

Onondaga County Sheriff's Office News

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Sheriff



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The Onondaga County Sheriff's Office welcomes its Newest Four-Legged Crime Fighter to the Force

County of Onondaga, New York – Onondaga County Sheriff Gene Conway is pleased to announce the latest addition to the department's K9 unit and the unique name the four-legged crime fighter has been given.

K9 Searles, was recently welcomed into the Sheriff's Office. The 22-month-old male Dutch Shepherd mix from Hungary, was named in honor of fallen Sheriff's Deputy Glenn Searles, whose watch ended nearly 18 years ago. K9 Searles will replace K9 Drago, who is set to retire in a few months after serving the community for the past 7 years.



K9 Searles will began patrol & tracking school this week with his partner, Deputy Jeff Neal, who has been a K9 handler for the past 13 years. The school is instructed by Sergeant Craig Belcher and is held at the Sheriff's Office K9 training facility in Camillus. Once graduated from patrol & tracking school, K9 Searles will receive additional training as an explosives detection canine.

K9 Searles is the first canine with the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office that has been named after one of its fallen members. The Sheriff's Office plans to name their next canine after fallen deputy, David R. Clark. Deputy Glenn Searles died in 2003 after a car lost control along Route 481 and struck him while he was helping a stranded motorist. Deputy Searles had served with the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office for two years, and had previously served as an investigator with the medical examiner's office. He was 31 years old when he was killed in the line of duty.

Deputy David R. Clark was killed in the line of duty on February 11, 1987. Deputy Clark had served with the Sheriff's Office Custody Department for more than 2 years and was only 33 years old at the time of his death. Deputy Clark was shot and killed as he and another deputy were escorting three prisoners from court. One of the prisoners grabbed the other deputy's gun and opened fire killing Deputy Clark and seriously wounding the other deputy.

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