“Sign up for Norfolk 101: Citizens Academy”

It’s your chance to learn more about the City of Norfolk. The third Norfolk 101: Citizens Academy will be held this fall to give citizens an opportunity to go behind the scenes of city government and experience firsthand the diverse operations of the City of Norfolk.

“If you’ve ever wondered how many gallons of water the City of Norfolk Wastewater Treatment Plant cleans per day or what kind of training a firefighter needs or if you wanted some in depth knowledge about city operations, you’ll want to participate in this program,” said Diane Becker, City of Norfolk Communications Director.

The first Academy was in the spring of 2014 with a second one held last fall. The next Norfolk 101 begins September 15 with sessions running from 6:00-9:00 pm each Tuesday evening for seven weeks. For each session the group meets at a different city facility for a presentation on one or more divisions and a tour. On November 2, the group will meet with City Council members to discuss their role in city operations.

“During the course of Norfolk 101, participants will be interacting with city staff, getting tours of city facilities and learning all about the City and how it runs. Some past participants in the program are now serving on City of Norfolk advisory boards. It’s a great course for anyone who might be interested in running for city office or just want to be more informed about city operations,” Becker said.

There is no cost to participate in Norfolk 101. Each participant must be at least 18 years of age and a resident of Norfolk. They must also be committed to attending all of the Norfolk 101 sessions.

Session topics include: 1) “Leading the Way- the Mayor, the City Administration and Staff” 2) “Quality of Life – Parks and Streets” 3) “Planning for the Future – Public Works and the Water Division” 4) “The Environment – Wastewater Treatment and the Transfer Station” 5) “Growth – Norfolk Housing and the Norfolk Economic Development Council” 6) “Public Safety – The Fire and Police Divisions” 7) “Community Connections - The Norfolk Public Library and Information Technology” and 8) “Governing the City -The Norfolk City Council and City Council Meeting Recognition”.

The Norfolk 101: Citizens Academy schedule is subject to change. Twenty participants are selected on a first come first served basis. Forms can be found at www.ci.norfolk.ne.us/About/norfolk101.htm at the Administration Building at 309 North 5th Street or call 402-844-2034 for more information.

Todd Boling, City of Norfolk Wastewater Plant Superintendent, gives a tour of the plant to Norfolk 101 participants.