



# MCCAAA Informant

Montgomery County Citizens Academy Alumni Association News

2023, ISSUE 1

## The Editor's Desk

I want to welcome our new and current members to the news of the Montgomery County Citizen Academy Alumni Association. If you have not been a member for a long time, I want to welcome you to renew your membership by going to our website [www.mccaaa.org](http://www.mccaaa.org) and click on the membership application. Send the completed application with a check for \$15.00 to PO Box 8884 Gaithersburg MD 20898-8884. Alternatively, you may renew at a membership meeting. We meet on the 3rd Thursday each month at the Montgomery County Public Safety Training Academy located at 8751 Snouffer School Road in room #125. MCCAAA meetings are canceled when Montgomery County Public Schools cancel evening activities.

We are entering Phase two of the Care for Cops program. MCCAAA's goal is to give a bag of necessities to every patrol officer in the MCPD. Our first phase went to District 6D Gaithersburg/Montgomery Village. The second phase will go to District 5D Germantown.

For the Alumni Association to accomplish our goals, it will take financial or product donations from our members and the community. If you can help us in any way, we would appreciate it. We are running a program to advertise your business with the proceeds to benefit Care For Cops. Please see Grow Your Business with all the details in this edition.

I hope that everyone had a healthy and joyful holiday season.

Thank you,  
*Ken*

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## Renew your Membership

Need to renew or join MCCAAA membership?

Use our handy [online form](#) to do it now!

Link not working? Copy and Paste this URL into your browser.

[https://www.mccaaa.org/images/MCCAAA%20Annual%20Renewal%20Form%203\\_17.pdf](https://www.mccaaa.org/images/MCCAAA%20Annual%20Renewal%20Form%203_17.pdf)

Send your completed application, a \$15 check, made out to MCCAAA, and a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) to MCCAAA, PO Box 8884, Gaithersburg MD 20898-8884, Attention: Membership



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### Special points of interest

- Renew your Membership
- Advertise in the Informant - Support Care for Cops





## From the President

As we say good-bye to 2022,

To you, all my fellow Association members,

I offer my sincerest thank you for all that you do!

Now, as we bring on 2023,

Let us continue the good fight for the fulfillment of our mission.

Greetings everyone,

Here we are, year 2023 at hand.

Opening on a light note – I’m thinking of an Elton John song about now: “I’m Still Standing.” For those of you who have had the occasion of walking behind me in the hallways of the Academy, you must be asking, does he really want to make that song his “anthem”? But, of course, it’s not about me, it’s all about you, the MCCA AAA! And, oh yes, as we enter 2023, we are “Still Standing”!

2022 was another year of change.

We bid farewell to our Activities Officer Andrea and our Program Officer Zoie. They did serve our Association so well! And upon entering the new year, we send them the absolute best on behalf of the MCCA AAA.

We carry on! We exist to interact with and support the Montgomery County Police Department. I’m but a very small part of the carrying-out of this mission. Reflecting back on some of our Association changes in 2022 that I believe were a positive occurrence, and ones that I believe will assist us in achieving our goals, I would mention:

\*The election of Ken Freeman as our Vice-President

\*The election of Melissa Johns as our Activities Officer

\*The election of Rachel Johns as our Program

Officer

+The continued exemplary service of our Secretary Phil Gilbert and our Treasurer Terry Harbonic

\*The valued guidance of Diane Platt and Eileen Broderick

\*The continued support of our General Membership on so many different levels. I said it before, and I will say it again. We, as an Association, would not be here without you!

Upon entering 2023, we recognize we have a major task on which we will continue to work – that being the “Care-for-Cops” project. We have a long way to go yet to fulfill our goals, but know we are committed to this project!

Also, in 2022, I formed/appointed several Committees to take on specific issues facing the Association, changes that will continue to take us in the right direction. The Committees are at work.

In closing, thank you Sgt. John Mullaney, you are always there when we need you. And, of course, deepest appreciation goes out to the Featured Speakers at our monthly meetings. They bring the passion they have for doing their jobs to their presentation, and we are the beneficiaries!

For the year 2023, the MCCA AAA wishes to extend a message of God Bless and God Speed to Chief Marcus Jones and the Montgomery County Police Department.

Also, in some way, you may think of the MCCA AAA as the “Wind Beneath Your Wings”!

