

The Informant

July 2023

Montgomery County Citizen Academy Alumni Association

From the Editor-in-Chief's Desk



MCCA AAA President Ken Freeman.

We are updating the Informant with a new format and new editions. I would like to welcome Stephanie Silva as the new Managing and Copy Editor for *The Informant*. I am trying to keep the Informant up to date and interesting to our membership and readers.

and socials.

Please support the fundraising to help the association with our Care for Cops program. I have provided many ways that you can support this program. We need to work with our Board of Directors to ac-

I want to welcome the newest members that have joined our association and I hope to see you at our meetings

complish the many events that we have planned.

We are selling tee shirts for our association. See the flyer enclosed. I will see you at our next meeting in September with an outstanding speaker: Chief Tom Manger of the U.S. Capitol Police (and retired chief of MCPD)!

Thank you.

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Explore More Inside

- MCCA AAA welcomes a message from Montgomery County Police Chief Marcus Jones, Pages 2-3
- Treasury Report and Member Spotlight, Page 4
- Cryptocurrency Scams, pages 5-6
- Care for Cops, page 7
- Presidential Vision and Program Updates, page 8
- Test your MCPD Knowledge on Page 9!

Rachel Johns, Vice President



MCCA AAA VP Rachel Johns.

As the former Program Officer, I coordinated the speakers for each membership meeting. It was a fun job to coordinate all the speakers, as well as work with Sgt. Mullaney to find new and interesting speakers.

I have now moved on to the Vice President position, which handles new members and recruitment for MCCA AAA. I will now be helping out with membership, and I look forward to growing our community. I plan to attend the citizen class graduation to encourage graduates to join the MCCA AAA as well as revamp the application process to draw more members.

Chief of Police Marcus G. Jones

First, I would like to thank the Montgomery County Citizen Academy Alumni Association for giving me this opportunity to share some updates, insights, and important information with the members through your *MCCAAA Informant* newsletter. As you know, the Citizen Academy is a very valuable program where we can foster better understanding, broaden communication, and build trust between the police and the community members we serve. In this endeavor, I am proud to share that we are currently in the midst of Citizen Academy Session 70, and Session 71 will start in September. In addition, I am delighted to share that our Hispanic Community Academy has resumed with our new Spanish Instructor Adriana Sanchez leading the way. Currently, Hispanic Community Academy Session 14 is in progress.

In recent years, we have faced challenges regarding recruitment and retention. Like many law enforcement agencies across the country, we have experienced a similar shortage of personnel. This shortage has placed an increased burden on our officers and professional staff. However, I am pleased to inform you that we have taken proactive measures to address this issue. To attract and recruit talented individuals to join

our department, we have implemented a new police officer candidate hiring bonus program. We are also expanding our Police Cadet program, focusing on college students who are interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement. Furthermore, we have joined the national 30x30 Initiative, which aims to advance women in policing. We are committed to increasing the repre-

“The Academy curriculum emphasizes community-oriented policing, de-escalation techniques, ethical decision-making, and much more ensuring that our officers are equipped with the necessary skills to serve with integrity and compassion.”

sentation of women in law enforcement to 30 percent by 2030. This initiative not only focuses on improving representation but also supports policies and a culture that enables qualified female officers to have successful law enforcement careers. Earlier this month, Assistant Chief Darren



Chief of Police Marcus G. Jones, Montgomery County, Maryland.

Francke and Commander Amy Daum discussed the 30x30 Initiative with County Executive March Elrich during his media briefing, which is available for viewing on *montgomerycountymd* YouTube channel (https://youtu.be/Twjwaom_2Eg).

I am excited to announce that Police Officer Candidate Academy Session 76 just started this month. We have a diverse group of 24 candidates in Session 76, along with 14 candidates from other allied agencies from Montgomery County. These candidates will undergo comprehensive training for the next six months to prepare them for the diverse challenges they may encounter while serving our community. The Academy curriculum emphasizes community-oriented policing, de-escalation techniques, ethical decision-making, and much more ensuring that our

Chief of Police Marcus G. Jones

officers are equipped with the necessary skills to serve with integrity and compassion. I know some of the training you experienced through the Citizen Academy, like the MILO simulator training everyone loves so much.

