

## Editor's Remarks

### Winter Edition

It is my job as Editor in Chief of *The Informant* to find articles that will be of interest to our membership and guests. I am looking for any articles, pictures regarding law enforcement of the Montgomery County Police Department, or anything going on in the county, state, or federal government. If you would like to submit an article, please send to my personal email for review to kenfreeman49@gmail.com.

I welcome our new members to submit any suggestions to make *The Informant* better. Our Informant is distributed to approximate 450 people.

Thank you  
Ken freeman  
Editor in Chief  
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### *Inside this issue*

- MCCA AAA President's Remarks Page 2
- FBI: Mission Page 3
- FBI: What We Investigate Pages 3-4
- Activities Officer's Report Page 4
- Message from Marcus Jones Page 5
- Spotlight on Chief Yamada Pages 6-7
- Program Officer's Report Page 7
- Vice President's Report Page 7
- Member Spotlight: Alicson Knowland Page 8
- Citizen Academy Page 9
- Photo Gallery Page 10
- Membership Update Page 10
- Income and Expense Report Page 11

## Donations to the MCCA AAA

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to the Montgomery County Citizen Academy Alumni Association, please make out a check to MCCA AAA and mail to our P.O. Box at:

MCCA AAA  
P.O. Box 8884  
Gaithersburg, MD 20898-8884

Thank you  
Ken Freeman, President, MCCA AAA

# President's Remarks

## Winter 2025 Edition

### *Montgomery County Citizen Academy Alumni Association*

I want to welcome into our organization the newest members from the last graduating class of the Citizen Academy that joined our organization. The Citizen Academy was formed in 1994 for citizens 18 and above that live or work in Montgomery county to take a 15 week course to learn about the MCPD. I estimated that approx. 3500 have graduated out of a population of 1.2 million which is less than 1% that have participated.

Jacques Horvatic, our Activity Officer and I have been going to the Olney Farmers Market every other week setting up a 10x10' tent with a table of gifts to give away and a banner behind us which was made by Sergeant Mullaney. We are talking to folks walking by, making them aware of the Citizen Academy. We have noticed that most people do not know that the C.A. existed. We are buying small gifts from Amazon to hand out to those that take an application. I am going to look for indoor events around Montgomery County during the colder months. If you would like to help out, please contact me at [kenfreeman49@gmail.com](mailto:kenfreeman49@gmail.com) or Jacques at [jacques.horvatic@gmail.com](mailto:jacques.horvatic@gmail.com).

I am going to speak at outside organizations such as Rotary, Lions clubs, and homeowner associations.

I am looking forward to the speakers that our Program Officer Vivian Wolpers will bring to our meetings. We are promised to have good speakers this year. The organization will now meet every month at the PSTA. I looked at our by-laws and there was nothing stated that we take off during the summer months. We took a vote at our last meeting and it was approved by our membership.

I want to have a social every other month at the Outta the Way Cafe in Derwood, Maryland for our membership to get to know each other. My goals are to support the MCPD by participating in different events to show them how much we appreciate what they do. Our organization supported District 4 for Thanksgiving and bought soda, water, and large apple pies from Costco. It was appreciated by the leaders of District 4. I was told to come to the District and get a Certificate. When I got there, there was no one at the district to make a presentation.

If you have not renewed your membership for 2025, you may pay at any of our meetings or mail to our P.O. Box. 8884 Gaithersburg, MD 20898-8004.

Thank you,  
Ken Freeman  
President



# Federal Bureau of Investigation: Mission

<https://www.justice.gov/doj/federal-bureau-investigation>

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is a national security and law enforcement agency that uses, collects, and shares intelligence in all it does. As the only member of the Intelligence Community with broad authority to address criminal and national security threats to the Homeland, the FBI has a sworn duty to protect all Americans by staying ahead of the threat. The FBI's mission is to protect the American people and uphold the Constitution.

The FBI has a dual and complementary mission: enforcing federal law and protecting national security. Throughout its history, the FBI has adapted to address the changing threat environment, shifting from focusing on building cases for prosecution to using prosecution as one tool, among many, to dismantle national security threats and criminal activity. Today, adversaries seek to exploit the perceived gaps in the U.S. system between how the FBI approaches na-

tional security and criminal threats and how it shares responsibility among the government, academic, and private sectors for defending critical technology, intellectual property, and critical infrastructure. One of the FBI's most significant challenges in recent history has been the advances in information technology and computer networks eroding the U.S. Government's and the FBI's ability to conduct electronic surveillance (data intercept), threatening the Bureau's effectiveness in each investigative area. The FBI also faces challenges from the proliferation of data as technology becomes more accessible around the globe. These advancements in technology lower the barrier to entry for all threat actors, and increases the speed and skill of their efforts. Faced with these challenges, the FBI has ongoing initiatives to counter threats related to ubiquitous technical surveillance, "Lawful Access," and other current and emerging technologies.