Respectfully,

*Jerry*

### Plane Crash in Gaithersburg

When—November 27, 2022

Where—Power transmission tower near Goshen Road and Rothbury Drive (high voltage)

Why—overcast skies with poor visibility and pilot error

Who—Pilot Patrick Merkle and passenger Janet Williams suffered critical injuries

Destination—Montgomery County Air Park

## Harrowing rescue after plane crash

About 1.25 miles from the Montgomery County Air Park runway and left of the runway centerline, a Mooney M20J airplane piloted by Patrick Merkle impacted and became suspended in a power line tower at an elevation about 600 ft. This occurred on November 27, 2022 at about 5:30 pm eastern standard time. Approximately, 120,000 Pepco customers in Montgomery Village lost power as a result. The Montgomery County Fire Department’s Technical Rescue Team arrived, evaluated the situation, and formulated a plan to rescue the pilot and his passenger Janet Williams. The plan called for de-energizing the electrical components, stabilizing the wreckage, and rescuing the pilot and passenger safely. Numerous rescue and utility personnel were involved in the aftermath of the accident. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued their preliminary report of findings.

See picture on Page 5

# Treasurer's Report

Terry J. Harbonic, Treasurer

6/1/2021	\$3,398.95	Beginning	1/14/2022	\$255.00	
6/3/2021	-\$162.00	USPS Mailbox	1/20/2022	\$225.00	
6/3/2021	\$60.00		1/31/2022	\$295.00	
7/22/2021	\$15.00		2/4/2022	\$1,345.00	
8/17/2021	-\$7.50	Refund	2/4/2022	-\$132.34	Care 4 Cops
8/18/2021	-\$7.50	Refund	2/11/2022	-\$132.84	Care 4 Cops
8/18/2021	\$30.00		2/17/2022	-\$100.00	Donation
9/7/2021	-\$22.00	USPS Stamps	2/22/2022	\$90.00	
9/7/2021	-\$7.50	Refund	2/23/2022	-\$210.30	Care 4 Cops
9/18/2021	-\$7.50	Refund	3/11/2022	\$30.00	
9/28/2021	\$75.00		3/25/2022	\$30.00	
9/30/2021	-\$7.50	Refund	4/12/2022	\$45.00	
11/3/2021	\$75.00		4/22/2022	\$106.00	
11/22/2021	-\$100.00	Donation	5/9/2022	\$145.00	
11/29/2021	\$67.50		5/13/2022	\$30.00	
12/2/2021	-\$7.50	Refund	5/23/2022	\$105.00	
12/2/2021	-\$7.50	Refund	5/25/2022	-\$126.00	Plaques
12/8/2021	\$167.50		6/6/2022	\$30.00	
12/15/2021	\$125.00		6/10/2022	\$30.00	
12/23/2021	\$45.00		6/10/2022	-\$202.00	USPS Mailbox
1/5/2022	\$290.00		6/24/2022	-\$58.30	Name Badges
1/10/2022	\$416.00		6/30/2022	\$30.00	
			<b>6/30/2022</b>	<b>\$6,257.67</b>	<b>Ending</b>





## The Vice President's Report

As Vice President of the MCCCCA, one of my responsibilities is to recruit new members from the graduating class of each MCPD Citizen Academy. I encourage current and past members to renew their membership.

What would encourage you to join or renew your membership?

\*Continuing education beyond the MCPD Citizen Academy? Are the speakers engaging and informative?

\*Understanding current public safety issues and their impact on policing? Are the meetings safe places for debate of these issues?

\*Understanding MCCCCA membership benefits? What is the value of membership to you?

\*Is MCCCCA means and methods of communication effective? Are you receiving emails and other notices of events, meetings, and opportunities to volunteer?

\*Time commitment to attend meetings or volunteer?

We meet on the 3rd Thursday each month at the Montgomery County Public Safety Training Academy.

Program Officer Rachel Johns would appreciate hearing your suggestions for speakers and topics. (rejohns30@msn.com)

The Care for Cops program is currently in Phase two by providing necessities to every patrol officer. Can you or your employer support Care for Cops by making a financial or material contribution? Please see Grow Your Business for details.

