY THE GENESSEE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT</p> <p>John J Smalley</p> <p>DOB: 02/24/1981 HEIGHT: 5'7" WEIGHT: 150 HAIR COLOR: Brown EYE COLOR: Blue</p> <p>PROBATION VIOLATOR</p> <p>PLEASE DO NOT POST TIPS ON ANY SOCIAL MEDIA SITE</p>	<p>WANTED BY THE GENESSEE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT</p> <p>Carolina M Frias</p> <p>DOB: 03/11/1991 HEIGHT: 5'4" WEIGHT: 110 HAIR COLOR: Black EYE COLOR: Brown</p> <p>PROBATION VIOLATOR</p> <p>PLEASE DO NOT POST TIPS ON ANY SOCIAL MEDIA SITE</p>	<p>WANTED BY THE GENESSEE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT</p> <p>Deavin L Herman</p> <p>DOB: 03/20/1991 HEIGHT: 5'7" WEIGHT: 160 HAIR COLOR: Black EYE COLOR: Blue</p> <p>PROBATION VIOLATOR</p> <p>PLEASE DO NOT POST TIPS ON ANY SOCIAL MEDIA SITE</p>	<p>WANTED BY THE GENESSEE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT</p> <p>Duty E Caswell</p> <p>DOB: 03/15/1991 HEIGHT: 5'7" WEIGHT: 130 HAIR COLOR: Black EYE COLOR: Blue</p> <p>PROBATION VIOLATOR</p> <p>PLEASE DO NOT POST TIPS ON ANY SOCIAL MEDIA SITE</p>	<p>WANTED BY THE GENESSEE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT</p> <p>Thomas A Carson</p> <p>DOB: 03/23/1991 HEIGHT: 5'7" WEIGHT: 150 HAIR COLOR: Brown EYE COLOR: Blue</p> <p>PROBATION VIOLATOR</p> <p>PLEASE DO NOT POST TIPS ON ANY SOCIAL MEDIA SITE</p>	<p>WANTED BY THE GENESSEE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT</p> <p>Editer Vasquez</p> <p>DOB: 03/23/1991 HEIGHT: 5'7" WEIGHT: 140 HAIR COLOR: Black EYE COLOR: Brown</p> <p>PROBATION VIOLATOR</p> <p>PLEASE DO NOT POST TIPS ON ANY SOCIAL MEDIA SITE</p>	<p>WANTED BY THE GENESSEE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT</p> <p>Steffon G Philip</p> <p>DOB: 03/23/1991 HEIGHT: 5'7" WEIGHT: 140 HAIR COLOR: Black EYE COLOR: Brown</p> <p>PROBATION VIOLATOR</p> <p>PLEASE DO NOT POST TIPS ON ANY SOCIAL MEDIA SITE</p>
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Genesee County Probation Department Newsletter



Law Enforcement Partners

Jeremy Barber
Senior Probation Officer

In celebration of the Genesee County Probation Department's 70th anniversary, I had the opportunity to interview District Attorney Lawrence Friedman and Undersheriff Gregory Walker. It is clear that Genesee County is fortunate to have such dedicated individuals serving the community with a combined total of nearly 70 years of experience.

It is extremely important that the District Attorney's Office and Probation work closely together in order to foster safety and offender accountability within the community. One of the most important services our Department provides to the District Attorney's Office is the enforcement of restitution orders claimed by victims. The Probation Department monitors restitution to crime victims and utilizes the assistance of the District Attorney's Office to address delinquent offenders. Conversely, one of the most important roles the District Attorney's Office provides to the Probation Department is that they diligently prosecute our Violations of Probation from start to finish. This allows for effective communication and detailed knowledge of the case in Court. This is particularly helpful as in some jurisdictions, the probation officers will handle the matter until a hearing or other legal arguments are brought before the Court.

Through my conversation with Mr. Friedman, it is apparent that a key component to our working relationship is communication. With the ability to have open communica-

tion, each agency is able to excel and offer the best services to our community.

Just as with the District Attorney's Office, our Department has developed a close working relationship with the Genesee County Sheriff's Office. One of the critical aspects of the relationship between our agencies is information sharing. This communication has developed with close personal and professional relationships that have been built throughout the years. The shared resources and open communication is a benefit to the Sheriff's Office because they are better

equipped to identify probation offenders within the community. Undersheriff Walker identified that a number of our offenders have regular contact with their office either due to new offenses, being a witness, a victim or just due to random street encounters. Additionally, over the past years our two agencies have partnered with other local law enforcement to conduct special details which have proven to be fruitful regarding community safety and offender accountability.