## FBI: What We Investigate

<https://www.fbi.gov/investigate>



### Terrorism

To counter terrorism, the FBI's top investigative priority, we use our investigative and intelligence capabilities to neutralize domestic extremists and help dismantle terrorist networks worldwide.

### Cybercrime

The FBI is the lead federal agency for investigating cyberattacks by criminals, overseas adversaries, and terrorists. The threat is incredibly serious—and growing.

*(continued on next page)*

(FBI: What We Investigate, continued)

## Public Corruption

Public corruption is the FBI’s top criminal investigative priority, that includes border corruption, election crimes, international corruption and prison corruption.

## Weapons of Mass Destruction

The Weapons of Mass Destruction Directorate investigates and works to prevent incidents involving nuclear, radiological, biological, or chemical weapons.

## Transnational Organized Crime

The FBI is dedicated to eliminating transnational organized crime

groups that pose the greatest threat to the national and economic security of the United States.

## Violent Crime

The FBI, with its law enforcement partners, plays a key role in combating violent crime involving gangs, crimes against children, crimes in Indian Country, fugitives and missing persons, kidnappings, and bank robberies.

## White-Collar Crime

These crimes are not violent, but they are not victimless. White-collar crimes can destroy a company, wipe out a person's life savings, cost investors billions of dollars, and erode the public's trust in institutions.

## Environmental Crime

The FBI investigates criminal cases



that have violated U.S. laws intended to protect the environment, human health, worker safety, and animal welfare.

## How We Investigate

Whether it's the hostage rescue team or the latest intelligence, FBI personnel have a variety of tools and tactics in their investigative toolboxes to keep the public safe.

Learn more at <https://www.fbi.gov>

# Activities Officer’s Report



We are pursuing the preparation of Care for Cops bags and planning to deliver them to District 4 in the coming weeks.

We are starting to prepare ourselves for our return to the Olney Farmers & Artists market. The Olney market is one of the most popular of the area and welcomes

sellers and customers beyond Montgomery County and even Maryland. The market is open every Sunday from 0800 to 1300.

Remember that if you are interested to join us in promoting the Citizen Academy, please just connect with Ken or myself. Jacques Horvatic

# Message from Marcus Jones

Retired Chief of MCPD, Chief of Security MCPS

Greetings to members of the Montgomery County Citizen Academy Alumni Association,

Happy New Year and I hope everyone is well and safe. I am excited to report to you all that I am fine and well following my retirement in July of 2024. I miss the Montgomery County Police Department and my role as the Chief of Police, and most importantly the great people who work for the department. I also miss seeing many of you often during the Citizen Academy events and graduations. Those were highlights for me in my role.

As many of you know, my work life only stopped temporarily (approximately 29 days) as I began working in a new position as the Chief of Security and Compliance with the Montgomery County Public Schools system. It has been intense yet very satisfying within this six-month period. With oversight of 211 schools and additional facilities, providing safety and security for 160,000 students and nearly 25,000 employees are quite a challenge. I have been working feverishly to guide my security teams with new technology such as updated camera systems, vape sensors in our high schools, door protection systems, and much more. We have seen a decrease in serious incidents since the start of the school year and this has been satisfying to this point.



I have the luxury to work alongside our law enforcement partners in our schools such as MCPD, Gaithersburg City PD, Rockville City PD, Maryland National Capital Park Police, and MC Sheriff's Office as they provide officers who work with our schools as Community Engagement Officers. Although named differently, their roles are somewhat consistent as School Resource Officers (SRO). This partnership and collaboration provide me with some connectivity with the law enforcement world and satisfies the small itch I may get from time to time from my 38 years in policing.

I also wanted to report out that although I went to back to work relatively quick, I have been able to play a few rounds of golf thanks to the MCCA and I am grateful for your wonderful gifts. I look forward to seeing many of you around town soon and wish you all a great 2025. Please stay safe and healthy!

Sincerely,

Chief Marcus Jones (Retired)

# Spotlight on Chief Marc Yamada:

## A Legacy of Leadership and Community Engagement

Chief Yamada grew up in Wheaton, MD and graduated from Wheaton High School 1982. He went on to attend Frostburg University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, focusing on Marketing. During his senior year of college, he was walking through a job fair and started talking with MCPD recruiters. That is where his interest in law enforcement began. Chief Yamada never thought of a career in law enforcement before talking with recruiters. After a long conversation with them he liked the idea of making the community a safer place, and making a difference in the neighborhoods he grew up in. Chief Yamada joined the Montgomery County Police Department in August 1988 and never looked back.