Best Always,  
*Ken*

Ken Freeman

Vice President, MCCCCA

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### Grow your Business — Advertise in Informant

Funds raised by MCCCCA make a difference

MCCCCA supports public service agencies—police, fire & rescue

MCCCCA revenue comes from dues, donations, and advertising in the Informant

Advertise in the Informant to grow your business and support MCCCCA's goals

Rates:

Business Card—\$25/issue

1/4 Page—\$35/issue

1/2 Page—\$50/issue

Full Page—\$75/issue

## Member Spotlight

Introducing Rachel Johns.

I was born and raised in Montgomery County in Germantown, Md. I graduated from Clarksburg High School and completed my further education at Towson University receiving an undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice graduating in 2017. I completed a Master's Degree during COVID from the University of Maryland in Business Administration. I chose the Legal field for most of my career working as a Paralegal for a few years and now work in a private equity firm.



My mom got me interested in the police field at an early age. When I was in High School, I was an underage volunteer for ABS and compliance checks alongside of the Montgomery County Police Department. It was through volunteer work that I became interested in Police work. I was always interested in policing, but I did not think I could become a police officer, which is a tough job!!

I enjoy spending-time with family and friends, working out, reading and visiting the beach when I can. I have one brother who just graduated college and is in the process of becoming a police officer. I have a dog named Jax and I love taking walks except when it is freezing. I love music especially country music. I enjoy watching football and hockey. In high school I played soccer for a number of years, but I have not played in a while. I am currently the Program officer for MCCCCA. I conduct the monthly speakers.

## Grow your Business

The funds raised by the MCCCCA support the police as well as other public services agencies such as the fire and rescue service. We do this through dues, contributions to specific initiatives such as Care for Cops, plus advertising in the Informant. Couldn't your small business benefit from exposure to hundreds of potential new clients at fair rates? Or perhaps you have a friend, neighbor, or family member who's a realtor or a skilled tradesperson. How about the accountant who prepares your taxes or the lawyer who drafted your will? Please let them know about this initiative and encourage their support. Please send your check made out to MCCCCA and photo-ready copy to MCCCCA, PO Box 8884, Gaithersburg MD 20898-8884, **Attention:** Care For Cops Project

## Plane Crash, continued from Page 3



Investigators examine the remains of the Mooney M20J airplane piloted by Patrick Merkle which impacted and became suspended in a power line tower on November 27, 2022 in inclement weather enroute to the Montgomery County Air Park.

*These accidents clearly demonstrate the good work performed under extreme duress by Montgomery County police and fire personnel.*

## Condo Owner's Suicide Caused Gaithersburg Building Explosion

Montgomery County police say Juan Pablo Marshall Quizon recently bought the condo at the Potomac Oaks complex where the explosion happened. They stated that he committed suicide using explosives on November 16, 2022 at about 8:40 am. The blast tore through two condominium buildings along Quince Orchard Boulevard. Nine units were destroyed or severely damaged. At least 14 people were injured.





## Montgomery County Detention Center

The Montgomery County Correctional Facility in Boyds MD is responsible for the custody and care of male and female offenders who are either in a pre-trial status or serving sentences up to 18 months. The facility current capacity is 1,028 inmates. The Montgomery County Detention Center on Seven Lochs Road is responsible for intake and processing adult male and female offenders and has a capacity of up to 200 inmates. Approximately 13,000 offenders are booked into the Central Processing unit annually. The facility operates as the intake unit providing psychological screening, medical screening and risk assessment to determine the appropriate classification level of inmates and to provide for initial care, custody and security of inmates for up to 72 hours prior to the transfer to the Montgomery County



Correctional Facility (MCCF). The Warden for both facilities is Frederick Abello.

The mission of the Correctional Facility is to protect and serve the citizens of Montgomery County and the general public by providing

progressive and comprehensive correctional services to all inmates. This is accomplished by the implementation of a wide variety of

programs and services including:

- \* Safe and secure environment for inmates, staff, and visitors.
- \* Acute and chronic medical care and dental services
- \* Religious services, a therapeutic substance abuse program, and self help programs
- \* A youthful offender unit treatment program for inmates ages 21 and under
- \* Choice for Change program treatment for both adult men and women
- \* Mental health services for offenders exhibiting acute and/or chronic symptoms that preclude them from general population housing
- \* The Model learning center
- \* A full-service library, multi-purpose and recreational areas, and therapeutic recreational programs
- \* Community release social services to assist with effective community and family reintegration
- \* Employment development program
- \* One stop employment center

Inmate's eligibility and program interest are determined upon entry into the facility.

