

## Editor's Remarks

### Autumn Edition

This is the first edition for the Fall 2024. I am always trying to find information off the internet that will interest our membership and those on our distribution list. If anyone wants to submit an article that would be of interest to our readers, please send to [mccaaanews@gmail.com](mailto:mccaaanews@gmail.com).

I want to welcome those that are new to the alumni association to enjoy *The Informant*. This is the newsletter of the Montgomery County Citizen Academy Alumni Association and it is meant to provide news to our membership and those on our distribution list.

Thank you  
Ken Freeman  
Editor in Chief  
*The Informant*  
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### We are accepting

## Membership Renewals for 2024

Please submit check/ money order for \$15.00 for 2025.  
Make it out to MCCA AAA and mail it to

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

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Please print the Membership application  
from our website [www.mccaaa.org](http://www.mccaaa.org)  
and enclose with your check. You can also  
pay at any of our membership meetings.

# President's Remarks Fall 2024 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 approximately 3500 have graduated out of a population of 1.2 million which is less than 1% that have participated.

Jacques Horvatic, our Activities 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. exists. 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 looking forward to the speakers that Vivian Wolpers, our Program Officer, will bring to our

meetings. We are promised to have good speakers this year.

I want to have at least a minimum of two socials 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.



**MCCA AAA President Ken Freeman**

Chief Marcus Jones retired on July 1<sup>st</sup> after 38 years as the Chief of MCPD. We had many of us that went to his retirement party held at the University of Shady Grove. I spoke and played some jokes and the board gave the Chief a gift certificate for three rounds of golf. I worked with Angela the Chief's wife and

gave a Honey to do List and we bought an apron that said "I am retired, my wife is my new boss." The new Police Chief is Mark Yamada who has been with the MCPD for about 25 years.

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

Thank you,  
Ken Freeman  
President

## **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

# New Leadership at the Montgomery County Police Department

by Walt Houser

Summer 2024 signified a pivotal transition for the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) as Chief Marcus Jones departed after nearly four decades of dedicated service. Beginning July 1st, newly confirmed Chief Mark Yamada assumed department leadership.

In his June 25, 2024, media briefing, County Executive Marc Elrich expressed profound gratitude for Chief Jones's steadfast service, particularly highlighting his adept navigation through numerous significant challenges. These challenges included the COVID-19 pandemic, protests following the murder of George Floyd, and the shooting at Magruder High School. Throughout these events, Chief Jones managed police staffing and recruitment hurdles affecting departments nationwide. His leadership facilitated significant strides in community trust, public safety improvements, and crucial reforms. His tenure has been marked by increased transparency and accountability, establishing a robust foundation for the department's future.



Chief Marc Yamada

## Chief Marcus Jones's Legacy

Chief Jones's career has been distinguished by his dedication to nurturing a police force that is not only efficient but also compassionate and attuned to the diverse needs of Montgomery County. He emphasized his primary goal of leaving the department in a better state than he found it. Under his leadership, MCPD saw improvements in addressing crime, particularly with technological innovations and community engagement. His tenure is marked by:

**Navigating the COVID-19 Pandemic:** Implementing adaptive strategies to maintain public safety and departmental operations.

**Community Trust and Transparency:** Enhancing community relations through increased transparency and accountability measures.

**Crime Reduction Efforts:** Addressing crime spikes, such as carjackings and juvenile offenses, and maintaining response times despite staffing challenges.



Chief Marcus Jones

*(continued on next page)*

*(New Leadership at the Montgomery County Police Department by Walt Houser, continued)*

## Welcoming Chief Mark Yamada

Chief Yamada, an internal candidate with a distinguished career within MCPD, brings extensive experience and a deep understanding of the community's needs. His promotion from within reflects the strength and depth of the department's leadership. Yamada's familiarity with MCPD's operations, culture, and personnel is expected to ensure a smooth transition and continuity in ongoing initiatives.



