



# AlumNews

VOLUME 14 ISSUE 5

MAY 2023

## President's Message...

Greetings CPAAA! Summer is right around the corner and that generally means barbeques, beach trips, and lots of outdoor fun! For CPAAA members, it also means a summer gala, summer group outings, and lots of fun & new volunteer opportunities! This is our time to be out and about in our beautiful city, spending time with one another, while raising awareness of our AWESOME group – I truly hope you'll join me!

May is our last "official" meeting as a group before we break for the summer and we plan to stay connected with you over the summer months through email and Facebook, but please feel free to reach out to any Board member with questions about how you can get involved!

I wish you all a safe, fun-filled, relaxing, happy summer!

### May Speaker...

Our guest speaker for May will be Detective Jennifer Hillgoth (Jen). This is just a summary of the work she does regarding crime against children.

In 2004, Jen joined the Aurora Police Department and was assigned to the patrol division where she worked as a patrol for 9 years, she then transferred to the Bureau of Investigations where she became a school resource officer and in 2014 became a detective and began investigating crimes against children.

Jen continues to lead child maltreatment investigations and has investigated hundreds of cases involving crimes against children while working closely with prosecutors, Child Advocacy Centers, child abuse pediatricians, D.C.F.S and federal investigative agencies such as the FBI, Homeland Security and the US Marshal's Fugitive Task Force.

In 2021, she became a certified expert witness in child abuse and since 2015, has been a child forensic interviewer conducting numerous forensic interviews. She also has training for conducting child forensic interviews with child sex trafficking victims. During her time as detective, She has implemented the use of demonstration dolls for child abuse and death investigations, facilitated training on child sex trafficking for her department and has trained hundreds of officers within her own agency on child abuse and death. She also created a sensitive interview room where interviews are conducted in a supportive setting for child abuse victims and adult survivors of sexual abuse and has partnered with Bright Horizons to create trauma informed spaces within the police department that best serve child victims, witnesses and families with children who need further assistance from law enforcement after enduring a crisis or traumatic event.

Additionally, Jen created and implemented the Aurora Police Special Needs Program and has been honored with several awards including merit awards and commendations. A well-known advocate for children in her area, Jen became sworn as C.A.S.A. (Court Appointed Special Advocate) in 2023. She teaches and speaks with several disciplines including law enforcement, child advocacy centers, child protective services, educators, attorneys, social workers, child life specialists and C.A.S.A. with regard to recognizing and investigating allegations of child abuse and death.



Established 1994

A PUBLICATION OF  
THE CITIZEN  
POLICE ACADEMY  
ALUMNI OF AURORA

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS TUESDAY MAY 9, 2023 At: 7:00 pm**

**Kristen Ziman  
Community Room**

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# SUMMER GALA—FRIDAY, JUNE 9th



It won't be long before the stars are in full alignment. The 2nd Annual Summer Gala Fundraiser for the APD Retired K9's is closing in. Don't miss out on this opportunity to raise funds for the Retired K9's. If you have not already done so reserve your spot now. Invoices will start going out over the next week.

Bring a guest or two. So please join us in this worthwhile fundraiser to continue our support of the Retired K9s while enjoying a nice evening out with a significant other or just friends. We are on the 3rd floor this year with easy access to the roof deck which has an awesome view.

Date: **Friday, June 9, 2023.**  
 Location: **1 E. Benton—3rd floor with roof access**  
 Tentative start time: **6:00 pm—Out by 10:00**  
 Cost: **\$25.00 per person**  
 Theme: **Hollywood**  
 Dress: **Yet to be determined**

There will be light appetizers, wine, and of course it would not be a fundraiser without some items up for auction. There will also be a raffle for the money and lottery tree.

To reserve a spot or if you have any questions email Janice at: [cpaaa1994@outlook.com](mailto:cpaaa1994@outlook.com)

More information coming soon!

## April Meeting Recap...

Our April speaker was Shannon Cameron from the Interfaith Food Pantry. She discussed that the Pantry has been serving the community since 1981 and its mission is to take care of the community by the community.

