



Lake County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Daniel A. Dunlap

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2013 ANNUAL REPORT

2015 Detective Bureau Annual Report

Capt. Ronald Walters

Members of the Lake County Sheriff's Office Detective Bureau pride themselves on the completion of complete and detailed investigations while working hand and hand fostering relations with various law enforcement partners and members of the criminal justice profession. Alone we are strong, united we are stronger.

2015 was another exciting year for the Lake County Sheriff's Office Detective Bureau with over 700 cases handled. 133 felony charges filed and, 156 misdemeanor charges. It was also another year without any criminal trials on any Detective Bureau cases. This fact alone speaks volumes.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office Detective Bureau is unique in that in addition to general duty cases, investigations of crimes that occur within the townships we patrol we handle a number of cases specific to a Sheriff's Office:

- Sexual Offender cases, both compliance checks and failure to register cases
- Jail Investigations, assaults, conveyance of contraband, furlough violations ect.
- Records requests, Jail and phone call records.
- Concealed Weapons Registration violations,
- County Office Investigations: Board of Elections, Treasurer's Office, Probation and Prosecutors office.
- Warrant related service/investigations. (Note: At any time the Sheriff's Office holds about 800 to 900 active arrest warrants)
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In addition to the above the Sheriff's Office Detective Bureau handles all major internal affairs investigations, not only the Sheriff's Office but for all county office holders. The Detective Bureau also conducts pre-employment CVSA exams for not only the Sheriff's Office but also for other county agencies and police agencies. This past year 78 such exams were conducted.

In addition to the above, the Detective Bureau is also involved with a number of county wide initiatives/programs:

- Alcohol and Tobacco compliance checks of retail outlets for underage sales. (Last year 119 such checks were conducted with a total of 41 violations cited into county municipal courts and the state for licensing violations.
- Retail store, (Dairy Mart style convenience stores) compliance checks to ensure they are not buying stolen property from heroin addicts who steal the items from big box stores. This investigation was done by the Lake County Heroin Task Force Detectives in conjunction with the Ohio Investigative Unit and the Lake County Narcotics Agency.
- Cash for Gold compliance checks – A undercover police officer attempted to sell purported stolen items to cash for gold locations. This investigation was conducted by Lake County

Heroin Task Force Detectives and Lake County Narcotics agents. These investigations are on-going.

- Bar compliance checks – This initiative is conducted in conjunction with the Ohio Investigative Unit. These checks focus on establishments that local law enforcement has had complaints on. Undercover agents enter the bar and observe violations and the owner / bar employee is then cited. These checks are conducted in conjunction with the local jurisdiction.
- Actively assist Lake County Narcotics Agency with informant development and information sharing. Detectives also assist with manpower as needed on an operational basis. One would be remiss not to recognize the Lake County Jail as a source of intelligence information / informant development.

Another county wide initiative is the Detective Bureau's involvement with the U.S. Marshalls Service, Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive (Lake, Geauga, and Ashtabula) Task Force. As a result of their efforts a total of 148 persons were arrested last year by this part time task force. Of the 148 arrested the break down for Lake County is as follows:

- 33 warrants held by this agency were served, of this number
- 18 were arrested in Lake County
- 13 were arrested outside of the county. 2 were arrested out of State.
- 37 probable cause warrants held by Lake County Police agencies were also arrested in Lake County. 20 people were arrested in Lake County on warrants from agencies outside of Lake County but in Ohio. 2 out of state warrants were served in Lake County along with one Federal arrest warrant.

Lake County Heroin Task Force

2015 was the first full year of operation for the Lake County Heroin Task Force which was formed at the end of 2014. The task force staffed by two detectives has been active on many fronts this past year to include: Development of a Pawn Data base, utilized to identify suspicious transactions. If Detectives see that a person is pawning a large number of items or has more than 3 transactions in a month's time these will be investigated. More often than not the stolen items are from family members who did not even realize they were missing. In these cases a high percentage of families refuse to prosecute. In cases in which they do opt to prosecute the family usually wants them to get into some type of treatment. The criminal charge is used as leverage to accomplish this. As previously mentioned the task force was heavily involved in compliance checks at cash for gold locations. Heroin addicts will steal items and take them to cash for gold location and sell the items for pennies on the dollar to get money for their next purchase of heroin. It is hoped that these random compliance checks will deter the ease with which stolen property is disposed of. In essence they are operating a legal fencing operation. Two such locations within the county were found to be blatant in that regard. This investigation is on-going and has been adopted by another agency.

