

News from

Maggie Brooks

Monroe County Executive

Thursday, July 15, 2004

Brooks Issues Proclamation For National Probation, Parole, & Community Supervision Officer's Week

County Executive Maggie Brooks issued a proclamation to the Monroe County Probation Department recognizing National Probation, Parole & Community Supervision Officers' Week July 18 through July 24th and applauded the role the officers play in the community's criminal and juvenile justice systems.

"As the oldest and most frequently applied alternative to incarceration, probation continues to provide important services that assist offender's in becoming law-abiding citizens while providing public safety protection to the community", said Brooks. "Today's recognition focuses on the men and women who, through their dedicated professionalism and their tireless devotion to duty as probation officers, provide a critical and vital service to the citizens of this community."

New York enacted its first probation law in 1901. In March of that year, Monroe County organized the first Probation Department in the state. By 1905, the staff included five and supervised 401 cases. Today, the department's staff consists of 201 and supervises 8,186 offenders.

"I am extremely proud of the dedication and talent exemplified by our current probation officers and other staff", said Robert Burns, director of the Monroe County Probation Department. "Our primary thrust is to provide crime prevention, public safety and law enforcement services to the community."

Probation officers assist judges with sentencing decisions, supervise adults and juveniles on probation, support domestic violence victims who seek Orders of Protection, provide community service programs where offenders are required to work for not-for-profit agencies and offer a variety of alternative programs to non-violent offenders.

Officers routinely conduct surveillance and home visits, require regular urine and breath tests, and monitor offender behavior with probation warrant officers swiftly apprehending those probationers who fail to comply. Monroe county Probation is an active partner in the Crimestoppers program, deploying officers to apprehend our community's highest risk absconders.

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Last year, 13,427 new adult and juvenile cases were handled by probation officers. \$597,649 was collected as restitution and disbursed to crime victims and more than 110, 690 hours of community service were performed by offenders.

Many of today's probation officers are certified substance abuse counselors and specialize in securing appropriate treatment for the probationers they are assigned. Officers also provide adult and juvenile offenders with structured guidance, assistance in obtaining a wide range of community-based resources, housing, medical and mental health care, gainful employment and education.

In celebration of this week, the Monroe County Probation Officers Association, Inc. (MCPOA) is hosting a food drive to benefit Foodlink. Foodlink is a regional food bank established to reduce hunger by providing food, resources, information and education to people in need throughout the local ten county regions.

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