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Oakwood Police Department adds its first police dog



Lt. Whaley and Bandit.

OAKWOOD – The City of Oakwood Police Department has added a new officer to its squad – Bandit, a drug detection and tracking dog.

“Bandit is a great addition to our department,” Chief Randall Moon said. “He will be an asset to the City of Oakwood.”

The 13-week old German Shepherd, which is the department’s first-ever police dog, has already begun training with his handler Lt. Rick Whaley at the Georgia

K9 Academy in Alpharetta.

“He is working out well,” Whaley said. “We train every day. We will meet with the trainer every few weeks and receive more areas to concentrate on. We are working on tracking right now and the narcotics training will come later.”

Whaley said they are using other officers in the department to assist with training drills. Whaley, who has experience working with police dogs, has taken a three-week course from the state of Georgia that certified him as a police dog handler. Eventually, Whaley and Bandit will work on national accreditation.

As a tracking dog, Bandit will be used to locate suspects during police investigations, as well as missing persons. As a narcotics dog, Bandit will be trained to detect all types of drugs.

“We’ve been called in to search for Alzheimer patients who have walked away from assisted living homes,” Moon said. “Bandit will be a big help in those situations in the future.”

The Oakwood police budgeted for Bandit like it would any new member of the department. Moon stressed that Bandit is not an attack dog and will be used for tracking and drug detection only. Bandit stays with Whaley all the time. He has a kennel at the Oakwood Police Department and at Whaley’s home.