In 2015 Lake County Heroin Task Force Detectives handled a total of 169 cases, filed a total of 43 felony charges and 17 misdemeanor charges. In addition through the efforts of the task force charges were filed in 6 cases by other agencies. In addition there were 98 other cases which were either closed due to a lack of evidence, referred to other agencies or the victims refused to prosecute or were uncooperative in that regard.

Lake County Heroin Task Force Detectives in 2015 have attended Town Hall style meetings hosted by the Lake County ADAMS board and also Clean Start meetings. Detectives have also initiated a public awareness campaign via Facebook in which actual letters from heroin addicted

inmates are posted for their educational value and/or teaching/discussion points with teenagers. The Task Force has also posted educational clips detailing the effects of heroin on the human body. Task Force Detectives has formed partnerships with private non-profit organizations such as Clean Start to assist in getting dependent people into treatment facilities. This program thus far has been very beneficial especially for families who refuse to prosecute a loved one.

In 2016 the Lake County Heroin Task Force will focus on assisting local law enforcement with manpower in the battle against the heroin epidemic and continue to work on confidential informant development to be utilized with a focus on the dealers of controlled substances. The Task Force will also continue to grow and enhance existing established programs.

General Case Detectives

In 2015 the General case Detectives of the Sheriff's Office handled a total of 532 complaints and filed a total of 90 felony charges and 75 misdemeanor charges. 363 non-criminal / no charge cases. These cases could have been closed for any of the following reasons:

- Victim refused to cooperate
- Non-Criminal – Civil in nature
- Insufficient evidence – case suspended
- Referred to another agency
- Assist to another agency
- Case load breakdown by townships serviced: Painesville Township = 154 cases, Concord Township = 75 cases, Perry Township = 26 cases, Leroy Township = 14 cases, Other Jurisdictions = 6 for a total of 275 Cases.
- Percentages by Township:
 - Painesville Township comprises 56% of Detective Cases
 - Concord Township comprises 27.2 % of Detective Cases
 - Perry Township comprises 9.45 % of Detective Cases
 - Leroy Township comprises 5.09 % of Detective Cases
- County wide related cases (Drugs, Warrant Service, Sex Offenders, CCW violations, Jail Investigations, Probation/Prosecutors Office requests, Assist other agencies and self generated activity/cases = 257 cases or 48.30 % of Detective Activity

2015 Notable Cases

2015-014254 – Involves multiple agencies throughout not only Ohio but the United States and Canada receiving bomb threat/swatting type calls. Working in conjunction with Detectives from Painesville City Police Department a juvenile suspect was identified. This juvenile lived on Bowhall Road in Painesville Township. A search warrant was obtained and the juvenile was charged with multiple counts of disrupting public services and inducing panic. The juvenile admitted to placing over 100 such calls throughout the United States and Canada. The juvenile admitted to utilizing internet resources to mask his true identity and location while placing the calls which ultimately costs various agencies thousands of dollar across the country and disrupted numerous services.

2015-047268 – This case involves a local business in Painesville Township being embezzled out of \$723,610.00 over a 10 year span by an employee using bogus pay vouchers. The employee was charged with aggravated theft.

2015-006532 – This case involves a suspicious man pretending to be servicing a coin star machine located within the Painesville Township Giant Eagle. An alert clerk identified the male from a flyer distributed by Coin Star and Sheriff Deputies responded and took the male into custody. Investigation

by Sheriff's Detectives identified the male who was from Pennsylvania as being responsible for at least thefts from 49 different locations in Pennsylvania. The male was subsequently interviewed and admitted to partaking in this pattern of conduct for the past nine months and entered into no less than 100 coin star machines throughout Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Florida.

2015-072892 – This case involved the spousal rape and kidnapping of a female by the female's estranged live in male boyfriend who violated the conditions of a active protection order. The male forcibly dragged the female from her Painesville Township residence to her vehicle which he subsequently stole. The male drove the female around the Painesville area, all the while assaulting her. The male returned to the Painesville Township residence where the physical assault continued and the rape occurred. The male then fled the residence in the victim's car.

2015-012359 – This case involved the unavoidable and reckless death of a 6 week old baby due to the willful and reckless actions of the child's unwed mother. The child was placed in the double bed with the mother to sleep on his stomach atop numerous soft blankets and pillows. The investigation concluded that the mother was provided with ample instructions by the hospital detailing proper sleeping positions for an infant and the correct usage of an infant crib. The mother chose to disregard these educational instructions and place the child in this potentially dangerous position every night for 6 weeks until he succumbed to circumstances which were far beyond his control. The case was referred to the Lake County Prosecutors Office for consideration on the criminal charges of reckless homicide and child endangering.

