

A PUBLICATION OF
THE CITIZEN
POLICE ACADEMY
ALUMNI OF AURORA

SPECIAL POINTS OF
INTEREST:

Annual Christmas/Holiday
Party

December 13, 2016

Meyers Ballroom



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AlumNews



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DECEMBER 2016

Annual Christmas-Holiday Party...

CPAAA Holiday/Christmas Party

December 13th

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Doors open at 6PM and dinner will be served at 6:30PM.

We have a trivia game, photo booth and several raffle items planned as part of the event.

For those of you who plan on attending and have RSVP'd, if you have not yet paid for the party don't forget to bring your payment.

Lastly, Lest we not forget to please either bring a raffle item or an item for the children's gift drive (coats, scarves, and gloves for all ages) or toys. Wearables must be new. See you there.

A Message from President...

As 2016 comes to an end, I'd like to thank everyone for an outstanding CPAAA year. Attendance and participation at ALL our events is up and that strengthens our organization. Your active participation helped make our outings, fundraisers and monthly programs a great success. Special thanks to our CPA Officers; Michael Townsend, David Bemer, Tracy Archer (and others) as well as the APD Command Staff including Chief Kristen Ziman for their continued support of the Aurora CPAAA.

I'd also like to thank our CPAAA Board and membership for their generous commitment of time, talents and treasures this past year. You made a real difference and many contributions to the APD including two new police bicycles, the K9 wash station and other training materials.

Next year is shaping up and we have several fun and challenging programs planned. I hope you'll join us! Wishing each of you a healthy, happy and Merry Christmas and holiday season.

November Meeting Recap...

Officer Matt Bonnie presented an overview of gangs and touched on the gangs that are most common in our community. He also discussed how gangs are set up similar to a typical corporation. Members commit a variety of crimes in order to move up the ranks. Gangs generally focus on youth that are missing something in their lives that being; mostly a parent, love, supervision and other factors that could cause one to be considered an at risk youth. Gang's also use social media to reach to more youth than ever and videos are a popular form of advertising for the gang.

The best action a parent can take to protect their children is to take a more active role in their lives, monitor all social media and get to know their friends.

2017 Board Member Election Results....

Congratulations to our new and re-elected 2017 Board Members

James (Jim) Shaw	—1st Vice President selected to replace Patricia Sheldon who stepped down
Jill Hahn	— was re-elected to position of Secretary, ran unopposed
Janice Lindley	— was re-elected to Communications Coordinator, ran unopposed.

Also note that Veronica Adame has been selected by the Board to act as Beth Carter's assistant.

CPAAA Polo Shirts...

All of you who have ordered the new Polo shirts, they are in. They will be at the January meeting. If you would like yours sooner please contact Brenda at broyndon@outlook.com or 331-425-2279 to make the arrangements.

If you had not yet ordered yours and would like to, Brenda will be at the January meeting once again taking orders. Just a short reminder of the prices. The prices are the same for men and women.

Annual Dues...

That time of year is approaching us once again. That's right! Payments for next year's dues. Beth will be collecting at the Christmas party for those who are attending and of course at the January meeting.

The membership rooster will be updated after the January meeting, so please pay your dues at the meeting or before then.

January Meeting...

Current plans are a trip to the shooting range. More details in the January issue.

August and September APD Employee of the Month...

August—Congratulations to Investigator Jennifer Hillgoth on her selection a Employee of the Month for August 2016. Investigator Hillgoth is recognized in two incidents for her humanitarian efforts and good will. The first being her idea to provide gifts to children and organized "Christmas in July. The second is a partnership with Aurora Association for Individual Development to initiate SNAPP (Special Needs Aurora Police Program). This program is a database of vital information on persons with special needs, making information available to Police Officers. See pages 8-9 for the entire write up.

September—Congratulation to Investigator Jeffrey Hahn for a year long undercover investigation against the Aurora Latin Kings. Resulting in 13 firearms, 22 ounces of cocaine being seized and a total of 96 felony charges secured. See page 10

We Love Our Volunteers...

Class 42 Graduation—We had such a great member participation for this event, it would take a lot of space to name all of you. So thank you to all of you who helped with the graduation.