On July 1, 2024, Marc R. Yamada was sworn in as the 18th Chief of Police for Montgomery County by Karen Bushell, Clerk of the Circuit Court.

## Elrich's Confidence in the New Leadership

County Executive Elrich is confident that Chief Yamada's background, dedication, and vision make him the ideal leader at this critical juncture. Elrich emphasized the continuity provided by promoting an internal candidate, ensuring that current initiatives and reforms can continue progressing without disruption.

## Chief Yamada's Vision and Challenges Ahead

Chief Yamada acknowledged the significant challenges ahead, particularly in staffing and juvenile crime, which have seen a rise recently. He plans to focus on:

**Staffing and Recruitment:** Continuing to address staffing issues with innovative solutions.

**Juvenile Crime:** Partnering with other county agencies to address the rise in juvenile crimes and victimization.

**Traffic Safety:** Enhancing efforts to protect pedestrians and other vulnerable road users through expanded automated traffic enforcement programs.

**Community Engagement:** Building on the department's efforts to foster strong community relations.

## Reflecting on Chief Jones's Impact

Chief Jones reflected on his 38 years of service with gratitude, emphasizing the progress made in public safety and crime reduction in Montgomery County. He acknowledged the collaborative efforts of county officials, the community, and his team to achieve these milestones. He expressed confidence in Chief Yamada's ability to build on this legacy and lead the department to further success.

*(continued on next page)*

*(New Leadership at the Montgomery County Police Department by Walt Houser, continued)*

## Moving Forward

As Chief Yamada steps into his new role, he looks forward to leading MCPD in its mission to protect and serve all residents with fairness, transparency, and respect. His leadership aims to enhance public safety strategies, build community trust, and ensure the department continues to advance in its efforts to maintain a safe and vibrant community for all residents of Montgomery County.

## Closing Remarks

County Executive Elrich concluded the briefing by thanking Chief Jones for his exemplary service and congratulating Chief Yamada on his well-deserved appointment. He expressed optimism for the department's future under Yamada's leadership and reaffirmed his commitment to addressing the community's critical issues.

Chief Jones and Chief Yamada then took the floor to share their perspectives on the transition and address questions from the media. They expressed their commitment to maintaining high public safety standards and continuing to build a strong, community-oriented police force in Montgomery County.

## Q&A Session with Reporters

After the formal announcements, Chief Jones and Chief Yamada answered questions from the media, providing insights into the challenges faced by MCPD and their visions for the future.

## Talia Velas, Univision DC:

Q: What have been some of the challenges you have faced, Mr. Marcus Jones, and what are some of the

new challenges that the new Chief will take on?

**Chief Jones:** "The challenges we've faced included growing crime issues like carjackings and large car meetups, which were exacerbated by the societal changes brought about by COVID-19. We've also dealt with staffing issues, a common problem for police departments nationwide. Despite these challenges, we've maintained response times and utilized technological advancements to enhance public safety. Staffing will continue to be a significant issue that Chief Yamada must address, and I am confident in his ability to build on the foundation we've laid."

**Chief Yamada:** "Building on what Chief Jones mentioned, I will inherit these challenges, particularly staffing. I will focus on enhancing our personnel policies, training, supervision, and oversight and maintaining transparency and accountability. Juvenile crime, both in terms of perpetrators and victims, is a rising concern that we must address in collaboration with other county agencies. Traffic safety, especially for vulnerable road users, remains a priority. We aim to expand our automated traffic enforcement program and enhance technology-driven initiatives."

## Judith Hays, The Greater Olney News:

Q: What benefits has having the substation in the Olney community been?

**Chief Yamada:** "The Olney substation has been hugely beneficial. It reduces response times, provides higher visibility, and allows the community to engage directly with our officers. It is a crucial hub for our engagement efforts, reflecting our commitment to being closely woven into the community. The support from the Olney community has been tremendous, and this substation plays a vital role in our operations and community relations."

# Farmer and Artist Market in Olney

For a few weeks now, Ken and myself have been hosting a booth at the Farmer and Artist market in Olney. The market opens from 9:00AM to 1:00PM.