Chief Yamada currently resides in Onley, MD where he lives with his wife Kathy, where they raised their 4 children Ryan, Eric, Sean, and Grace. When Chief Yamada is not attending various community events he enjoys spending time with his grandchildren, traveling to his son's football and lacrosse games, he enjoys the occasional golf outing with friends, taking his dog Blue on long walks, and trying out different restaurants with his wife Kathy.

### Rising Through the Ranks

Throughout his tenure, Chief Yamada has exemplified unwavering dedication, rising through various ranks



within the department. While serving as the Assistant Chief of Police in the Field Services Bureau, he led the department's strategic initiatives, including the innovative "Drones as First Responder" Program. This pioneering initiative enhances the department's effectiveness in emergency situations, showcasing his commitment to utilizing technology for public safety.

Chief Yamada also served as the Police Commander for the 4th District, overseeing patrol operations and supervising a diverse team of personnel. His leadership was recognized with the Chief J. Thomas Manger Excellence in Leadership Award, a testament to his ability to foster collaboration and operational excellence.

In his previous capacity as Captain of the Community Engagement Division, Chief Yamada made significant strides in promoting inclusivity. He established partnerships with organizations such as UNITY, Every Mind, and Fit Fathers, and was instrumental in forming liaison work groups at local high schools. Notably, he pioneered the department's LGBTQ+ liaison group, fostering trust and understanding within diverse communities.

Chief Yamada's journey through the ranks included pivotal roles such as Lieutenant in the Major Crimes Division and Sergeant in the Policy & Planning Division. In these positions, he contributed to depart-

*(continued on next page)*

(Spotlight on Chief Marc Yamada, continued)

mental goals and spearheaded initiatives, including the development of a new social media policy to enhance communication with the community.

## Vision for the Department

Chief Yamada is excited to have the chance to make a significant impact on the people and communities where he grew up. He wants the people of Mont-

gomery County to know that he will do his best to make this department the best it can be for those who live, work or visit here. He looks forward to strengthening MCPD's partnership with community members, businesses and others. He believes the more we work together, the safer Montgomery County will be.

## Program Officer's Report

Hello everyone

Here is what is going on for January through April 2025:

In January the presenter is Detective Sgt. Smugersky who will be speaking about Cold Cases.

In February we will have Lt Irvin Smith educating us about *Stop the*

*Bleed* and Narcan.

March, I am working on getting someone.

And in April we will have State's Attorney John McCarthy.

Take Care  
Vivian



## Vice President's Report

Happy New Year 2025!

As we begin the new year, I want to extend a warm welcome to the new members who have joined the Montgomery County Citizens Academy Alumni Association. We appreciate your interest and look forward to your active participation. We also anticipate welcoming more members throughout the year and encourage everyone to help spread the word

about the academy.

I want to express my gratitude to all the speakers who took the time to present at our 2024 Citizens Academy meetings. Your contributions made the program informative and valuable. We have an exciting lineup of speakers planned for this year, and we look forward to the engaging discussions ahead. Additionally, I want to

acknowledge the front-line workers who continue to put their lives on the line to keep our community safe. The members of the Citizens Academy Alumni stand in support of you and appreciate your hard work and dedication.

Wishing everyone a fantastic year!

Missi Johns  
Vice President, MCCA

# Member Spotlight: Alicson Knowland

Where were you born and grow up? Where did you go to High School? College? What kind of work do you do? Did you work in the field that you majored in? If not, why not? What do you like to do in your spare time? Favorite movies? TV Show? Last movie that you watched?

I'm Alicson Knowland; Managing Editor for *The Informant*, member of the Montgomery County Citizen Academy Alumni Association, and Public Safety Emergency Communications Specialist with the Montgomery County Police Department.

I was born in Malaysia, grew up in Southeast Asia, and moved to the U.S. around the start of middle school. I've been mostly in Montgomery County, Maryland since then, with a few stints overseas.

I graduated from Rockville High School, Antioch University, and University of Maryland. My college degree was in global studies, and I have a graduate degree in business.

My previous work experience spans website design and development, publication layout, editing, research, data analysis, administrative support, marketing, teaching; with companies/fields ranging from environmental construction, commercial and residential realty, international development, biotechnology, financial regulation, and recently public safety with Montgomery County's Police Department.

I learned about Montgomery County's Citizen Academy in late 2022 from my mother, after she attended a community-outreach lunch event hosted by the Montgomery County Police Department-- she



learned about it from a neighbor she met at the lunch.

