



city of
bristol

News Release

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Contact: Terrie S. Talbert, Director
Dept. of Community Relations
Phone: 423-764-4171 Office
423-366-7046 Mobile
E-Mail: tsmith-talbert@bristoltn.org

7th Annual Citizens Municipal Academy Announced

The city's officials announced the 7th annual Citizens Municipal Academy dates for the 2014 session. Classes will meet on Thursday evenings beginning October 9th- December 2, 2014. The Academy is a public information program that gives citizens insight into city services and function of city departments. The program explains the relationship between the City Council and City Administration gives an overview of the budgetary process and provides an opportunity for citizen input. Sessions are hosted each Thursday evening beginning at 6PM and lasting for 2 ½ to 3 hours. Registration is free, and acceptance into the academy is on a first-come basis up to the capacity of 15.

“The academy draws citizens from all walks of life that represent just about every neighborhood in the city,” said Terrie Talbert, Director of Community Relations for the city and the academy's coordinator. “We have had several citizens go through the academy that have gone on to serve on many of the city's boards and commissions and even some who now serve on City Council,” continued Talbert. The academy is set in a relaxed environment, with a light dinner and refreshments offered. Each session has a different topic and presenter(s) and is hosted at various locations throughout the city.

“For most people civic lessons were given in middle or high school but beyond that there is not a lot of opportunity for residents, especially adults to quickly learn how their government functions or about the many services the city offers. Local government touches our citizens' lives every day, so it is important to know how those decisions are made that do affect our daily life,” Talbert said. “This is an excellent public outreach program and another way to encourage future city leaders.”

To register, please go on-line to www.bristoltn.org/760/Citizens-Municipal-Academy and complete the form electronically and submit or just print out the application and mail to: Citizens Municipal Academy, P.O Box 3563, Bristol, Tennessee 37621 or pick up an application at the City Manager's Office in City Hall at 801 Anderson Street, the Bristol Public Library or at Slater Center. If you have questions on the academy please call Terrie Talbert @ 423-989-5500 Ext 2055 or e-mail at tsmith-talbert@bristoltn.org.