Each time we had more people coming to us and we met with great people!

We are learning every time about what more we can do to better promote the academy and association.

We have signs and giveaways!

Please let us know if you would volunteer in spending a couple of hours to help us promote the Academy. On top of that you will have the opportunity to enjoy drinks, food, and live music!

Most of the vendors offer a discount to other vendors (which includes us).

I am willing to come and set things up (usually I am there around 7:30, 7:45) and then come back to wrap things up.

If you are interested in joining us please contact me directly at [jacques.horvatic@gmail.com](mailto:jacques.horvatic@gmail.com) and we will be discussing dates and what to expect.



Ken Freeman and Jacques Horvatic



Promoting Academy at local markets

# Citizen Academy

by Sergeant John Mullaney

Greetings to everyone from the Citizen Academy. I would like to thank you all for your dedication and hard work in supporting not only the officers of the department, but also the CA's recruiting efforts. I know Ken, Jacques, and several others have been manning a table at local public events to spread the word about what it is like to attend the course and the behind-the-scenes knowledge attendees walk away with. Session 74 just started, and I had 4 students join solely because of the positive interaction they had with the MCCA AAA team at these events. So, keep up the good work and I hope to see you out at the event table soon.

Session 74 just entered week 3 of the course and it is the first full session that Chief Marc Yamada gets to be involved with. In the first week, he was eager to share his vision for the department and the changes he is proposing to deal with an unprecedented recruiting issue for the sworn officers that answer our 9-1-1 calls for assistance.



**Graduates of Citizen Academy Session 73**

We are currently down about 170 officers from our authorized strength and that is posing leadership challenges for the Chief to address immediately to ensure we recruit, train, and retain the best qualified applicants for our community. Our community expects and demands that from its police department.

Session 75 of the CA will begin 01/07/2025 and it will have a new block of instruction added to it detailing the Drone as a First Responder (DFR) program. The DFR program is organizationally housed within the Special Operations Division (SOD). MCPD SOD has been using Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) since 2020 for various missions to include tactical operations, crime scene mapping, search and rescue, etc.

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(Citizen Academy by Sergeant John Mullaney, continued)

The DFR program differs from the department’s existing drone program. DFR involves prepositioning a larger drone on top of an elevated building on a landing pad. This drone, during operational hours, will be idling in a “ready status” on a landing pad. The DFR program utilizes this drone to fly to a call for service (911 or officer generated/requested) and arrive prior to, or in conjunction with, first responders on the ground. The DFR assists with helping evaluate the scene and circumstances before officers arrive and while an event is ongoing. DFR provides necessary tactical information and situational awareness to help officers safely respond to incidents, de-escalate situations, and increase efficiency.

The main goals of the DFR program are:

- Improve police response times.
- Allow MCPD to be more efficient with resources – DFR, in about 15% of current deployments, cancels the need for patrol to respond to an incident.
- Provide real time information to ground officers to allow for better decision making – DFR can assist with establishing perimeters, providing

*Session 75 of the Citizen Academy will begin 01/07/2025 and it will have a new block of instruction added to it detailing the Drone as a First Responder (DFR) program*

additional information on potential hazards, recommended tactical positioning, etc.

- Assist with de-escalation of incidents – DFR has assisted with whether subjects are armed or not, suspect location and officer positioning to allow for officer space/time/distance.
- Assist with locating and apprehending criminal suspects.

If you would like to be added to that event, either in person or via Microsoft Teams, drop me an email. 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)



## Program Officer’s Report

This is Vivian, the Program Officer for MCCCCA. We are finally back from the summer hiatus. I have talked to and invited speakers from Park Police, RVFD, our new Chief, Marc Yamada, the new MCFRS Chief, Corey Smedley, MCP SERT, Attorney General John McCarthy, and a special presentation from Lt Irvin for the Alumni.

I greatly look forward to having our meetings every 3rd Thursday of the month again.