Christmas Tree Decorations—Jim Shaw, Diane Shaw, Beth Carter, Irma Hisaw, David Bohman, Theresa Vonhoff. (thanks to Theresa for the Treats)

If you volunteered and your name is not listed above, please accept our apologies and let us know so that we can acknowledge you in our next newsletter.

Other Interesting Stuff...

An excerpt from the Aurora Beacon News on November 20, 2016 of our own CPAAA Class 42 Alumni Member Randy Mertes

At academy, Officer Randy makes arrests, memories



DENISE CROSBY

Under different circumstances, 26-year-old Randy Mertes might have become one of Aurora's future top cops.

The young man is all about "following the rules," says his mother, Sheila Mertes. And from the time he was introduced to DARE officers in grade school, he's had an all-consuming interest in law enforcement that shaped his passion to become a policeman.

"All any parent wants is to help their child obtain their dream," Sheila said. "But when you are the parent of a special-needs child and know that's not attainable, then you want to know how he can get closest to it."

Which is why she was so proud when, earlier this month, Randy became what APD officers believe is the first special-needs student to graduate from its 10-week Aurora Citizen Police Academy.

"The program is designed to engage and educate our citizens," said Officer Mike Townsend, the academy's lead coordinator. "As good as the citizens are that we get over the years, Randy stood out as a favorite. His smile is so infectious. No matter what kind of day we would have, Randy would just make it better."

The feeling was obviously mutual. Randy — who'd be so excited that he'd lay out his clothes the night before each class, according to his mother — couldn't stop grinning as he checked off his favorite activities from the academy. Those included making mock traffic stops, learning how to shoot a Taser and learning how to handcuff a suspect, which he eagerly demonstrated on his mother during my visit to their home on Aurora's Far East Side Thursday evening.

"It's been like this since he joined the academy," Sheila said of her son's all-out enthusiasm for police procedure.

It was Randy's connection to the Law Enforcement Torch Run, a fundraiser for Special Olympics, where his strong relationships with local officers eventually led to suggestions that he enroll in the Citizen Police Academy.

While his obsession with police work may have been seeded with resource officers in his Indian Prairie schools, Randy admits his interest only grew stronger as he watched so many police shows on TV over the years. One of his favorites? "Mike and Molly," he told me, describing the popular sitcom that starred Plainfield native Melissa McCarthy, whose TV husband was a burly police officer.

"He thinks he looks so much like Mike," his mom chuckled, "he even wanted to contact the show's producers to see about coming on as Mike's brother."

For Randy, it's all about his desire to "keep the town safe from the bad guys — because bad guys make me anxious."

As a store greeter at his part-time



AURORA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Randy Mertes holds the Aurora Citizen Police Academy graduation certificate he received from Officer Mike Townsend earlier this month.

job at Meijer in Oswego, "Randy feels it is his personal responsibility" to curb shoplifting, his mother said. "Even as a kid, there never has been gray for him. He likes when things are the way they are supposed to be."

At the same time, he's always been "a forgiving child who was so afraid of hurting others, we had to teach him to advocate for himself," she said. "Even when other kids would take things away from him, he'd just let them because he wanted to be the peacemaker."

Guiding her son through life by giving him the best life possible has always been her No. 1 goal, says Sheila.

The longtime special education teacher with Indian Prairie School District, who adopted Randy when he was 14 months old, grew up with nine siblings, six of whom were adopted. And of those six, five had special needs, including younger sister Gayle, who has cerebral palsy and lives with Sheila and another sister, Shellie Mertes, who also has an adopted 8-year-old with special needs.

"We don't do normal," said a smiling Sheila.

It may not be normal, but it is certainly busy. In addition to his Meijer job and heavy Special Olympics schedule — he plays floor hockey, basketball, bowling, bocce and golf — Randy's week includes volunteering at A.D.O.E.T Pet Shelter

in Naperville and working with the elderly at St. Patrick's Residence in Naperville and Alden of Waterford in Aurora.

