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Craven County Launches Citizens' Academy

Craven County, N.C. – Craven County will launch Craven Connection, a Citizens' Academy in the fall of 2019 in an effort to enhance citizen engagement in local government. Craven County Government will be soliciting applicants from across the County to engage in this pro-active approach to educating citizens, including newcomers, on the mechanics of county government in North Carolina, and more specifically, Craven County.

"Citizens' understanding of their government is essential to transparency initiatives and for encouraging their involvement," stated Jack Veit, Craven County Manager.

There is no cost to participate in the academy, which will be conducted in five segments. Craven Connection sessions will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, October 1, 15, 22, 29 of 2019 and graduation will occur on Monday, November 4, 2019 at the Craven County Board of Commissioners' regular meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Craven Connection Citizens' Academy will cover topics such as county government structure and how the Craven County Board of Commissioners operates. It will also provide an overview of county departments such as Emergency Services, Elections, Human Services, Sheriff's Department/Jail, and many others. In addition to providing an overview of county departments, the academy will also provide an overview of other entities associated with county government such as Craven County Schools, the North Carolina Courts System, CarolinaEast Medical Center and the Coastal Carolina Regional Airport.

The academy sessions will be centered at the Craven County Emergency Operations Center in downtown New Bern but will also be held at various locations in Craven County. Craven Connection Citizens' Academy is limited to 15 participants and only one participant per household. The application deadline is August 30. Participants will be notified of their acceptance by September 10. To apply for Craven Connection and to see a detailed academy schedule visit <http://bit.ly/cravenconnection>.

For more information about the Craven Connection Citizens' Academy contact Gwen Bryan at (252) 636-6600.

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