

Board of Trustees
Rick Carfagna
Frank Dantonio
Karl R. Gebhardt



Fiscal Officer

Patrick Myers

www.genoatwp.com

For immediate release

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Contacts: Chief of Police, Steve Gammill, 614-568-2061
Administrator, Paul Wise, 614-568-2021
Communications Director, Leslie Strader, 614-568-2020

Attachments: Photos of Officer Sigman (handler) and K-9 Officer Ben

Genoa Township Accepts Donation of K-9 Bulletproof Vest

Genoa Township Trustees and Chief of Police Steve Gammill accepted the donation of a bulletproof vest during the November 17 Trustee meeting on behalf of K-9 Officer Ben. The vest was donated by Christy Addington, Independent Director with Thirty One Gifts and Dawn Leonard and Steffanie Schaffer of 4 Healthy Paws, Ohio.

"Genoa Township remains 'a nice place to live' because of generous residents like Christy," said Trustee Carfagna. "The safety of our police officers is paramount, and on behalf of our community we are grateful for Christy's donation of a bulletproof and stab resistant vest for Ben."

Ben was selected to receive a vest after his picture was featured on the Genoa Township Police Department Facebook page and Addington took notice. Each vest carries a cost up to \$2600, but Addington was able to partner with the Ohio Chapter of Vesting America's Police K-9s to work directly through the manufacturer to acquire the vest for a reduced cost of \$800. Addington, Leonard and Schaffer held a craft show at the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 9 as a fundraiser and contributed commissions and proceeds from their private businesses. The team of women earned enough in the past year to vest their first K-9, Tazer of New Lexington, followed by Havik of Heath and Genoa Township's own K-9, Ben.

"Our K-9 unit is especially important for drug detection and apprehension of suspects," said Chief of Police Steve Gammill. "Officer Sigman and Ben truly are partners who work together to protect the community."

Ben, a Belgian Malinois, was acquired to support the Genoa Township Police Department following the retirement of K-9 Gandolf in May of 2016. Ben is handled by Officer Mike Sigman who describes the canine as energetic and work driven with a desire to please. In the short time Ben has been a part of the Department, he has aided the discovery of cocaine, heroin and marijuana as well as the apprehension of criminal suspects.

"Early in the year, three police canines were killed in the line of duty," said Christy Addington. "I was deeply affected by their deaths and inspired to take action to prevent any further losses."

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Administrative Offices

5111 S. Old 3C Hwy., Westerville, OH 43082
Administration & Trustees – (614) 895-1126
Development & Zoning – (614) 899-0725
Fiscal Office – (614) 568-2023

Safety Services Complex

7049 Big Walnut Rd., Galena, OH 43021
Fire – (614) 568-2040
Maintenance – (614) 568-2080
Police – (614) 568-2060

