

About Branson Citizens Academy

Citizens Academy is a 9-session program designed to provide citizens with “boots on the ground” experiences with all facets of city government – from emergency services and transportation to the business of water and budgeting your tax dollars. Sessions are held on Monday evenings and run about 2-hours.

Participants do much more than sit and listen to city staffers talk about the services their departments provide. Sessions are designed to provide information, as well as experiences. Holding a fire hose helps the participant understand how much strength and endurance a firefighter needs to battle a blaze. Touring a wastewater and water facility helps the citizen understand the technical expertise and the 24-hour monitoring required by utilities employees. Showing the city’s recycling efforts and other environmental programs will let citizens understand the emphasis placed on protecting our land and water resources.

[Click here for photos of the summer 2009 Citizens Academy.](#)

How to Participate

Citizens Academy classes are organized twice a year, and applications are accepted year-round. Contact Branson Public Information Director Jerry Adams either by phone at **417-337-8526** or e-mail at jadams@bransonmo.gov for more information about the Academy or to register for classes.

Branson Citizens Academy June 15 – August 11, 2009 Preliminary Schedule

Date/Time	Topic	Presenters	Location
Class 1 Monday, June 15 6 p.m.	Overall view of city government – form of government - Mayor’s Office – Administration	Dean Kruithof Mayor Presley Lisa Westfall	Council Chambers with a tour of City Hall
Class 2 Monday June 22 6 p.m.	Parks & Recreation City Forester I	Cindy Shook Tara Norback	RecPlex and Lakeside Forest Wilderness Area including area of proposed nature center.
Class 3 Monday June 29 6 p.m.	City’s water supply Tour water and wastewater plant	Larry VanGilder & his staff	Water Plant and Wastewater Plant & PW offices in water tower.

	Pacific Street tower w/offices		Recycling & other environmental programs.
Class 4 Monday July 6 6 p.m.	Finances and Human Resources Budget Overview Municipal Law – Legal	Lori Helle Dub Duston Tim Davis Lisa Westfall	Council Chambers Municipal Court
Class 5 Monday July 13 6 p.m.	Firefighters –the first responders	Chief Sparks & his crew	Fire Station w/several demonstrations
Class 6 Monday July 20 6 p.m.	Law Enforcement – Serving & Protecting	Police Department	Police Department
Class 7 Monday July 27 6 p.m.	Transportation – Getting around Branson – GIS	David Miller	City Hall & Fall Creek extension project.
Class 8 Monday August 3 6 p.m.	Planning & Development and Economic Development	Jim Lawson & staff Economic Dev. Dir	City Hall and tour of economic development areas.
Class 9 Tuesday August 11 7 p.m.	Attend Board of Aldermen meeting	Participants recognized by Mayor	City Hall Council Chambers