In our ever-evolving society, we recognize the importance of utilizing advanced technology to enhance our crime-fighting capabilities. Our department has made significant investments in tools and systems to support our officers in their daily operations and to increase public safety. These technologies range from drones, cameras, and crime analytics tools. They are force multipliers, as well as, bringing more innovative ways for us to police more effectively.

We initially started with a few cameras in the downtown Silver Spring area to address the increasing incidents of violent crimes and community concerns. Many businesses and residents have expressed their appreciation for the presence of cameras in their neighborhoods. They have been effective tools in not only deterring crimes, but also aiding our investigators in solving cases when crimes occur. Today, we have added cameras to other areas, including in

“Many businesses and residents have expressed their appreciation for the presence of cameras in their neighborhoods. They have been effective tools in not only deterring crimes, but also aiding our investigators in solving cases when crimes occur.”

Wheaton. Similarly, drones have helped find missing people and assist public safety operations during large-scale events. By harnessing the power of technology, we strive to stay one step ahead of criminals and ensure the safety of our community.

During the Citizen Academy, I often talk about various crime statistics. Without fail, thefts from vehicles continue to be the most prevalent crime in our area. Regrettably, thefts from vehicles have shown an upward trend compared to last year. Additionally, auto thefts and carjackings are also on the rise. To address these concerns, I established the Auto Crime Enforcement Section under the Major Crimes Division. Investigators are often working collaboratively with other law enforcement agencies

in the region to tackle these shared concerns. Additionally, our Community Engagement Division is working with community partners to increase public awareness and take additional preventive measures, such as the Etch and Catch program (<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/pol/howdol/catalic-converter-etching-program.html>). I also encourage community members to do their part by securing their vehicles and reporting any suspicious activities promptly.

In closing, I want to express my gratitude for your ongoing support as an alumnus of the Montgomery County Citizen Academy. Your commitment to fostering positive relationships between law enforcement and the community is invaluable. Together, we can overcome challenges, adapt to the changing landscape, and ensure a safer and more secure future for all.

Thank you for your dedication and continued partnership.



HIRING BONUS

\$20,000



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- Permanent shift schedules
- Take home car program
- Over 50 specialized units
- Pre-Hire program

www.joinmcp.com



Treasurer’s Report, by Terry Harbonic

“We have 68 paid members for 2023 as of this report. It is not too late to support the MCCA AAA.” Join us!



MCCA AAA Treasurer Terry Harbonic.

January 01, 2023 to May 31, 2023

				Starting Balance
				\$6,520.94
Date	Detail	Deposits	Withdrawals	
1/23/2023		\$30.00		\$6,550.94
1/26/2023	voided check returned to account	\$7.50		\$6,558.44
1/26/2023		\$45.00		\$6,603.44
2/8/2023		\$30.00		\$6,633.44
3/6/2023		\$75.00		\$6,708.44
3/13/2023		\$80.00		\$6,788.44
4/19/2023		\$140.00		\$6,928.44
4/21/2023		\$375.00		\$7,303.44
5/26/2023		\$325.00		\$7,628.44
5/30/2023		\$45.00		\$7,673.44
	Subtotal deposits	\$1,152.50		
1/30/2023	Check 498 CFC supplies, M. Johns		-\$186.54	\$7,486.90
2/16/2023	Check 499 reimbursal for stamps, T. Harbonic		-\$25.20	\$7,461.70
2/28/2023	Check 500, Crown Trophy, 200 pins		-\$398.56	\$7,063.14
3/2/2023	Check 501, CFC supplies, V. Wolpers		-\$91.61	\$6,971.53
3/2/2023	Check 502, CFC supplies, M. Johns		-\$124.84	\$6,846.69
3/11/2023	Check 503, CFC supplies, V. Wolpers		-\$216.01	\$6,630.68
	Subtotal withdrawals		-\$1,042.76	
				Ending balance
				\$6,630.68

Member Spotlight: Melissa “Missi” Johns

I am the Activities Officer with the MCCA AAA. I was born in Washington, DC and raised in Montgomery County, graduating from Rockville High School and completing 4 years at the University of Maryland with a degree in Psychology. I have worked for 36 years with the Montgomery County Department of Liquor Control, now known as Alcohol Beverage Services (ABS).

