La Porte/Bayshore Sun

LPPD welcomes newest member



NEWEST OFFICER - LPPD Officer Jeff Dalton introduces the department's newest member, Teya, a 4-year-old German Shepherd.

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The La Porte Police Department has just welcomed its newest officer to the force and members of the agency are especially proud of her work ethic.

Officers have also commented that they are amazed by her athleticism, declaring confidently that no criminal could outrun or outjump her.

That's because she's a 4-year-old German Shepherd named "Teya."

Yes, LPPD has implemented their new K-9 program and the citizens of La Porte will now see Teya and her handler, Officer Jeff Dalton, in action along city streets.

The department's K-9 memorial program was recently established thanks to a gracious donation made by Fuller Construction Company and was created in memory of former La Porte Police Sergeant David Lay. Sergeant Lay dedicated a significant portion of his life to serving the La Porte community and department members agree that an active, drug fighting, K-9 represents the same tenacity and devotion Lay displayed during his career.

The new crime fighter will wear a modified badge with the same number worn by Sgt. Lay as a permanent reminder of the former officer's commitment to the field of law enforcement.

Drug sales and the crimes that often accompany such activities have plagued communities across America for years.

And while the city of La Porte may not be labeled as a city having an official "drug problem," most citizens would agree any illegal activity is a problem.

Teya and Officer Dalton have trained together at the Worldwide K-9 Training Academy near San Antonio and the pair is now certified to engage in a variety of drug-detection practices.

The new program is a monumental undertaking for the department and also requires great sacrifice from Officer Dalton. Much of the patrolman's former free time will involve basic care

for his new K-9 partner. Teya will reside at Officer Dalton's home and will live with the Dalton family 24 hours per day.

Officer Dalton expressed excitement with his new assignment as he quipped, "She's great. I can't wait to get to work!"

The La Porte Police department anow joins several other neighboring communities who enjoy having an active police K-9 program and a new departmental policy has been drafted to accompany the undertaking. Citizens can now sleep a little easier knowing that Teya will be on the job.

With additional help from the newly created La Porte Police Memorial Foundation, the Police Department's second K-9 Team is scheduled to begin training later this month.

The Memorial Foundation is a nonprofit organization that was created by a group of private citizens to support the La Porte Police Department and its officers.

Charter members of the Foundation include Chairman Roy Fuller, President Pat Brooks and Vice President Scott Jordan.

Additional contributions were also made by local businesses such as the HB Zachary Corporation, Beacon Federal Credit Union and AKA Industrial Repair Service.

If you would like to support and/or have questions pertaining to the La Porte Police Officers Memorial Foundation, please contact the Memorial Foundation's office at 281-470-8772.