



SHELTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



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By: Captain Michael Madden

SHELTON PD BRINGS BACK K-9 UNIT

The Shelton Police Department has reinstated a K-9 Unit. The new dog team graduated last month from the Connecticut State Police K-9 Academy in Meriden. Officer Christopher Nugent is beginning his third year as a police officer with a new partner. K-9 Jaeger, was purchased by the department last year from a breeder just outside of Concord, NH. Jaeger (which means "hunter" in German) was teamed with Nugent for 14 grueling weeks of intensive training. Officer Nugent had actually gone into the training last fall with a different dog that was donated to the department. That dog, however, failed the stringent aggression tests, and was dropped from the program after six weeks. Though Shelton had used up there funding on the first dog, the department received outside help from an unexpected source.

People's United Bank donated \$2,500.00 to the department, out of their community relations funds. This allowed Shelton to purchase the dog from the New Hampshire kennel. *"We had our backs against the wall and People's stepped in." We had located Jaeger after several weeks of searching but had no money left to buy, feed, and care for the dog. People's funding allowed us to get the dog we wanted and get him trained in a timely manner without further delays. Without their help the unit would not have been back up and running until sometime in 2009."*-Cpt. Madden

The rigorous training certifies the K-9 team in tracking (missing persons & criminal suspects), building search, evidence recovery, crowd control, suspect apprehension, and officer protection. The team trains in all different types of elements including rain, snow, heat and cold. They are also exposed to all different kinds of terrain, including busy roads, suburban areas, grass, dirt, water, and inside all types of buildings. Both K-9 and handler need to be in superior physical condition. The training includes an obstacle course and long daily runs. The school also consists of a large amount of classroom time. K-9 Handlers are trained in all aspects of the dog's physical and psychological makeup. Handlers are trained in dog CPR and must be able to carry their partner at least 100 yards. The classroom consists of written weekly tests, a midterm, and written and practical final exam. Academically, Officer Nugent graduated first in the class of 10 dog teams with a 98 average. Jaeger is a one year old male German Sheppard and resides with Nugent at his home.

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