

As seen in the 2015 Fall edition of *There's a lot to do in Windsor*

This young dog is learning new tricks.

Mike Tustin and Thor – Windsor Police Department

We've all seen the Fidelco guide dog puppies being trained around town. Ever wonder what happens to the pups that don't make the cut? Like any committed, hard-working individual, they choose another career path. That's the case with Thor, Windsor's newest K-9 dog. "He didn't make it as a Fidelco dog," his handler Officer Mike Tustin said, "he gets too fixated on things." Turns out that being fixated on one thing at a time is an excellent characteristic of a K-9 dog, so Thor made a career move.

Named by Chasity White of JFK Elementary School in an essay contest, Thor was donated by Windsor company MSA Security located on Addison Road. Thor has not left Tustin's side since he arrived in mid-April. This meant the pup would need to get acclimated with Tustin's three children and wife Shawna at home before completing an intensive 14-week training program in Waterford. The duo has now hit the Windsor streets.

They make a great pair. Tustin certainly paid his dues before fulfilling his childhood dream of becoming a police officer. As a Sage Park Middle School student, Tustin participated in a volunteer work program organized by the town Recreation Department to keep students busy during the delayed construction of the school that resulted in half day split shifts at the high school for 6-12 graders. When he was old enough, he began working for Public Works full-time in 1996. In December of 2001 Tustin was hired by the Windsor Police Department. He looks forward to this new twist in his duties.

"He was the youngest dog at training, but he held his own," a beaming Tustin said of Thor. Time will tell, but it would not be surprising to see Thor's head pop out the window of a police cruiser as he passes some of those Fidelco dogs in training.