Take Care  
Vivian



# Montgomery County Public Safety Training Academy

Opened in the Fall of 2016, the Montgomery County Public Safety Training Academy is a state-of-the-art learning environment which provides training for Montgomery County Police, Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Services, Montgomery County Sheriffs, Gaithersburg City Police, Rockville City Police, Takoma Park Police, Maryland National Capital Park Police – Montgomery County Division, Montgomery County Fire Bomb & Explosives Investigators, Chevy Chase Village Police.

The Police Academy is housed on the 1st Floor of the main academic building and consists of administrative areas for staff, 9 classrooms (1 designated stadium style seating for up to 60 recruits, 1 - 20-person computer lab, 1 designated for instructional firearms) for annual in-service, first aid, taser and other specialized training. There is also a firearms simulator for shoot-don't-shoot scenarios, indoor fixed position and tactical firing ranges, defense tactics room, gymnasium, weight room, separate staff and recruit locker rooms for males and females (each locker room also has its own washer and dryer) and a multi-purpose room where recruits eat lunch, have morning inspections and can be used by the community at no charge.



**Public Safety Training Academy Front Entrance**

The outdoor training venues on campus consist of 6 outbuildings referred to as the “CityScape” that provide scenario-based training and are set up as a single-family home, school, bank, retail store, apartment building and bank. There is also a driving track, skills and skid pan where recruits and current officers learn skills for emergency vehicle operations

(EVOC), also used for police motorcycle and large police vehicle training operations (command bus, emergency services unit trucks).

We are home to the police canine (K9) unit which has an 80,000 square foot fenced training area, kennels and administrative offices. There are also separate

training venues for Ride On bus operators and Montgomery County Fire Rescue Services (burn buildings, metro rail car and firehouse with bays for driving apparatus in/out).

We host a Police Citizen’s Academy, Hispanic Community Academy and open our doors for other county divisions/sections that need training space. We also actively host International Police Agencies at the request of the US State Department and FBI.

via [montgomerycountymd.gov/pol/jobs/police-academy.html](https://montgomerycountymd.gov/pol/jobs/police-academy.html)

# Member Spotlight: Jacques Horvatic

## What is your role with the MCCA AAA?

I am the Activities officer for the Association.

## Where were you born? Raised? Schooling?

I was born in France, in Alsace, not far away from Germany and Switzerland. I did my studies in mechanics and automotive industry.

## Did you attend college? Where? When?

School system is a bit different in France. I have a diploma which would compare to a Bachelor degree in Mechanical.

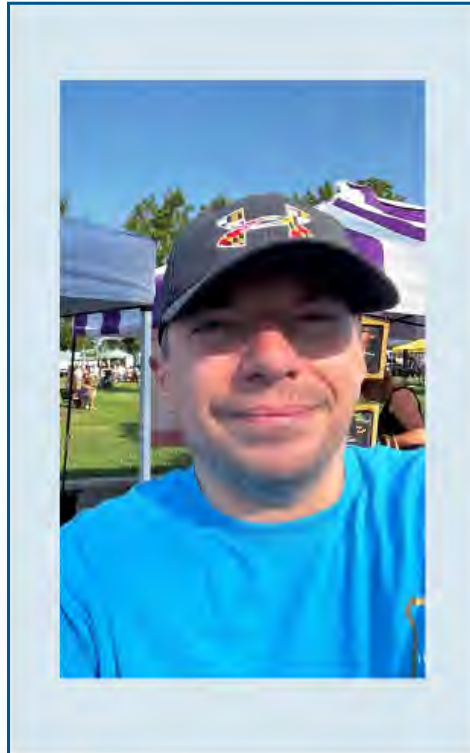
## What career field did /do you work in?

I worked in several industries and countries. Lately, I have been managing laboratory operations in the life-science industry. I am also a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt.

## When did you become interested in police work?

I lived in Lakelands for a couple of years and as a CERT volunteer at the time, I was meeting with Police Officers at their HQ. I was

curious to know more about their work and graduate from the Academy in 2017.



