Genesee County

Probation Department

HOLLAND LAND OFFICE 1802 VEW YORK

Newsletter





Combating Complacency

Jeremy Barber, Senior Probation Officer, Warrant Officer Carly Luttrell, Probation Officer, PreSentence Investigator

More often than not we become too complacent when dealing with offenders that we are familiar with, or whom we view as not a threat, when completing routine tasks. There is nothing that is routine about the services we provide to the community, regardless if we are interviewing a 16 year old for a misdemeanor conviction or serving a high-risk warrant with local law enforcement.

In the past few months, this has proven to be true at our Department as well as critical incidents that have grabbed the nation's attention. While recently working in connection with the

Daily News Online (2015). Photograph, Retrieved from www.dailynewsonline.com



Probation Officers Barber and Luttrell (left) conferencing with a New York State Trooper outside of a residence in East Pembroke.

New York State Police and Genesee County Sheriff's Office to serve multiple warrants, routine and complacency could have led to serious harm to all involved. Questioning suspects led to the first meth lab discovered by the Genesee County Probation Department. A seemingly routine arrest and search turned into a multijurisdictional response resulting in three suspects being arrested for felony offenses. Communication and alertness by all agencies involved proved to be nothing short of excellent and provided a safe environment for everyone to execute their respective roles.

On a national level recently, Probation Officers have made the news for their role in assisting during the San Bernardino County tragedy, which is now known to be an act of terror. Throughout our days we come into contact with multiple agencies where this type of unfortunate tragedy could occur. It is important for us to recognize a routine day can be disrupted in the blink of an eye and complacency can drastically affect how events unfold. It is critical for each of us as officers to take a step back, identify our own shortcomings and build on improving them.

In This Issue

- 1 Combating
 Complacency
- 2 Staff Listing
- 3 The Importance of a Sound English Education in Probation
- 3 Overheard
- 3 Probation's Most Wanted
- 4 Giving Back
- 4 Naloxone
- 5 Director's Corner
- 5 Welcome!
- 5 Probation Highlights

Genesee County Probation Department

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

Staff Directory 2016



Timothy Michalak Probation Director II Ext. 2270



Kevin Wright Probation Supervisor Ext. 2271



Rachel Sanfratello **Probation** Supervisor



Michele Tucci Senior **Probation** Officer Ext. 2262



Jeremy Barber Senior **Probation** Officer



Traci Russo Senior Probation Officer



Sarah Welker **Probation** Officer Ext. 2274



Matthew Garber **Probation** Officer



William Bogan II Probation Officer

Ext. 2309



Carly Luttrell **Probation** Officer Ext. 2272



Jason Mindler Probation Officer



Terri **Buchholz Probation** Officer

Ext. 2216



Benjamin Heale Probation Officer Ext. 2263



Nicole **Williams** Probation Officer Ext. 2273



Vacant **Probation** Officer Ext. 2266





Carrie **Everett Principal Financial Clerk** Ext. 2255



The Importance of a Sound English Education in Probation Benjamin Heale

Benjamin Heale Probation Officer

At first glance, I am very much aware that the title of this article probably did not cause your heart to skip a beat with excitement! However, the importance of a sound English education in Probation, and all of law enforcement, is a valuable topic that is often overlooked. It is also blatantly apparent that many members of our society in this digital, text-abbreviated age are hard-pressed to express themselves through writing using proper punctuation and capitalization.

When most think of Probation, images of badges, guns, and drugs probably come to mind, and yet a significant portion of a Probation Officer's time is spent writing Pre-Sentence Investigations, Periodic Case Reviews, Judicial Reprimands, and Violations of Probation. Probation Officers are often asked to provide Updated Reports to the Courts in which an Officer can objectively, but persuasively, voice the position of the Probation Department. An individual with a solid English background will also find that he has to spend far less time correcting common and sometimes embarrassing spelling and punctuation errors. This time can then be used to focus on field work and case management.

I was not an English major in college. I also do not particularly enjoy writing. However, I am appreciative that the college I attended forced me to take several English classes. Many of the Criminal Justice classes I attended also emphasized the importance of proper spelling and grammar by routinely giving spelling tests over commonly

WANTED

misspelled words unique to the profession. Why did they put such an emphasis on something that most consider to be rather boring? Why not just focus on the exciting stuff? As a member of law enforcement, you represent something more than just yourself. You represent your specific agency, the members of that agency, and the people of your community.

So, for all those reading this article that desire a career in law enforcement, I would highly recommend taking an extra English class or two. It might not be the most exciting thing you attempt in life, but it will be well worth it. The importance of a sound English education should not and cannot be understated.

Overheard...

Probationer Quotes

WANTED

- While waiting for the drug test results, Probationer asked, "Does this test for cancer?"
- Before a drug test, Probationer asked,
 "Did they legalize medicinal marijuana this week?"
- When confronted about their house lights turning off as soon as an Officer knocked on the door, Probationer responded, "It was the squirrel."

