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Openings remain for upcoming Citizens Academy

Branson Public Information Director Jerry Adams says there are still openings for residents interested in participating in the fall Citizens Academy that begins September 20

“We like to have around 16 people in the Academy, and so far we have 11 signed up. So we have room for five more,” said Adams.

The Academy is an eight-week session designed to give citizens a behind-the-scenes look at city services, and an opportunity to interact with the employees who deliver those services. City officials hope it results in greater awareness of how those services work and how the functions of city government impact their daily lives. There is no cost to attend the Academy.

The Academy begins Monday, September 20 at Branson City Hall and continues each Monday night through November 1. The sessions run from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The eighth and final session will be on Tuesday, November 9, which is a regular Board of Aldermen meeting, and the participants will be recognized by the Mayor and Board for graduation from the Academy.

Each week focuses on different city departments. Learning about the heavy safety equipment firefighters wear and holding a fire hose will help the participants understand how much strength and endurance a firefighter needs to battle a blaze. Touring water and wastewater facilities helps citizens understand the technical expertise and the 24-hour monitoring required by public works employees. Seeing the city’s environmental programs will let citizens understand the emphasis placed on protecting our land and water resources.

To sign-up for the Citizens Academy starting September 20, contact Jerry Adams at Branson City Hall, 337-8526 or e-mail at jadams@bransonmo.gov. A schedule of the fall Academy is also on the city’s website. On the home page, click Citizens Academy.