Distributions have transitioned from giving a no-choice box to a choice pantry, much like a store to include fresh produce, frozen meats, staples, etc.

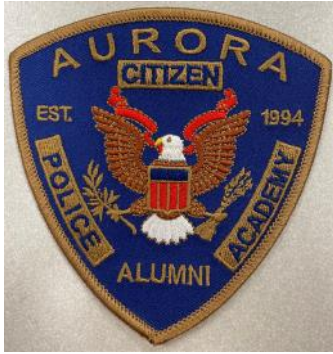
The Pantry has many facets that include an Essential Garden to grow what will be distributed; Pop-up and Mobile pantries; Project Support, which is a collaboration with other agencies in the community to meet the needs of the guests; Pantry-to-Go takes food to the guests that aren't able to come to the site; Community Closet provides clothing; Pet Pantry for the four-legged guests; Text for Food for emergency food deliveries; Classes at the pantry; Community Partnership with legal aid, phone/tablet access, health screening, etc.

There is a school pantry at Jefferson MS and Mobile Meals is coming in 2024 that will distribute ready to eat meals. The Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry is doing great work in the community and is much more than a food pantry.

Volunteers and Donations always accepted. For more information on volunteering please visit their website at:

<https://www.aurorafoodpantry.org>

## CPAAA Patches...



You asked for it and here it is.

We are happy to announce the roll out of the new CPAAA patches.



They will be available at the May meeting at a cost of \$10.00. If you would like to purchase one please see Josie at the meeting and to avoid a long wait please the exact amount ready.

There is no limit on how many you can purchase, so get yours now.

## Cougars Outing—June 20

We are currently putting together a member outing at a Cougars game but we need your input. Before we commit we would like to know if you would be interested in attending this group event. Approximate cost of tickets will be \$10.00 each which only gets you reserved seating in the group.

If this is something you would be interested in please email Janice at: [communications@cpaaa.net](mailto:communications@cpaaa.net)  
An email will be sent out in the next week with more information. We can only do this if we get enough interest.

## May Events...



### EVENTS IN MAY

- 5/7 – The Wheatlands PTO 5K
- 5/13 – Aurora GreenFest
- 5/13 – Police Week Memorial @ APD (
- 5/15 – English CPA Class Decision Door (
- 5/16 – Taco Crawl
- 5/17 – Volunteer Planting Day
- 5/18 – Spanish CPA Class Decision Door
- 5/18 – Police Week Memorial @ Mooseheart
- 5/19 – Cop on a Rooftop
- 5/29 – Memorial Day Parade

## National CPAAA Conference...

This year's **National Citizen Police Academy Conference** will be held from September 26<sup>th</sup> – September 28<sup>th</sup> in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Additional information, including agenda, conference topics, and costs, can be found online at: <https://ncpaa.us/2023-conference>

Per our bylaws, the CPAAA will pay for the registration fee for one general member. If you have questions regarding or interest in attending this conference alongside some of our CPAAA Board members, please contact either Veronica [president@cpaaa.net](mailto:president@cpaaa.net) or Deb [firstvicepresident@cpaaa.net](mailto:firstvicepresident@cpaaa.net) directly by **May 15<sup>th</sup>**.

# Volunteers/Other Information:

Thank you to our volunteers.



- Adriana Salas-Dominguez
- Cinthya Valdez
- Gail Strzelczyk
- Jose Cervantes
- Joseph Eaton
- Karina Vitela
- Maggie Urban
- Michael Jones
- Nancy Weil
- Nicholas Schraufnagel
- Paul Svendsen
- Rebecca Reyes-Roman
- Robert Gil
- Rose Hettinger
- Roxanne Klejna
- Sharissa McQueen
- Terry Griffin