2015-004600 – This case involves robberies that occurred at three locations, two stores in Painesville Township and the third in Perry Township Ohio. In all three a lone white male wearing a mask enters the establishment armed with a knife and demands cash from the clerk. The male suspect then flees the scene. Through an extensive investigation a Concord Township resident was developed as a suspect, a search warrant was obtained and executed and the suspect was subsequently arrested and charged with all three robberies. Additionally the suspects live in girlfriend was also charged with obstructing as well.

2015-079398 – This case involved a 16 day old infant with two broken femur bones and a 2nd degree burn on his left hand while in the care and custody of his biological father. A interview was conducted with the father and ultimately a confession to his actions was obtained. The male was subsequently arrested and charged with 2 counts of felony child endangering.

2015-067732 – This case involves a Concord Township woman who began receiving compromising photographs of herself which were taken within her own home via social media. The sender began to demand that she send additional compromising photos of herself or else the sender would make her employer aware of the photos and also supply the employer with a fabricated story as background for the photos. The sender sent dozens of e-mails to the victim claiming he would distribute the photos. After a lengthy and detailed investigation it was determined that the victims ex-husband was responsible for the conduct. He was subsequently charges with extortion, coercion, voyeurism and telecommunication harassment.

2015-016149 – This case involved a CCW (Carrying Concealed Weapon) National Rifle Association instructor who recruited students for what he called a "Fast Track" CCW class to circumvent the mandatory 12 hours of instruction required by the State of Ohio. Detectives utilizing an informant who registered and attended the class which lasted only 3 hours and 40 minutes with no actual handling of a firearm or range time, was awarded a certificate required to obtain the State of Ohio CCW license. Through further investigation it was learned that this instructor, since 2010 had issued a total of 171

certificates presented to the Lake County Sheriff's Office for the issuance of a CCW license. This instructor also had a number of student's present certificates to the Geauga County Sheriff's Office as well. This case was referred to the Lake County Prosecutors Office for charges of Tampering with records, Theft by deception and Complicity to Falsification. Geauga County additionally will have charges as well. All persons who presented certificates to both Sheriff's Offices were revoked. The NRA also revoked the suspect's instructor certificate.

2015-046698 – This case involves a biological father who had been molesting his 11 year old daughter for the past year and a half in Leroy Township Ohio. The conduct also alleged the production of child pornography as well. A search warrant was secured for the residence and evidence was collected supporting the allegation. The suspect was arrested and charged with Rape and Pandering Obscenity Involving a Minor. The case is pending at the Lake County Prosecutors Office.

2015-050507 - This case initially started with the attempted rape of a 14 year old niece of the suspect at Helen Haze Wyman Park (Lake County Metro-Park case # 2015-014496) The victim was able to flee from her uncle and seek assistance. The suspect fled through the woods and emerged on the Greenway Corridor just south of Rt. # 84 in Concord Township Ohio. The suspect then entered a unoccupied residence where he was subsequently startled by the female resident who returned home. The suspect then shot the resident multiple times with a weapon he had stolen from the residence and again fled back towards the greenway corridor. The female succumbed. It was on the corridor that the suspect encountered a mother walking with her two children. The suspect fired multiple shots in the direction of the family. The mother was struck with one such round and sustained non-life threatening injures. The family fled on foot. Upon the arrival of Sheriff Deputies a perimeter was established and a search for the suspect began. The suspect was encountered in a heavily wooded area and attempted to engage police in a gunfight. Multiple shots were fired and the suspect who was uninjured was taken into custody. In a subsequent interview conducted by Sheriff Detectives the suspect gave a full confession. The case is with the Lake County Prosecutors Office. The suspect his charged with multiple charges to include Aggravated Murder.

2015-087354 – This case involves two incarcerated Lake County jail inmates who conspired to bring heroin into the jail. The one inmate was released from jail on a court ordered furlough and met up with her boyfriend who had been sent money by the other inmate so that he could buy the heroin. The furloughed inmate then concealed the heroin in her body cavity and was able to get it into the jail. The two female inmates then distributed the heroin to other inmates on the range. As a result of their actions one of the inmates on the range overdosed and subsequently passed away. The case is at the Lake County Prosecutors office for charges against all three parties who conspired to conveyance the drugs into a detention facility and Involuntary Manslaughter. Additionally charges are requested on all the inmates in the range that tested positive for heroin usage.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office Detective Bureau remains very active in not only patrol (Townships) generated cases but also on assignments that come directly to the Detective Bureau for investigation.

Capt. Ronald Walters

Detective Bureau Commander

