



## Charleston County News Release

Release Number: 2882

Date: May 22, 2008

**SEE PHOTO:** <http://www.charlestoncounty.org/newsimages/graduation.htm>

### **Citizens Graduate from 12-Week Course More Knowledgeable about County Government**

*Free course allows citizens to learn about county government and where tax dollars go*

Whether it is controlling the mosquito population, enforcing litter laws, registering a property deed, responding to 911 calls, or settling a small claims court dispute, Charleston County Government impacts thousands of lives daily. But many area residents do not fully understand the wide, reaching role that county government plays in their lives.

After three months of learning everything about their county government, the ninth class of the Charleston County Citizens' Academy officially graduated on Tuesday, May 20. The group was recognized by Charleston County Council members during Council's 7 p.m. meeting in the Public Services Building (4045 Bridge View Drive, off Leeds Avenue in North Charleston).

A reception was held for the graduates prior to the council meeting, where they had an opportunity to talk to County Council members and other county employees.

The intensive 12-week course was organized by county employees Christine DeStefano of the Chief Support Office; Phylis Williams of the Magistrates Court Administration; Phil LaRoche of the Transportation Sales Tax Office; and Donna Kanagy and Eve Hiott of Technology Services.

"Through all 12 sessions, it was really refreshing to see a group of Charleston County residents to take such an interest in their local government and how it operates. They really wanted to learn," said DeStefano.

A total of 22 area participants, including four Charleston County Government employees, met for three hours each week, learning directly from County staff and elected officials about the wide variety of County services.

The sessions were as varied as the County itself, and included information on local government operations; the election process; property assessment and tax/revenue collection; county budgeting; solid waste disposal; law enforcement and detention; the court system; public works, planning and building services; emergency services and preparedness; libraries; and substance abuse prevention services.

Graduates of the spring 2008 Charleston County Citizens' Academy class are:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Residence</u>
• Toni Sharle Bates	North Charleston
• Robert Lee Carter	West Ashley
• Kathleen Cassels	Charleston
• Donna M. Chinnis	Ravenel
• Barbara Kuzela Farmer	James Island
• Alfreda Waring Forsythe	Mt. Pleasant

- Burns Maynard Forsythe Mt. Pleasant
- Ardella C. Fuiell-Salimia West Ashley
- John G. Joyner Charleston
- Juanita W. LaRoche West Ashley
- Kelly Mack Wadmalaw Island
- Toni A. Mackelprang North Charleston
- Ana Carolina Angel Mascarin North Charleston
- John P. McCarthy West Ashley
- Dorothy N. Morris James Island
- Karen Nugent Isle of Palms
- Michael Palmer Charleston
- Judy Sheppard Charleston
- Annie Hewko Singh Charleston
- Kathleen Grant Snype West Ashley
- J.E. Teske West Ashley
- Adam White Charleston

The County will be offering another 12-week session on Wednesday afternoons beginning in the fall of this year. For more information, call Christine DeStefano at (843) 958-4081 or visit [www.charlestoncounty.org](http://www.charlestoncounty.org) for an application.