Despite all that, Sheila is still concerned about the void "Officer Randy" will feel now that he's graduated from the academy. He's already joined its alumni association, which meets monthly. And the APD made it clear that once you graduate, "you are joining our police family," said Townsend, and Randy took that "very personally."

On the last day, said Townsend, the new grad handed over a check for \$50 for No Shave November, a grow-your-beard fundraiser for pancreatic cancer research in honor of Aurora police Sgt. Don Corp, who died of the disease at age 37 earlier this year. Randy and his mother also have plans to solicit participants for the policeman's Polar Plunge in March to raise money for Special Olympics.

"We want to keep this going," she said of the experience that "could not have been more positive" for her son.

Sheila was especially pleased with how Randy was made "to feel so comfortable" from day one. "They did not treat him any differently," she said. "He was treated with respect and dignity."

"It was just a good place for him to be."

dcrosby@tribpub.com

11/20/16

Other Interesting Stuff Continued...

Condolences/Get Well

Our sympathy and condolences go out to:

John Jerrad on the death of his father John T. Jerrad on December 3, 2016 and also to :

Officer Scott Carter on the death of his grandfather Harold Carter Sr. on October 20, 2016

If you or anyone in the Alumni has suffered an illness or loss of someone in their life, please let Janice Lindley know so we can acknowledge them in our newsletter.

Treats -

Thanks to Donna Beale, David Bohman and Denny Wowra for the treats at our November Meeting.

Other Articles -

See page 4 for detail of a fundraiser for retired police canines.

See page 6 for details for the APD Holiday Toy Drive.

The Citizen Police Academy Alumni of Aurora is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization. Our mission is to promote and enhance the relationship between the community and the Aurora Police Department through continuing law enforcement education of our members and the community, supporting and promoting special projects that strengthen the services provided by the Aurora Police Department, and assisting the Aurora Police Department in specific projects.

This newsletter is published monthly. Opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent the opinion and/or objectives of the membership or the board of directors. All articles submitted are subject to editing for style, allotted space, and good taste. Authors submitting articles for publication are responsible for their contribution. The Citizen Police Academy Alumni of Aurora assumes no responsibility or liability for missing or inaccurate attribution.

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MARK-9 Fundraiser....

MARK-9 presents
CASH for CANINES



SATURDAY
JAN
21st
2017

8pm-12am
HOTEL ARISTA
 2139 City Gate Lane
 Naperville, IL
 630.579.4100

*Block of rooms available at
 a special MARK-9 rate*

\$125 donation/person

- Top shelf open bar
- Unlimited appetizers
- \$2000 play money
- Raffle prizes

All donations benefit MARK-9 (501c3) | mark9.info@yahoo.com | 630.301.2320



560 Ogden Ave, Lisle IL 60532

47-1120743 -Federal Non-For-Profit Number

Dear Donor,

MARK-9 is a Non-for-profit organization (501(c)(3)) set up to assist handlers with the financial needs of medical care for their retired canine partner. When working canines retire they often live with their partner and the family. Very few departments have a program in place to care for the medical needs of these canines during retirement. All costs associated with the canines become the responsibility of the officer and his/her family. The goal of MARK-9 (Medical Assistance for Retired K-9's) is to provide financial assistance for the medical care of qualified retired working dogs. As these police canines retire, many handlers are inundated with sky rocketing veterinarian care. Some care that Mark-9 covers can be annual wellness care, an unexpected illness, medical care, or yearly vaccinations. These police canines have put their life on the line to help protect and serve, now is a great time to help these canines in retirement. Mark-9 is hosting a Cash for Canine Casino Night at Hotel Arista in Naperville, IL on January 21st 2017. We currently have several sponsorship opportunities available for your business. Please see the options listed below, and let us know if you are able to assist with any type of donations. This is also a great opportunity to market your business! We will have approximately 200 people in attendance at this local event.

Gold-

\$1000.00 – 4 entry tickets to the event, name on banner at entry table, sign of sponsorship at one of the casino dealing tables, name on website and social media as a Gold level sponsor, and recognition during the opening and closing of the event.

Silver-

\$500 – 2 entry tickets to event, name on banner at entry table, sign of sponsorship at one of the casino dealing tables, name on website and social media as Silver level sponsor.