*Happy Birthday/Belated to our members who have or had a birthday this month.*

<b>Spring Traffic Stops (English)</b> 4/11	<b>C.O.P.S. Ride Trivia Night Fundraiser</b> 4/15
Gail Strzelczyk	Amanda Sidhu
Gretchen Ashley	Amy Dermott
Keith Ritchel	David Suydam
Maria Salgado	Gail Strzelczyk
MaryEllen Bender	Josie Gehler
Mike Buchenauer	Mike Buchenauer
Nick Schraufnagel	Sharissa McQueen
Patrick White	<b>Special Olympics Spring Games</b> 4/28 - 4/30
Robert Gil	Carolyn Schur
Sharissa McQueen	David Suydam
Yamilet Dunham	Gretchen Ashley
Yovani Alcantara	Jose Cervantes
<b>Spring Traffic Stops (Spanish) 4/13</b>	Mike Buchenauer
Karina Suarez-Darden	Penny Suydam
Yamilet Dunham	Sharissa McQueen
Yovani Alcantara	



**Thanks to Tirso Boada, Christine Schultz, Jay Short, and Dianne Willard for bringing treats to our April meeting.**

**CONDOLENCES/GET WELL—** *Our condolences goes out to the family and friends of longtime CPAAA member Shirley Myers.* 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.

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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Laurie Cellini <b>Event Coordinator</b> <a href="mailto:eventcoord@cpaaa.net">eventcoord@cpaaa.net</a>			Beth Carter <b>APD Liaison</b> <a href="mailto:carterb@apd.aurora.il.us">carterb@apd.aurora.il.us</a>

# 2023 CPAAA Calendar

Dates are approximate and are subject to change as information becomes available.

Event	Date (if known)	Comments	Status
<b>General Member Meetings</b>	Tuesday May 9th	8/8, 9/12, 10/10, 11/14 2023 (no Jun, Jul or Dec meetings). Time remains 7:00pm	
Annual Holiday Party	Tuesday December 12	Two Brothers Roundhouse	
APD Tree Takedown	January 6, 2023	Members assist in taking down APD Tree	DONE
APD Employee Recognition	Tuesday, February 21	Members asked to assist at the event	DONE
APD Employee of Year Ceremony		Members asked to assist at the event	
APPO Golf Outing		Members sell closest to the hole chances and assist with the outing.	
Breakfast with Champions	May 19	Members help officers collect donations for Special Olympics at various Dunkin Donut locations	
CPA Spring Practicals (English 4/11 & 5/15) (Spanish 4/13 & 5/18)	Decision Door 5/15 & 5/18	Members help with traffic stop and other classes as needed. You can be as bad or good as you want to be.	T.S DONE
CPA Graduation—Spring	English—May 23 Spanish—May 25	Members help serve pizza at graduation & encourage graduates to join our organization	
Coffee with a Cop	May 10	Java Plus 1677 Montgomery Road 5-8pm	
CPA Fall Practicals		Members help with traffic stop and other classes as needed. You can be as bad or good as you want to be.	
CPA Graduation—Spring		Members help serve pizza at graduation & encourage graduates to join our organization	
4th of July Fireworks	Monday, July 3	Members assist in traffic control.	
4th of July Parade	Tuesday, July 4	Members assist in traffic control.	
Faith in Blue		Members help as needed.	
Memorial Day Parade	Monday, May 29	Members help assist in traffic control	
NCPAA Conference	Sept 26-28	CPAAA pays registration for two Board members, one at large member as well as two Officers	
Police Week - APD	May 13	Police week memorial at APD	
Police Week Memorial—Mooseheart	May 18	Mooseheart—Members assist where needed at memorial service	
RiverEdge		Members assist RiverEdge Park employees with entrance gate staffing at various locations and functions	
SRT Training			
Summer Gala	Friday, June 9	1 E. Benton Aurora, IL—SIGN UP NOW	
Winter Lights Celebration	November 17		



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS,  
ONE CUP AT A TIME

**Join your neighbors  
and police officers  
for coffee and  
conversation**



**Wednesday, May 10**



**5 p.m. to 8 p.m.**



**1677 Montgomery Road, Aurora, IL**

The mission of Coffee with a Cop is to break down the barriers between police officers and the citizens they serve by removing agendas and allowing opportunities to ask questions, voice concerns, and get to know the officers in your neighborhood.

**FREE COFFEE AND  
CONVERSATIONS**