In closing, our Department is lucky to have a great relationship with the District Attorney's Office, Genesee County Sheriff's Office and other local law enforcement agencies within the community. Each agency plays an intricate role within the community and the partnerships formed allow for an equal balance of public safety, offender accountability and pathways to rehabilitative services.



Senior PO Jeremy Barber, left, with Genesee County Undersheriff Greg Walker.

Giving Back

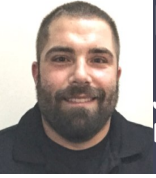
Staff donated money during the Department's annual "Chili Thanksgiving" party to a local veteran's family in need.

In lieu of exchanging gifts, Department Staff also donated money in December to the Holiday Tote Project run by Genesee County in collaboration with the Kiwanis Club of Batavia.

RIGHT: Probation Officers pose with other Genesee County Employees and food collected for the Holiday Tote Project.



Genesee County Probation Department Newsletter



Probation and Treatment Providers

Jeffrey Hyde
Probation Officer

The Genesee County Probation Department works with different types of offenders within the community with a range of needs. We therefore work with several different community agencies in an attempt to best meet those needs. It is important for the offenders that we supervise to connect with the different agencies to comply with and complete their necessary conditions of probation, but more importantly to attempt to better their lives in the process. Collaboration between the Genesee County Probation Department and the different community agencies is vital to the success and improvement in the lives of our probationers.

The Probation Department works closely with Genesee County Mental Health Services to provide a local connection for mental health evaluations that are often ordered as a condition of probation. Many of the county's probationers also seek mental health therapy, care coordination services and participate in the day treatment program through Genesee County Mental Health Services. Probation officers and mental health staff communicate regularly to verify attendance, confirm accuracy of information given with evaluations and discuss needs for treatment and supervision plans. Collaboration is important for both agencies so that offenders are held accountable and have less chance of slipping through the cracks and not receiving the treat-

ment required. This in turn results in a decreased recidivism rate, an increase in community safety and assists probationers with mental health concerns in functioning at their highest possible level in the community. Members of each agency often attend the same planning and committee meetings which keeps the agencies on the same page in regards to community needs and how to best monitor and assist the ones that we supervise and serve.

Substance abuse treatment is often required for probationers to complete as a condition of probation in an effort to improve their quality of life and reduce interaction with the legal system. The Genesee County Probation Department works closely with Horizon Health Services and Genesee/Orleans Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (GCASA) in Batavia to connect probationers with the level of substance abuse treatment they require to be both successful on probation and to become a higher-functioning member of the community when they finish their probation requirements. When a probationer is referred for substance abuse treatment and chooses Horizon Health Services or GCASA, collaboration is

most often between the evaluator or primary counselor and the probation officer. This communication will often verify the accuracy or lack thereof of the information given by a probationer to treatment providers and probation officers about that individual's drug use history which gives an honest start to the treatment process.



Probation Staff members pictured with outgoing Department of Social Services Commissioner Eileen Kirkpatrick, center.

Some probationers see the problems substance abuse has caused in their lives and are willing participants in the treatment process. Others are often more resistant to treatment and sobriety. Being on probation is often a motivating factor for some of the more resistant clients. Regular communication between the two agencies is beneficial in holding offenders accountable and stressing the importance of honesty in treatment and addressing mistakes as they occur in hopes to minimize the damage done by a relapse and to reinforce positive gains.

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Probation Officers participated in many community outreach programs this year, including speaking at educational institutions, attending Family Game Night and youth basketball sponsored by the Genesee County Youth Bureau and participating in DWI Night at the Batavia Muckdogs sponsored by Genesee County STOP DWI.



Genesee County Probation Department Newsletter

Working Together as a Team

Continued from Pg. 1

treatment providers, the District Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, private defense counsel and a variety of private not-for-profit agencies. The goal is to provide resources to assist offenders with treatment of drug and alcohol addiction and overcome other barriers to success in the community. Non-compliance with Drug Treatment Court recommendations are met with swift consequences. Drug Treatment Court Coordinator Nicole Desmond stated that program participants benefit from having Probation supervision while they are going through the process because Probation can perform field contacts that help support offender accountability. The Drug Treatment Court team can marshal resources with an agility not possible without having all agencies in one room.

Another partner, often overlooked due to the nature of our Court system, is the Public Defender's Office. Public Defender Jerry Ader stated that cooperation between his office and probation assists the individuals he is charged to defend by facilitating communication between probation and the offender. This helps to smoothly complete Pre-Sentence Investigations, resolve issues of inability to contact defendants due to changes in address or phone numbers and provides a clearer perspective as to the possible sentencing option of Probation. Mr. Ader indicated that to have a rapport with the Probation Department, within the constraints of our respective roles, helps ensure individuals have a smooth and clear path toward the outcome of their Probation cases.



