



Charleston County News Release

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SEE PHOTO: <http://www.charlestoncounty.org/NewsImages/citizensacademy-08.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 fully understand the wide, reaching role that county government plays in their lives.

After three months of learning everything about their county government, the 11th class of the Charleston County Citizens' Academy officially graduated on Thursday, November 6. The group was recognized by Charleston 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 was organized by county employees Christine DeStefano of the Support Office, Phylis Williams of the Magistrates Court Administration, Paul Graff of Facilities Management, and Donna Kanagy of Technology Services.

"It was really refreshing to see a group of Charleston County residents take such an interest in their local government and how it operates. They really wanted to learn," said DeStefano.

A total of 26 area participants, including seven Charleston County Government employees, met for three hours each week, learning directly from County staff and elected officials about the wide variety of County services.

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.

Graduates of the fall 2008 Charleston County Citizens' Academy class are:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Residence</u>
• Pat Anderson	Hollywood
• Stewart Miles Bauknight	James Island
• William G. Benson	North Charleston
• Brandy M. Byrge	Summerville
• Lydia Cotton	North Charleston
• Jason Michael Cronen	Charleston
• Eric A. Draper	James Island
• Arthur George	North Charleston

- Benjaneia Green North Charleston
- Coakley Alphonso Hilton North Charleston
- Justin Hopson Charleston
- Christopher Ibsen West Ashley
- Pearl W. Johnson West Ashley
- Mickalina Faith Kelecy North Charleston
- Marietta M. Kelly North Charleston
- Marcia Clare Lucas West Ashley
- Barbara R Maguire West Ashley
- Martine McPherson Mt. Pleasant
- Bernice Mehlman Charleston
- Peter Mehlman Charleston
- John Ray West Ashley
- Laurie Lynn Alderson Smith West Ashley
- Aletha Dukes Smoak Ravenel
- Janel Spencer North Charleston
- Cheryl Lynn Tapager Mt. Pleasant
- Adam White Charleston

Visit the Charleston County Web site at www.charlestoncounty.org for news, services and up-to-date information relating to Charleston County Government.