



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: July 20, 2011

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City of Wheat Ridge Announces 2011 Civic Academy Registration

WHEAT RIDGE – The City of Wheat Ridge has opened registration for the 2011 Civic Academy. The program will take place on two Saturdays this fall, September 24th and October 22nd. Civic Academy is designed to encourage active participation in local government by the citizens of Wheat Ridge.

Mayor Jerry DiTullio said, “Civic Academy provides a great opportunity for citizens of Wheat Ridge to learn about their local government and how it impacts their lives and neighborhoods on a daily basis. Civic engagement is an essential component of local government and Civic Academy fosters that through education.”

Starting with a recommendation from the 2005 Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Committee outlining a need for investing in leadership development and volunteerism, the Civic Academy was created to introduce members of the community to the City’s organization, how it works, and emphasize how citizens can get involved in local government. The program has been a great success and has had a positive impact on participants, City staff and elected officials as well.

“Civic Academy introduces citizens to the City’s organization and provides them with a deeper understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing Wheat Ridge. Our goal is to have citizens complete the program with a better appreciation for what local government does and to encourage them to become an active participant in Wheat Ridge or to consider joining a board or commission or running for elected office,” said City Manager, Patrick Goff.

September is National Civic Awareness Month and Civic Academy helps increase the public awareness of what their local government does for them and how it contributes to their quality of life. With presentations by the Mayor, City Council, City Manager, and various City departments, citizens will get a clear picture of what it takes to provide a wide array of services in an equitable manner.

Some past participants have gone on to serve on boards, commissions or even run for City Council. “Participating in the Civic Academy is a must for anyone who wants to understand the City and how local government works. I attribute this program with my desire to run for City office,” said Joyce Jay, City Council, District II.

Russ Hedden, past participant added, “I learned so much from the Civic Academy and the result is a citizen who is motivated to contribute my time and input to further the improvement of my City.”

This year’s schedule will consist of two full days of programming compared to 13 weeks of night classes in past. “We hope the change in the schedule will allow more residents to enjoy the program. People are busy and do not always have a lot of spare time to participate in these types of programs. By reducing the commitment we hope that more people will have the chance to attend Civic Academy,” said Nathan

Mosley, Management Analyst. Interested parties should fill out an application and submit it by August 25th.

For more information or to apply for the Wheat Ridge Civic Academy please visit the City's website, click [here](#) or contact Nathan Mosley at 303-235-2867 or nmosley@ci.wheatridge.co.us.

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