I attended Citizen Academy in mid 2023, where I learned about the existence of the Emergency Communications Center (ECC) that handles the county's 911 and non-emergency police calls, and it was strongly expressed that help was needed there. My application was eventually accepted and, with much support by many exceptional

trainers, supervisors, coworkers, and dear classmates, I have just completed my first year at the ECC as a call-taker, and am currently undergoing fire-dispatch training.

I'm especially interested in how technology, including Artificial Intelligence and Large Language Models, can improve communication both among public safety staff and resources, and with the public.

I love eating good food, visiting good places, and spending time with good people. Also: reading, learning, watching movies/television, adventuring, exploring good technology and effective health modalities.

My favorite movies and TV shows span science-fiction, action/adventure/thrillers, good-humored and thoughtful sitcoms, and thought-provoking/mystery narratives.

The past few movies I watched were IF, Dune 2, and A Million Miles Away. They were all good.



# Citizen Academy

by Sergeant John Mullaney

Happy New Year everyone! We just started the 75<sup>th</sup> Session of the Citizen Academy (1/7/25) and have 20 students eager to learn about all that the police department has to offer this community. This will be the first class where we highlight the new Drone as a First Responder program that I mentioned in the last newsletter. We currently have three of these devices in use with plans for two additional ones coming soon. If you see one of these flying around the county, know that it is a great asset to detecting crime and catching the suspects quickly.

Congrats to the graduates of Session 74! They were actively involved in each night's topics, eager to



**Drone as a First Responder**



**Graduates of Citizen Academy Session 74**

learn, and asked challenging questions which kept the instructors on their A-game. I wish them luck in their future endeavors.

I am already recruiting for Session 76 which will run from May to August, so if you know of anyone that might be interested in the course, please have them email the application to [citizen.academy@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:citizen.academy@montgomerycountymd.gov).

Since we are still offering the Citizen Academy via Microsoft Teams, if you would like to be added to any particular class(es), drop me an email and I can add you to the group meetings. Have a great day and stay safe.

Respectfully,

Sgt M

To join the next Citizen Academy session, apply at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/pol/jobs/citizen-academy.html](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/pol/jobs/citizen-academy.html)



**Maryland National-Capitol Park Police  
K9 Officer Kusolnimit, and K9 Wick**



**Certificate to MCCAAM President Ken Freeman from  
District Four in Wheaton for the MCCAAM's donation  
for the Thanksgiving dinner for the officers**

## Membership Update

If you have not renewed your dues for 2025, you may do so a couple of ways.

First you may go to our website [www.mccaaa.org](http://www.mccaaa.org) fill out and print the membership Renewal form. Follow the directions on the form and mail to:

Montgomery County Citizen Academy Alumni Association  
P.O. Box 8884  
Gaithersburg, MD 20898-8884

Please make out a check for \$15.00 to the MCCAAM. You may also pay at any membership meeting.

I noticed at the last membership meeting there were members that have not paid their dues for 2025.

If you have any questions, you may email, text or call me at H 301-948-1642 or Cell at 301-646-1056

Thank you  
Ken Freeman  
President, MCCAAM  
[kenfreeman49@gmail.com](mailto:kenfreeman49@gmail.com)

# Income and Expense Report

September through November 2024

<b>Beg Balance</b>	4281.29	4281.29
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**Income:**

9/3 Deposit	45.00	
9/12	22.50	
9/20	20.00	
9/20	90.00	
10/3	30.00	
10/24	90.00	
10/31 Donation	85.00	
11/21 Deposit	30.00	
11/26	30.00	
	442.50	442.50
		4723.79

**Expense:**

9/2 #532	Herman Cohen	614.15	
9/7 #533	Jacques Horvatic		
	Mini Flashlights	74.18	
9/13 #534	Crown Trophy	69.96	
	Name Badges		
11/21 #535	Ken Freeman	20.62	
	Name tags		
11/23	Jacques Horvatic	1019.27	
	Care for Cops		
		1798.18	1798.18
<b>Balance</b>			<b>2925.61</b>

Respectfully Submitted  
Ken Freeman

## The Informant

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

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*Ken Freeman*

**Managing Editor**

*Alicson Knowland*

**Business Editor**

*Rob Loewy*

**Photographer**

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The Informant welcomes submissions from the MCCA AAA 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.

## MCCA AAA Officers

President - Ken Freeman • Vice President - Missi Johns • Program Officer - Vivian Wolpers  
 Activities Officer - Jacques Horvatic • Secretary - Phil Gilbert • Treasurer - *vacant*  
 Past President - Jerry Mullarkey • Advisor - Diane Platt • Advisor - Eileen Broderick