A case manager is assigned to each inmate whose responsibilities include facilitating successful community reintegration by aiding the offender with difficult decisions, making appropriate referrals, and providing general guidance. All inmates are encouraged to participate in available programs and to utilize their time wisely and productively while at the facility.

There are many programs and services for inmates to participate in as well as an inmate guidebook.

The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation consist of four divisions:

- \* Directors Office and Management services
- \* Detention Services Division
- \* Community Corrections
- \* Medical and Behavioral Health Services

The Pre Release and Reentry Services provides a Resident Guidebook regarding the rules, requirements, accountability and opportunities of the Pre Release Center. The department was established in 1972. The National Association of Counties has given the department 20 achievement awards for the development of innovative programs since 1974.

## Session 68 Graduates



## Citizen Academy News\*\*

Happy holidays to everyone and I hope it was a safe and enjoyable one for you. The Citizen Academy is still going strong and keeps building new ambassadors for the police department who are vocal advocates for us. Many of the graduates have not only joined the MCCAAs but also have joined the police department as employees or volunteers. This program continues to prove its worth as we strive to build even stronger bridges with the community we serve.

Session 68 just graduated thirty citizens on 12/13/22, who were eager to learn about the police department and challenged the instructors regularly with well thought out questions stemming from perceptions learned through a biased media. Everyone walked away from the course with a greater appreciation for the professionalism and quality of our officers after having their questions answered.

The 69th Session will run from 1/10/23 through 4/18/23 and still has vacancies. If you have any friends or family members interested in attending please encourage them to apply. We will also be starting the Hispanic Community Academy again soon for anyone that prefers to learn in Spanish about the department. More details will be pushed out soon via our social media platforms.

Thanks for all that you do as members of this community and of the MCCAAs. Your support does not go unnoticed nor unappreciated. If I can ever answer a question for you please free to reach out to me at [citizen.academy@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:citizen.academy@montgomerycountymd.gov).

Stay Safe.

Sgt M

## Featuring—Officer Kyle Barker

The Informant is now running a Feature Article about an officer that has done something that was extraordinary.

Leslie Greenberg initiated the idea to feature an officer who had performed exemplary service. [Leslie resigned due to work commitments.] I advised Sargent Mullaney of Leslie's idea and received his full support. Sgt. Mullaney contacted Shiera Goff, Director of the Public Information Office of the MCPD. I received a phone call from David McBain, Commander of District 3D in Silver Spring. Commander McBain assigned Sgt. Darrin Crandall the task of identifying an officer for recognition. Sgt. Crandall recognized Officer Kyle Barker in a call to me. I arranged to meet Officer Kyle Barker at the Public Safety Training Academy where I interviewed him.

Kyle grew up in Bayville NJ where he graduated from Central Regional High School and got his B. A. in Exercise Science from McDaniel College. Kyle joined the army in 2016 and was trained in Infantry at Fort Benning GA. He is active in the Army Reserve currently holding the rank of Sergeant E5. Officer Barker was advised to join the police and has been in the MCPD for two years. Officer Barker has received the Life Saving Award for "an employee who makes a major contribution toward saving the life of another by providing essential medical treatment prior to arrival of EMS personnel." He is under consideration for another award. Officer Barker idolizes Sargent Crandall for his leadership skills and as a mentor for the Repeat Offender Unit (ROU). Officer Barker's goal is to be in the Criminal Street Gang Unit, under the Special Investigations Division.

In August 2022 a resident of the Onclave Apartment in Silver Spring observed a drug deal in progress in the building's lobby. An individual was armed with a handgun. The resident called 911. Officer Barker responded and through the assistance of other officers and through various investigative tools was able to identify five individuals and confiscate five firearms including a ghost gun, "unserialized and untraceable firearms that can be bought online and assembled at home". This case is still under investigation so further details cannot be revealed at this time. Congratulations to Officer Kyle Barker of the 3rd District!

--The Citizen Academy has been in existence since 1994 and serves to increase resident awareness of the function of the police department. Participants will learn about criminal law, traffic law, investigations, etc. The Montgomery County Citizen Academy Alumni Association (MCCAAs) is for graduates of the Citizen Academy. MCCAAs meets monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday from September through May with speakers on subjects related to