



The Sagamore Hills Police Department is excited to announce their new “Therapy/Assistance Dog Program.” In May of this year, Lt. Dan Rice discussed his idea of a therapy dog with Chief Hayes. He researched it further, and began a search for a compatible dog. The Department wanted a dog that would showcase our Community Oriented Policing Philosophy. The dog would be taken to nursing homes, schools, community events as well as periodic visits to the homes of our Senior Call Program members. Chief Hayes contacted a few dog trainers, who he knew from his past experience as an officer. Lt. Rice was shortly informed that a trainer, in Wisconsin, had the perfect dog for our program.

“Annie” is a 1 year old Great Pyrenees rescue dog. She has spent the past two months with a trainer at Jessiffany Dog Trainers, in Wisconsin. The trainer advises Annie is a “sweetheart”, who is affectionate and friendly with everyone, very smart and obedient. Lt. Dan Rice is out at their facility, in order to train with Annie for two more weeks, before bringing her home to her new family at Sagamore Hills PD. Annie will be introduced to our community, in a few weeks, after she gets acclimated to our Department and her new handler. Lt. Rice will be taking care of her, on and off duty, and she will reside with him and his family.

We look forward to a successful program and hope that every resident in Sagamore Hills will eventually get to come in contact with Annie. We greatly appreciate the businesses in the community who have volunteered service or supplies for our program. Dr. Mark Hennis and the Sagamore Hills Pet Hospital has stepped up to volunteer the health care for Annie. Tractor Supply is donating her food and Smoochie Poochies will be donating monthly grooming. Mary’s grooming has stepped up to donate nail clippings and care as well.

We encourage anyone who wishes to help us with Annie, to donate to this wonderful program. To keep cost to a minimum to the Township, a fund will be set up to sustain the program and care for Annie. We are fortunate that our Board of Trustees as well as the Township Fiscal officer have unanimously supported this idea and program. We will keep everyone posted with photos of her homecoming soon!

Please feel free to contact Lt. Rice (dtrice@mysagamorehills.com) with any question or community events where having a visit from Annie would be welcome.