



MEDIA RELEASE

For more information, contact: Erick Zinser, Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police
(248) 347-0504

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Go behind the scenes of the criminal justice system

44th session of the Lakes Area Citizen's Police Academy starts March 8th.

NOVI, Mich., February 3, 2023 – The role of a police officer has always been of interest to most citizens. The film industry has capitalized on this curiosity and television shows and movies about law enforcement are staples in the entertainment industry. But how accurate is the information they provide about law enforcement?

The creation of the Lakes Area Citizen's Police Academy affords citizens the opportunity to learn about their local police department and take a behind the scenes look at what the criminal justice system is all about. Participants gain an insider's knowledge of the police agency, enabling them to make informed decisions on issues affecting the police and the community. The Lakes Area Citizens Police Academy is a joint venture between the Novi, Walled Lake, South Lyon, Wolverine Lake, and Wixom Police Departments.

Applications are currently being accepted online at cityofnovi.org for the FREE Lakes Area Citizens Police Academy, scheduled to begin on March 8, 2023. Participants must be 18 years of age or older and a resident of one of the participating jurisdictions.

"The Citizens Police Academy is an excellent opportunity to go behind the scenes of being a police officer. The Citizens Police Academy will give participants a better understanding of policing and enhance trust between the police and our community members," said Novi's Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police Erick Zinser. "This unique exposure to the criminal justice system goes a long way toward building public trust and establishing community-oriented policing."

This three-month academy includes practical demonstrations, hands-on exercises, and presentations from subject matter experts from the Michigan State Police Crime Lab as well as the Bomb Squad. Participants will also view a K-9 demonstration, participate in hands on exercises at the Novi Firearms Training Center and have the opportunity to participate in a ride-along with a police officer.

Classes are scheduled on Wednesday evenings from 6:30pm-9:00pm, March 8 through May 17, 2023. The first class will meet at the Novi Police Training Center. The registration deadline is February 20, 2023. For more information visit Cityofnovi.org or contact Steven Snell, Detective Sergeant, at 248-347-0542.

###