WANTED





If you have any information regarding the whereabouts of these individuals, call the Genesee County Probation Department at (585) 344-2550 x2257



WANTED

Naloxone

Jason Mindler Probation Officer / Instructor Naloxone Coordinator

If one looks to the news media outlets, there is little doubt that the United States is in the midst of a heroin epidemic. While public and private agencies are seeking to address this issue, the fact remains that opioid overdoses are deadly and are something that people working with the public may encounter.

A tool recently made more accessible is the prescription drug Naloxone, known by trade names such as Narcan or Evzio. This drug is an opioid antagonist, which binds with opioid receptors in the brain and makes them unavailable to an opioid, potentially stalling or reversing an overdose. Naloxone has little to no effect on someone who has not recently used opioids, and the medication can be administered through an injection or using an intranasal injector.

Though this drug has been available to emergency medical personnel for many years, it is becoming available to other users through special programs designed to put this medication into the hands of people who work or live closely with opioid users. In April of 2006, New York State passed a law allowing nonmedical professionals to administer Naloxone to a person to prevent an opioid overdose. The law established opioid overdose programs that were provided Naloxone by the New York State Department of Health. This law has allowed Naloxone to be accessible to law enforcement officers and other community members, resulting in reports of many saved lives. Quick administration of Naloxone may give someone a second chance; further, a non-medical professional is

covered by the 911 Good Samaritan Law, shielding them from legal recourse if the drug is administered in good faith.

It is through an opioid overdose program that the Probation Department has been able to make Naloxone available to its sworn personnel. Thanks to the

generous donation of time by the Naloxone Coordinator of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, probation officers were trained on the use and storage of the drug, and department instructors were trained to teach the course in the future. Kits were prescribed to the agency at no cost to the department and have been made available to our

officers. The kits are designed to provide doses of the medication by squirting up the nose, providing a measure of safety by not introducing any intravenous or intramuscular needles.

Probation officers are also at risk of exposure to opioid drugs during searches of probationers or their residences. Of particular concern is Fentanyl, a powerful opioid; in March of 2015 the United States Drug Enforcement Agency issued a warning that Fentanyl can be absorbed through skin or through inhalation. Quick administration of Nalox-

one may save the life of an officer accidentally exposed.

In addition to the Naloxone program at the Probation Department, CPR and AED training has been made available to all personnel. Improved nitrile gloves and sharps containers have been implemented to enhance safety for officers handling any contraband in the office or in the field.



An Intranasal Naloxone Training Kit

The Naloxone program is just one of the initiatives undertaken in 2015 to enhance our ability to serve the community and to invest in our staff members. For more information on Naloxone and its place in your agency or home, please contact the New York State Department of Health, the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, or the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services for Law Enforcement agencies.

Giving Back

Staff donated money during the Department's annual "Chili Thanksgiving" party, the proceeds of which benefitted the Batavia Warming Center.

In lieu of exchanging gifts, Department Staff also donated money in December to the County's Fill-A-Basket Campaign, which was very successful.



4 Volume 9 Issue 1 January, 2016



Director's Corner

By Timothy Michalak Probation Director

The Probation Department is entrusted with serving Genesee County by enhancing the safety and welfare of our citizens. One way we work to accomplish this is by effectively supervising offenders within the community. Nearly one third of our adult offenders are on Probation for Driving While Intoxicated. After securing STOP DWI funding, we created and implemented our "Alcohol Blitz Program" which is a mandatory alcohol/substance abuse testing program for DWI offenders.

Alcohol is a commonly abused substance, however, it is difficult to detect because alcohol is rapidly cleared from the body. With traditional alcohol testing, detection time is limited to hours after use although Ethyl glucuronide (EtG) testing allows for detection for approximately 48 hours after alcohol is consumed. EtG is available and utilized as a laboratory-based test, but it can take days to get the results. However, EtG prescreen testing is now available and it yields accurate results in just minutes. Throughout 2015 the Probation Department has made use of this relatively new product with excellent results. The EtG prescreen test has provided us with greater visibility into offender behavior and should dramatically reduce the denial and manipulation by the drinking probationer.

Through results-driven management practices we attempt to facilitate change within offenders to ultimately reduce future recidivism, creating a better quality of life for all of our citizens while making Genesee County a more desirable place to live and work.

Welcome to our new Probation Officer!



Genesee County Probation Department 2015 Highlights

- On October 5, 2015, a home contact resulted in the discovery of a suspected methamphetamine lab.
- On November 20 & 21, 2015, Probation
 Officers transported a probation ab sconder, who was arrested on a war rant in Tennessee, back to Genesee
 County to face justice.
- On December 23, 2015, a team conducting a search at a probationer's residence discovered two unlicensed handguns.
- 22 Probation Warrants were cleared in 2015.
- Probation Officers prepared 774 investigations for the Courts, which was an increase of 96 investigations over the previous year.

5 Volume 9 Issue 1 January, 2016



Contact Information:

Genesee County Probation Department
County Building No.1,
15 Main Street, Batavia, NY 14020



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.





6 Volume 9 Issue 1 January, 2016