



Foundation Donates \$15,000 for New K9 Unit

City of Wentzville

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During the Board of Aldermen meeting on Wednesday, June 24, a presentation will be made from the Rick and Kathy Griffin family on behalf of the Ryan Griffin Memorial Scholarship Foundation. The Griffins initiated this donation in order to honor their son Ryan's memory.

The check for \$15,000 from the Griffins will be used to purchase and train the dog, acquire a bullet proof vest for the dog, print vehicle decals and more. This important contribution will significantly impact the Wentzville Police Department and its efforts in our community. On the cusp of the recent heroin roundup, this presentation is a timely reminder of the need to locally combat drug use and drug overdoses.

When Cooper James Heun, age 7, and his sister, Ayla, age 9, heard about the Foundation's contribution and the new K9 unit, they wanted to find a way to give back. These young residents will also present a check at the meeting, from monies raised at a local home bake sale.

In addition, the Wentzville Community Club has made a generous donation in the amount of \$2,500 toward the K9 Unit. Wentzville is overwhelmed by the community support for this important program.

As part of the newly established K9 Unit, the Wentzville Police Department has selected Officer Jason Davis as Wentzville's new K9 officer. A vehicle has been designated and is being outfitted with the necessary equipment. Davis will select the dog in July and begin training in August. It is anticipated that the dog will begin working with Wentzville PD as early as September.

Nationally, law enforcement K9 units save hundreds of man hours each year in a variety of suspicious and high-risk situations. Because of their extraordinary senses, they can search the same locations in a fraction of the time their two-legged partners can. Wentzville PD is proud to launch this new special services unit in our City.

The City of Wentzville provides day-to-day services that are essential to the function, effectiveness and efficiency of City operations. City departments work together to improve City services, programs, and events and to serve as a resource for its citizens and the community it serves. To learn more, please visit www.wentzvillemo.org.

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