I became interested in police work when we partnered with the MCPD to do compliance checks with my current job, but never applied to be-



MCCA AAA Activities Officer Missi Johns.

come a police officer.

My favorite sport is watching football, with my favorite team being the Dallas Cowboys. I love to hang out with my family and travel the USA. I like to walk my border collie mix who is very smart and can do many tricks. I like to read biographies. I am an only child. I have two grown children – a daughter, who is very active with the MCCA AAA and works for a property management company, and a son going through the 76th Police Academy class.

Cryptocurrency Scams, by Walter Houser



Criminals are among the first to exploit new technologies, and cryptocurrencies are the latest in that historical pattern. A cryptocurrency scam is a fraudulent scheme or activity that involves cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin, Ethereum, or other digital currencies. Like other forms of fraud, a cryptocurrency scam offers victims false promises of high returns or tricks them into giving away their private keys or passwords to access their digital wallets.

Some common examples of cryptocurrency scams include Ponzi schemes, where new investors' money is used to pay off earlier investors' returns without any legitimate investment taking place; fake ICOs (Initial Coin Offerings) that promise high returns on a new cryptocurrency that doesn't exist or has no real value; phishing attacks where scammers pose as legitimate companies or individuals to trick users into giving away their login credentials, and fake cryp-

tocurrency exchanges that steal users' funds by not allowing withdrawals or by manipulating the market to their advantage.

“Like other forms of fraud, a cryptocurrency scam offers victims false promises of high returns or tricks them into giving away their private keys or passwords to access their digital wallets.”

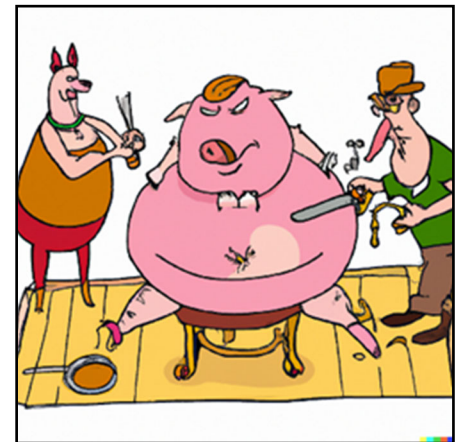
The “Rug Pull”



A rug pull is a type of cryptocurrency scam where the creators of a project or investment suddenly exit the market, taking all the invested funds with them. The name "rug pull" comes from pulling the rug out from under investors, leaving them nothing. In a

rug pull scam, the creators may initially appear to have a legitimate project, but once they have attracted enough investors and accumulated significant funds, they suddenly disappear. Unfortunately, this leaves investors with worthless tokens or coins and no way to recoup their investment.

“Pig Butchering”



In the pig butchering scam, the victim is lured by promises of an online romance scam that shifts to an investment opportunity in cryptocurrency. The virtual paramour may ask the victim to buy cryptocurrency using a legitimate exchange and then instruct the target to transfer the funds to a website wallet address where it will be “invested.” Alternatively, the victim may receive a message through social media announcing cryptocurrency winnings.

Crypto Scams, continued

Although the website can look quite convincing as a financial institution or money exchange, the website can be controlled by a criminal syndicate. Account balances can seem to rise substantially, giving the appearance of dramatic returns to one's investment. However, getting one's money out of the scheme meets with resistance. The victim will be required to pay transaction fees or foreign taxes, all to extract more funds before retrieving "earnings." All too often, all the money goes directly into the scammer's wallet.

Constant Caution!



