

Sugarmill Woods Bulletin

July 15, 2010

Dear Residents,

One of our residents alerted me to a recent Announcement by the Board of County Commissioners. The Citrus County Board of County Commissioners will be taking applications beginning Monday July 12 for its second **Citrus County Citizens Academy** beginning September 2.

The Citizens Academy is a free course designed to educate citizens about the departments that implement the policy of the commission and to give residents a hands-on, inside look at what, how and why the county's departments do what they do. It is a great opportunity to meet with various county officials and get detailed information on the various government departments and organizations that support us. A reprint of the Announcement including how to enroll is shown below.

PRESS RELEASE

07/09/10

Commission opens enrollment in 2nd Citizens Academy

For immediate release - Contact: Jim Hunter, Citrus County Public Information Officer, 352-527-5484.

The Citrus County Board of County Commissioners will be taking applications [**beginning July 12**] for its second Citrus County Citizens Academy [**beginning September 2**].

The Academy is a free course designed to educate citizens about the departments that implement the policy of the commission and to give residents a hands-on, inside look at what, how and why the county's departments do what they do.

With so much misinformation and lack of information in the public about how the county commission and its departments work, the goal is to create informed citizens who understand the board's responsibilities and capabilities and how the taxpayer's resources are utilized in the various departments.

The course does not cover the other elected constitutional offices, such as the county court clerk, the property appraiser, supervisor of elections, tax collector, and sheriff; except for cooperative programs with the commission and how their budgets are part of the overall county budget (the school budget is separate from the commission's).

The course involves 10 sessions from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on designated Thursday afternoons from Sept. 2 to Dec. 2, plus a graduation at the county commission's Dec. 7 meeting. There are various field trips via county buses during the sessions. Departments and divisions covered include, for example, Development Services, Planning, Building, Management and Budget, Fire Services, Systems Management, Public Works, Community Services, Parks and Recreation, and Code Compliance, as well as numerous others.

There are no qualifications needed other than being a resident of the county and interested in how it works, and the only requirement of the class is attendance. The training is cumulative, so applicants are encouraged to attend all sessions. The county reserves the right to withhold graduation recognition if an applicant misses two or more sessions or significant portions thereof. An applicant who misses a session will be given an opportunity to make up a missing class in future sessions to achieve graduation recognition.

Registration is on a first come, first served basis. If more than the allotted slots are requested, the names will be put on a waiting list in the order they were received for the next session.

Applications are simple and can be obtained here or the Citizen's Academy web page, the county administration offices in the Lecanto Government Building or the Inverness Courthouse (second floor commission suite). They can also be sent by fax. Call 527-5210 for fax application or more information.

Sincerely,

Duane Dueker, President, Sugarmill Woods Civic Association

cc: Cypress Village POA, Oak Village Association, Southern Woods POA