

New faces in Smithville



The newest members of the Smithville Police Department are Darian Short (left) and Kevin Garofalo, both officers were introduced at a village council meeting Monday night by Smithville Police Chief Howard Funk.

Dan Starcher/The-Daily-Record.com

Police Department adds two part-time officers; promotes another to full time

By **DAN STARCHER**
Staff Writer

SMITHVILLE — Village council members voted to add two part-time officers, Darian Short and Kevin Garofalo, to the police department Monday night during a regular meeting at village hall.

The need to hire additional officers is due to the resignation of full-time officer Keith Yost who recently took a position with the Cleveland Clinic Police Department, Police Chief Howard Funk said. Yost's last day with the village will be Feb. 17.

Garofalo, 26, attended the police academy at the Medina County Career Center and currently serves full time on the New London Police Department.

Short, 21, attended the police academy at the University of Akron and is currently employed full time by security company ESC.

Funk explained that when any new officer comes to the department there needs to be a training period.

"These guys will be in training a while," Funk said. "Any time a new officer comes to a new department, there is a training period that takes place so they understand the policies and procedures here and how our court system works."

"One of the big differences is the way we file our charges here," he continued. "Wayne County is one

of the few counties in the state where charges are referred to the prosecutor's office, then the prosecutor issues the charge."

Filling the full-time position left by Yost will be current part-time officer Andrew Pettry.

"Through the experience in the department as a part-time officer, and as an officer in New London, I feel ready for the position and I will be able to focus on law enforcement full time," Pettry, a native of North Olmsted, said. "I like the village department. Here, you have a hometown feel and get to interact with the community and get to know everybody."

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