Be careful to whom you complain about your losses. Regrettably, some unscrupulous individuals and organizations may try to take advantage of your situation and offer false hope of recovering your "investment." These recovery scams typically involve someone

contacting the victim and offering to help recover the money lost in the initial deception. In addition, they may ask for upfront fees, personal information, or additional payments in exchange for their services. However, in most cases, these individuals are simply trying to scam targets out of even more money or use personal information to steal one's identity. They may even be the same gang that stole the money in the first place.

It is essential to look for red flags such as anonymous creators, unrealistic promises of returns, and lack of transparency in the project's operations. If you can't resist the siren call of cryptocurrency, be cautious when investing and thoroughly research any website or app before making a transaction.

In summary, a cryptocurrency scam is any fraudulent activity involving cryptocurrencies that aim to deceive and defraud investors or users. As with any investment, exercising caution and performing thorough research before investing in any cryptocurrency or related project is crucial.



About The Informant

The Informant is published by the MCCAAs three times a year. Its purpose is to inform and engage MCCAAs membership and the Montgomery County community.

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The Informant welcomes submissions from the MCCAAs membership, the Montgomery County Police Department, and the broader Montgomery County community. Submission does not guarantee publication. The Informant reserves the right to edit for length, clarity, style, and tone.

Care for Cops, by Missi Johns

As the Activities Officer in 2023, I have continued the "Care for Cops" program, which entails delivering goodie bags to each police district so every officer in a specific police district can receive a "thank you" bag. On March 9, 2023, 150 bags were delivered to District 5—Germantown District. The bags included snacks, hand sanitizer, car fresheners, and sanitizer wipes. The bags were well received and appreciated by the officers who work in District 5. I, along with Vivian and Diane, delivered the bags to the station.

I plan to continue the "Care for Cops" program into the fall of 2023 at the start of the new Citizen Academy season. The next district that I intend to deliver bags to will be District 2—Bethesda. We will work on purchasing the items for the bags and getting the bags packed and delivered this fall. Hopefully I will be able to have enough funds to deliver to another district before the next summer break.

Thank you to all who assisted in this project. I look forward to working with the committee to keep this program in operation. I will also look forward to coming up with some other activities and fundraisers with the Activities Committee to get members involved in the Academy and raise funds to continue the project.

MCCAAA T SHIRTS **Members of the Montgomery** **County Citizen Academy** **Alumni Association**

Special Order Forms are now available to order MCCAAA Tee Shirts at the low price of \$22.50, which includes:



Care for Cops Fundraiser

We are accepting advertising to benefit the Care for Cops Program of the Montgomery County Citizen Academy Alumni Association. Please send ads in PDF format to mccaaanews@gmail.com:

Business card size \$25.00

¼ Page size \$35.00

½ Page size \$50.00

Full Page size \$75.00

Please make checks payable to MCCAAA. You may bring to a meeting or mail to:

PO Box 8884

Gaithersburg, MD 20898-8884

Specify Care for Cops Program

All ads will be published in *The Informant* and on our website at www.mccaaa.org.



The Montgomery County Citizen Academy Alumni Association Member T-Shirt Order Form

Name _____

Home Number _____ Cell _____

Email _____

Size: S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____ XXXL _____

How do you want your name on your shirt?

Price \$22.50, Cash or Check

Make check payable to: MCCAAA

You may mail or pay at meeting:

MCCAAA

PO Box 8884

Gaithersburg, MD 20898-8884



Any questions, please call or email me:

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President Ken Freeman

It is my pleasure to serve as the President of the Montgomery County Citizen Academy Alumni Association.

My Theme for the year is: ***Back to Basics.***

What do I mean with this theme? I want to do the things we did before the pandemic came into our lives. I want to have socials for the membership and their families, and continue to support the MCPD. We also have a newly formed committee to do a complete overhaul of our website www.mccaaa.org. Priorities include:

Membership

Holiday Party

Summer Social

Catered meal at last meeting in May

Support the MCPD

Thanksgiving Dinner at one of the districts

Care for Cops program

Helping the MCPD with scenarios

We will run fundraisers to support the Care for Cops program which includes selling our bags, license plate holders, and 50/50 drawings. We are going to sell tee shirts for our membership—please see the flyer enclosed. We are going to provide excellent speakers for our membership.

