

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

May 6, 2009

Citizens' Academy Graduation

Sheriff Jimmy Harris states as follows:

We are proud to announce that 26 class members graduated from our first session of the Sheriff's Citizens' Academy on Tuesday, April 22. The session started on January 20, and went for 14 weeks, covering a range of subjects. In addition to Chief Deputy Mike Edmondson's presentations on the various divisions and duties of the Sheriff's Office and Chief Jail Administrator Tony Durham's Detention Center talk and tour, class members had sessions on the court system and legal issues with guest speakers District Judge Steve Whitmire, Deputy District Attorney Bob Johnston, and Assistant District Attorneys Julie McCormick and Jeremy Taylor. They were able to tour the facilities at DeKalb E-911 with Director Sabrina Harris, and had sessions with Commander Wade Hill, who is a certified firearms instructor, at the F.O.P Lodge's Firing Range. There were also presentations by DHR Representative Stacey McClendon, Children's Advocacy Director Elizabeth Wheatley, Partnership for Drug Free DeKalb County Director Liz Barrentine, the School Resource Officers, the Special Response Team, Tracking Team, and K-9 unit, an interactive crime scene demonstration by Deputy Commander Hal Nash, and a meth lab/drug presentation by the Drug Task Force.

"We tried to give the class a small sample of the things we work with day in and day out. We were excited about getting this program started, but we didn't anticipate how enthusiastic and interested these people would be. They were really an outstanding group. It was helpful to us too, in that we had to do pretty thorough reviews of our procedures in order to explain to them what we do and how we do it. I hope they were able to take something from the class that will help them to be better-informed citizens."

Our next class will begin in the fall, and will be condensed to ten weeks from fourteen. Information regarding the next session's scheduling will be forthcoming.





The class members are pictured as follows:

Front row, left to right: Class Member Carla Carter's son Eli Carter; Teresa Addison, Ruth Wright, Karen Wilson, Rosee Swain, Marsha Burke, Carla Carter, Denton Farmer, Ed Burke

Back row, left to right: Mike Addison, Jim Robertson, Greg Robertson, Tim Love, Ryan Johnson, Billy Wilkins, Matt Martin, Mark Elliott, Tony Taylor, Sheriff Jimmy Harris, Robert Hume, Mac Smith, Joe Brewer, Willard Crabtree, Darrell Shankles, Eddie Thacker, and James Summerville