Activities Officer Jacques Horvatic

## Did you ever want to be a police officer?

Doing the Academy gave me the opportunity to learn a lot about law enforcement and the people behind the uniforms. I have the highest respect for the work they do and I would have loved to join the forces. Perhaps in another life!

## What is your favorite sport to watch/take part in?

As a lot of French people I am a soccer fan so the World Cup is my favorite TV moment. At this time I like working in my garden and walking with my lovely wife.

## What do you do in your spare time?

I love doing woodworking. I built my bar a couple of years ago, built some live edge benches, and turned some bowls and vases.

## Tell us about your family... spouse... kids... grandkids... pets

I've known my wife for 20 years this year. Her name is Martine and she is Canadian. We have one beautiful son, Augustin, who is a Senior at Sherwood High in Olney. We have also two very wild Bengal cats, brother and sister named Peanut & Muffin.

## One thing people don't know about you?

Long time ago during a movie shooting in Montreal, I briefly met Angelina Jolie. I was also an extra in the movie but I think they cut the scene :-)

# Activities Officer's Report

Good Day everyone,

As the newly elected Activities Officer of the Association, my primary objective is to increase the Association's visibility by leveraging local events and social media.

For example, Ken Freeman and I have been hosting a booth at the Olney Farmer and Artists Market. This market, open every Sunday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, is one of the most active in the county. Each time we participate, we learn more about how to better promote the Academy, and our last two appearances were extremely successful.

Another goal is to create a vibrant community and recruit more volunteers to support our activities and promote the Academy on social media. I am confident that we have talented individuals who would be willing to contribute even a small amount of their time to help.

Additionally, the Care for Cops

program is a priority for me, as it is a simple way to say "Thank You" to the law enforcement officers who work every day for the good of our community.

Lastly, we have an upcoming event: the Thanksgiving dinner, which will be held this year at District 4 that we started to work on!

Jacques Horvatic

## New Members

I want to welcome the following new members into our organization. There are a few other people from the last Citizen Academy class that said they would join. I sent emails to the rest of the class encouraging to join our organization.

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Judith Black    | Chris Meadows  |
| C.Arthur Blair  | Donna Shriver  |
| Mansi Chowdhary | Nathaniel Wall |
| Talin Habibian  |                |

Thank you,  
Ken Freeman, President, MCCA

## Thank you Webmaster Walt Houser



Ken Freeman presenting Presidential Award of Honor to Walt Houser for being Webmaster for our new website

# Treasurer's Report

This report covers the period of 5/1/24 – 8/31/24

<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	\$7215.38	\$7215.38
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## Income:

5/13 Deposit	75.00	
5/17 Deposit	40.00	
6/3 Deposit	45.00	
6/24 Deposit	45.00	
6/26 Deposit	15.00	
7/1 Deposit	15.00	
7/26 Deposit	15.00	
8/21 Deposit	7.50	
8/27 Deposit	30.00	
<b>Total Deposit</b>	<b>287.50</b>	<b>287.50</b>
		<b>7502.88</b>

## Expenses

5/15 #521 Crown Trophy (Plaques)	339.20	
5/16 #522 Ken Freeman (Brochures)	232.98	
5/16 #523 Terry Harbonic (Stamps)	27.20	
5/16 #524 Missi Johns (Care 4 Cops)	1290.12	
#525 VOID		
6/22 #526 Missi Johns (Care 4 Cops)	200.00	
6/22 #527 Veille Martin	137.75	
6/24 #528 Veille Martine	18.01	
6/25 #529 USPS P.O. Box 8884	222.00	
7/30 #530 John Mullaney (Banner)	79.49	
8/24 #531 Jacques Horvatic (Farmers Mkt)	62.69	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>2609.44</b>	<b>2609.44</b>
<b>MCCAAA Balance</b>		<b>\$4893.44</b>

## The Informant

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

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*The Informant* welcomes submissions from the MCCAAA 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.