Get ready to have fun this year while carrying out our main objective: supporting the MCPD! I will be attending the first class of the new Citizen Academy and members of the Board will attend the graduation. Please call/email me at anytime.

Yours truly,
Ken Freeman
President, MCCA
kenfreeman49@gmail.com
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Programming Update, by Vivian Wolper



MCCA Program
Officer Vivian Wolper.

Greetings from Vivian Wolper, your MCCA Program Officer!

I have set up a special CPR/AED Training session for the Alumni Association to attend and refresh their skills! It is being held **July 20th, 2023 at PSTA from 6pm to 10 pm.**

We will welcome the following speakers at PSTA on the 3rd Thursday of each month:

September: United States Capitol Police Chief J. Thomas Manger

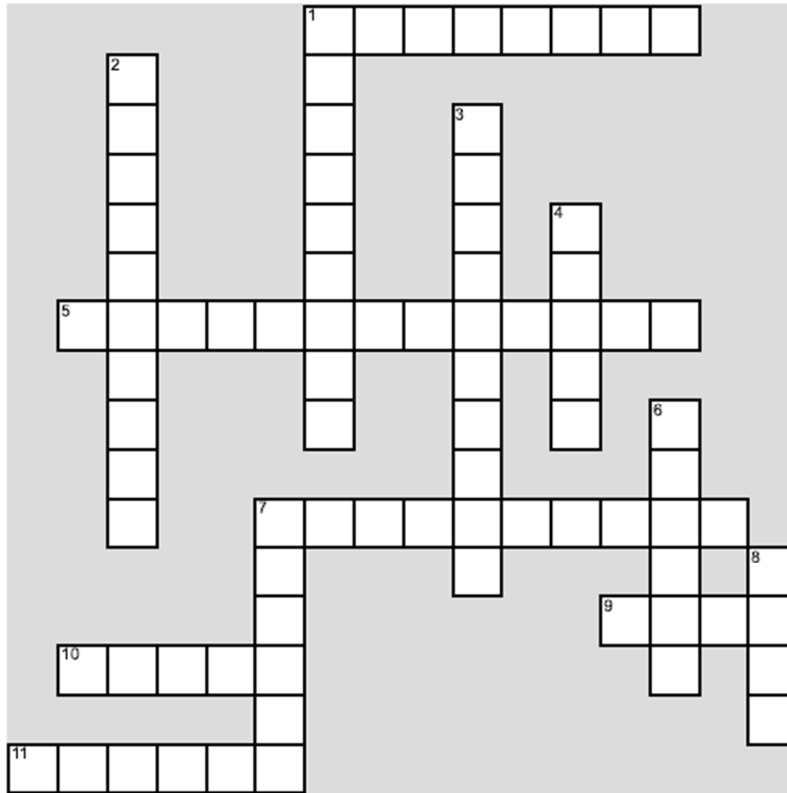
October: Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

November: Lieutenant Doug Miller

Join us!

MCPD 411

Test your MCPD knowledge!



.....

**Answers revealed
at the September
meeting!**

Across

- 1 We Gather Together
- 5 County Seat
- 7 Original MCPD patrol car
- 9 Bethesda oversight
- 10 International accreditation
- 11 Modern lifesaving tool

Down

- 1 Gaithersburg reporting in
- 2 Newly proposed district
- 3 Leads Rockville
- 4 You'll find him in Wheaton
- 6 Germantown salutes
- 7 Silver Spring head
- 8 Chief's alma mater

2023 MCCAAs Officers

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| President - Ken Freeman | Vice President - Rachel Johns |
| Secretary - Phil Gilbert | Treasurer - Terry Harbonic |
| Activities Officer - Missy Johns | Program Officer - Vivian Wolper |
| Advisor - Jerry Mullarkey | |