

2015 Citizen's Academy to Graduate

Ten weeks ago eleven members of the community began the second Tullahoma Citizen's Police Academy (TCPA). The program's last formal session has ended, and graduation is next week, Tuesday, May 26th. The TCPA was created as a means to provide citizens an understanding of what the police department operation involves, and some of the challenges the officers encounter while serving our community. At the same time the TCPA is an opportunity to have open discussions about our community, issues, and share ideas as to how to improve the quality of life for our citizens and visitors. The ten week program began with a presentation about departmental structure, fiscal operations, and miscellaneous discussion. The success of the program was enhanced by a variety of topics and presenters. The Coffee County District Attorney General, Craig Northcott, and his staff, were the first guest speakers. The DA's office provided information concerning the judicial process, court procedures, case law, and case preparation. Another session was dedicated to an explanation of hiring processes, requirements for certification, and Tennessee Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) regulations. The Patrol Division presented topics including: patrol techniques, traffic enforcement, accident investigation, and DUI enforcement. The Investigations division followed with sessions that dealt with case preparation, follow-up investigations, and general investigative techniques. The Investigations session concluded with a mock crime scene whereby the participants photographed, collected evidence, diagramed the scene, and interviewed a suspect. In the final session the TCPA members received training in the department personnel responsibilities and selection process.

The last ten weeks have passed quickly. With the conclusion of the program the department will look at recommendations for improvement, topics, and general input. At this time the TCPA will be an annual event, beginning in the spring. The department will provide advanced notification for interested citizens when the application process will open. The department would like to thank the citizens that are soon to be alumni of the TCPA. Any questions about this or other programs may be directed to Chief Paul Blackwell at (931) 455-0530, or pblackwell@tullahomatan.gov .