Bronze

\$250 – Name of a popular drink will be named after you at the bar, Name on the website as a sponsor

\$100/Other- Name on sign at coat check, and other table locations at the event

Please feel free to contact Mark-9 directly at mark9.info@yahoo.com or Matthew Bonnie by phone at 630-730-7923.

Respectively,
 Mark-9 Board of Directors

CPAAA 2017 Calendar

Event	Date (if known)	Comments	Status
APD Employee of Year Ceremony		Members asked to assist at the event	
CPA Spring Practical's		Members help with building search and traffic stop classes. You can be as bad or good as you want to be.	
CPA Spring Graduation		Members help serve pizza at graduation and encourage graduates to join our organization	
NCPAA Conference		Myrtle Beach, SC. CPAAA pays registration for 2 Board members and 1 at large member as well as 2 Officers	
Police Week		Members help at Police Week events including Ceremony at APD	
Cop on Top		Members help officers collect donations for Special Olympics at various Dunkin Donut locations	
4th of July Parade	7/4	Members ride on the float or walk along side	
APD Golf Outing		Members sell closest to the hole chances and assist with the outing	
Cardboard Boat Race		Members build a Cardboard Boat that is powered by APD officers in the Annual United Way Race	
Downtown Alive	Summer	Members assist RiverEdge Park employees with entrance gate staffing	
CPA Fundraising BBQ	9/12	Members organize, sell tickets and assist with the event	
CPA Fall Practical's		Members help with building search and traffic stop classes. You can be as bad or good as you want to be.	
CPA Fall Graduation		Members help serve pizza at graduation and encourage graduates to join our organization	
Annual Christmas Party	12/12		
APD recognition events	Various Dates	Members asked to provide baked goods and assist at the events	
General Member Meetings	1/10; 2/7; 3/14; 4/11; 5/9; 8/8; 10/10; 11/14	Note: we are meeting one week early in February due to Valentines Day	

3rd Annual Aurora Police Toy Drive

WANTED: TOYS FOR KIDS!

We are looking for toys for boys, girls, and all age groups. We are also looking for coats, scarves, and gloves for all ages. If you wrap the present please make sure to put an age and gender on the wrapping paper. We are also looking for any extra wrapping paper and tape. If you would like to just donate money instead of shopping please make checks out to Aurora Police Department (toy drive in the memo field).

Items or checks can be dropped off at the front desk or by contacting Officer David Bemmer at 630-256-5145

Where: AURORA POLICE

DEPARTMENT

When: 10/19/16-12/19/16





AURORA POLICE DEPARTMENT

1200 E. Indian Trail ★ Aurora, Illinois 60505-1896
Phone (630) 256-5000 ★ Facsimile (630) 256-5729

Chief of Police
Kristen L. Ziman

November 15, 2016

Commanders
Paul B. Nelson
Michael T. Doerzaph
Keith M. Cross

Deputy Chief
Keefe D. Jackson

TO: All Police Personnel
FROM: Kristen L. Ziman, Chief of Police
SUBJECT: Employee of the Month – August 2016

I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT INVESTIGATOR JENNIFER HILLGOTH WAS SELECTED AS EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH FOR AUGUST 2016.

Investigator Hillgoth is recognized her humanitarian efforts and good will in two separate instances as described by Lieutenant Wiencek.

As part of her investigative duties, Investigator Jennifer Hillgoth has had to visit the Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago on numerous occasions. During these visits, she noticed the multitude of sad and sick children. During her personal time, Investigator Hillgoth works with citizens, her church and the charity organization, Angels of Hope, as a way to help children in need. Seeing the need to uplift the children at Lurie Children's Hospital, Investigator Hillgoth came up with the idea to provide gifts for these children by creating "Christmas in July" and organized APD employees to collect toys and funds. Volunteer officers and their spouses also donated their personal time making blankets or gift bags for these children. On July 30, 2016, Investigator Jennifer Hillgoth along with Investigator Kevin Jenkins and his wife, Evidence Technician Alvin Soto and Officer Ed Doepel and his wife loaded up several boxes and delivered gifts to the children at Lurie Children's Hospital. Officer Doepel donned a Captain America costume for the occasion, while the others wore their APD "super hero" police uniforms to show the children and their parents that police officers have hearts and truly care for them.