Cathy Uhly,
Program Coordinator
of Genesee Justice.

The Genesee County Probation Department remains committed to fostering these partnerships in order to best serve the people of Genesee County.

Probation and Treatment Providers

Continued from Pg. 5

The Genesee County Probation Department often works closely with the Genesee County Department of Social Services for several different aspects of community service. Housing assistance, Child and Family Services, and financial assistance for qualifying probationers are provided by DSS. The collaboration between the two agencies plays a vital role in the protection of at-risk citizens in our community. Probation officers may also make referrals to adult services and are mandated child-abuse reporters. The officers and service providers work together when Adult Protective Service referrals are made on a probationer or a Child Protective Service report is called in on a probationer.

Members of each agency attend county-wide meetings which assist in maintaining an understanding of current community needs. Communication between the agencies works to ensure probationers are in compliance with the requirements of both agencies. A good working relationship between staff at both agencies assists in holding probationers accountable and ensuring people are getting the services they qualify for which hopefully provides a better chance at success in the community.

Genesee County Probation and the area community service providers strive to work together to best motivate probationers to connect with and comply with necessary and available services in the community to better their lives and their families' lives. This extra effort and collaboration is put forth in hopes to improve the lives of those we are supervising and in turn improving the safety of all of the residents of our community.

The most current
Naloxone delivery
device issued by the
Genesee County
Probation
Department.



Genesee County Probation Department Newsletter



Director's Corner

By Timothy Michalak
Probation Director

On April 10, 2017, Governor Cuomo signed into law "Raise the Age" legislation. This legislation prohibits 16 and 17 year-olds from being held in adult jails and prisons. It makes significant changes to the procedures used for 16 and 17 year-olds in the criminal and youth justice systems, allows for additional services for youth and alters the types of detention and/or placement they may receive.

The new law will be phased-in over two years. On October 1, 2018, the age of criminal responsibility will be raised from age 16 to 17. Therefore, any 16 year-old that is charged with a non-violent felony or misdemeanor (excluding Vehicle and Traffic Law misdemeanors) will be considered an Adolescent Offender (AO), and will be protected from incarceration in an adult facility. On October 1, 2019, the age of criminal responsibility will be raised from age 17 to 18. The vast majority of cases involving 16 and 17 year-olds will ultimately be heard in Family Court, either originating there or being transferred there from the new Youth Part of Superior (Criminal) Court in each county. Adolescent Offenders subject to incarceration must be placed in a Specialized Secure Juvenile Detention Facility, which is a new type of detention created by the Raise the Age legislation and is reserved exclusively for AOs.

The Raise the Age legislation will certainly bring challenges to local jurisdictions, particularly to local Probation Departments which may need additional staff to meet the needs of the new population. Probation Departments will be looking to provide at-risk youth with evidence-based programs while linking them with effective, age appropriate, community-based services to effectuate more positive outcomes in their lives. Like many jurisdictions, Genesee County has assembled multiple committees to ensure that we implement Raise the Age properly and effectively for the benefit of our youth and their families.

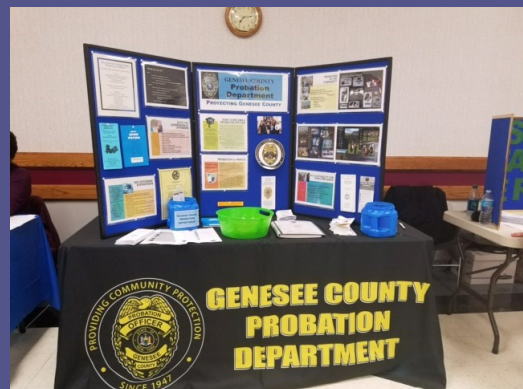
Blast From The Past!



Probation Supervisor Kevin Wright, circa 1990, participating in an arrest demonstration while in the Intensive Supervision Program.

Genesee County Probation Department 2017 Highlights

- The Genesee County Probation Department cleared 50 warrants in 2017, an almost 20% increase over 2016.
- In 2017, our department had a 34% increase in successfully discharged probationers compared to 2016.
- Restitution collections were 44% higher than in 2016!



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Contact Information:

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The Mission of the Genesee County Probation Department is to enhance the safety of victims and communities through the fair and effective supervision of community-based offenders, community partnerships, and results-driven management practices.



Our Facebook Page
continues to grow!
Your support matters!

