



## Charleston County News Release

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**SEE PHOTOS:** <http://www.charlestoncounty.org/newsimages/citizensacademy-fall07.htm>

### **Citizens Graduate from 12-Week Course More Knowledgeable about County Government**

*Free course allows citizens to learn about county government and where tax dollars go*

Whether it is controlling the mosquito population, enforcing litter laws, registering a property deed, responding to 911 calls, or settling a small claims court dispute, Charleston County Government impacts thousands of lives daily, but many area residents do not understand the wide, reaching role the county plays.

After three months of learning everything about their local government, the ninth class of the Charleston County Citizens' Academy officially "graduated" on Tuesday, Dec. 4. The group was recognized by County Council members during Council's 7 p.m. meeting in the Public Services Building (4045 Bridge View Drive, off Leeds Avenue in North Charleston).

A reception was held for the graduates prior to the Council meeting, where they had an opportunity to talk to County Council members and other county employees.

The intensive 12-week course is organized by county employees Linda Slater and Marie Schultz, who have been coordinating the program since its inception in 2003. Slater recently accepted the job of Human Resources Director, and Schultz is a Project Officer for the County Administrator.

"These classes are fun as well as informative," Slater said. "A great bonus is getting to know so many dedicated and involved citizens who are willing to attend these sessions to learn about local government."

A total of 31 area participants, including 15 county employees, met for three hours each week, learning directly from Charleston County staff and elected officials about the wide variety of county services.

"The course is valuable for county employees too," Slater said. "It's important for our employees to understand how county government operates overall, not just within their own department, so they can better serve the public."

The sessions were as varied as the county itself, and included information on local government operations, the election process, property assessment and tax/revenue collection, county budgeting, solid waste disposal, law enforcement and detention, the court system, public works, planning and building services, emergency services and preparedness, libraries, and substance abuse prevention services.

"There is overwhelming support and enthusiasm from both attendees and employees presenting the classes," Schultz said.

Graduates of the fall 2007 Charleston County Citizens' Academy class are:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Residence</u>
Anita Antoinette	North Charleston
Claire Bergstrom	Charleston
Ernest Bergstrom	Charleston
Ashley Bowers-Jones	Mt. Pleasant
Myrtle Campbell	Charleston
Kathryn deOgburn	Charleston
Christine DeStefano	Charleston
Debbie Donovan	Mt. Pleasant
Jane C. Duke	Folly Beach
Mai Green	Charleston
Jon L. Guerry, Sr.	Mt. Pleasant
Thomasena Kelly	Summerville
Carol Perry Marshall	Charleston
Christine Martino-Lambert	Moncks Corner
Ashley McGahee	Charleston
Dawn Murray	Charleston
Christopher Nelson, Jr.	Charleston
Grace A. Perreault	North Charleston
John M. Perreault	North Charleston
Wardell Richardson	Goose Creek
Don Rogers	Mt. Pleasant
Katy Simison	Charleston
Kathy Smith	Charleston
Amy Southerland	North Charleston
Bobby J. Thomas	North Charleston
Andrea Umbreit	Mt. Pleasant
Tammy Washington	Mt. Pleasant
Danica Whitney	North Charleston
Sylvia Williams	Charleston
Roslyn Wright	Charleston
Douglas Wurster	Charleston

The next class will be offered in the spring of 2008. For more information about the Charleston County Citizen's Academy or to learn how to enroll in the next session, contact Linda Slater at (843) 958-4710 or [lslater@charlestoncounty.org](mailto:lslater@charlestoncounty.org).

Visit Charleston County's Web site at [www.charlestoncounty.org](http://www.charlestoncounty.org) for all information and news related to County government.

- Written by Jennie Davis -