Later during the summer, Investigator Hillgoth met a parent of a special needs child and learned of her daily fear of police interaction due to the lack of understanding of her child's unique condition. Investigator Hillgoth learned this fear was commonplace among parents of special needs children within the community. Working to overcome this hurdle of fear and misunderstanding, Investigator Hillgoth worked with Officer Doug Rashkow, a staunch proponent for better awareness between police and special needs persons for many years. SNAPP (Special Needs Aurora Police Program) was initiated through a partnership with the Aurora Association for Individual Development. The SNAPP database stores vital information on persons with special needs, making this information available to police officers to reduce the likelihood of an unfavorable interaction. During a meeting open to the public, Investigator Hillgoth and Officer Rashkow explained SNAPP to those in attendance.

Employee of the Month – August 2016
Investigator Jennifer Hillgoth
Page 2

Although SNAPP is still in its infancy, many citizens have already expressed their appreciation to the Aurora Police Department. Lieutenant Wiencek quoted Margaret Mead who stated “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”

Through her actions, Investigator Jennifer Hillgoth has demonstrated a side of policing that is not readily seen; the side that shows police officers truly care for those who need help and understanding.

Please join me in congratulating Investigator Jennifer Hillgoth on this well-deserved recognition.

cc: Mayor Robert O'Connor; Alex Alexandrou, COA CAO; Alisia Lewis, Human Resources;
Deputy Chief Jackson; Commanders; Lieutenant Jeff Wiencek; Dan Ferrelli, COA PIO;
CPAAA



AURORA POLICE DEPARTMENT

1200 E. Indian Trail ★ Aurora, Illinois 60505-1896
Phone (630) 256-5000 ★ Facsimile (630) 256-5729

Chief of Police
Kristen L. Ziman

Deputy Chief
Keefe D. Jackson

November 15, 2016

Commanders
Paul B. Nelson
Michael T. Doerzaph
Keith M. Cross

TO: All Police Personnel
FROM: Kristen L. Ziman, Chief of Police
SUBJECT: Employee of the Month – September 2016

I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT INVESTIGATOR JEFFREY HAHN WAS SELECTED AS EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER 2016.

Investigator Jeffrey Hahn is recognized for a year-long undercover investigation as described by Sergeant Trent Byrne.

In his position as FBI Task Force Officer, Investigator Jeffrey Hahn cultivated a confidential informant which led to an undercover operation against Aurora Latin Kings. Investigator Hahn conducted the operation for over a year, working countless hours and sacrificing his personal life to ensure the operation met a successful end. As the culmination of the operation neared, Investigator Hahn worked with his FBI counterparts, the US Attorney's Office and the Kane County State's Attorney's Office to secure charges and complete all the necessary work to conduct the final sweep. This operation resulted in the seizure of 13 firearms, 22 ounces of cocaine, and a total of 96 felony charges secured against 16 members of the Latin King Street Gang. In his recommendation, Sergeant Byrne stated, "Investigator Hahn should be recognized for his dedication to the Aurora Police Department as well as the citizens of Aurora in seeing this large operation to its successful end."

Lieutenant Jack Fichtel concurred with Sergeant Byrne's recommendation, stating, "This was an excellent example of an officer showing true dedication to our profession with a high level of commitment. Many times we view only the end result of an operation, but fail to realize the time and effort put into an investigation such as this. In addition, there are often many pitfalls and obstacles that happen along the way to secure approval of so many criminal charges. In this case, the obstacles were many, but it did not deter Investigator Hahn from his work to bring a successful close to this investigation."

Please join me in congratulating Investigator Jeffrey Hahn on this well-deserved recognition.

cc: Mayor Robert O'Connor; Alex Alexandrou, COA CAO; Alisia Lewis, Human Resources;
Deputy Chief Jackson; Commanders; Lieutenant Jack Fichtel; Dan Ferrelli, COA PIO; CAAA

Citizen Police Academy Alumni of Aurora
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