


City of 
Auburndale

Citizens Academy

2026





City of Auburndale
AUBURNDALE, FLORIDA 33823

Dear Resident,

The City of Auburndale is excited to announce that now through April 15th, 2026, the City is accepting applications for the 2026 Auburndale Citizens Academy. This program is designed to provide residents with a first-hand look at their City government.

This free program is open to residents 18 years-of-age or older who live within the City of Auburndale city limits. Each week, participants will learn about different City departments through a series of hands-on activities, demonstrations, and interactive tours.

The Auburndale Citizens Academy runs for seven (7) consecutive Tuesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. beginning April 21st through June 2nd, and ending with a graduation ceremony at the regularly held City Commission meeting on Monday, June 15th, at 7:00 p.m.

For more information and an application, please visit www.auburndalefl.com under the "Residents" section, or call (863) 965-5530, Extension 140. Completed applications must be turned into the City Clerk's Office no later than Wednesday, April 15th, at 5:00 p.m. The City Clerk's Office is located at City Hall, 1 Bobby Green Plaza, Auburndale. Applications may also be emailed to bhenry@auburndalefl.com.

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE
ALL DATES AND TOPICS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Date and Time	Topic and Description	Meeting Location (Subject to change)
Tuesday, April 21 st , 6:00 p.m.	Kick-Off / Governing Auburndale City Commission, City Manager's Office, City Clerk, Human Resources	City Hall 1 Bobby Green Plaza
Tuesday, April 28 th , 6:00 p.m.	The Foundation of Auburndale Public Works and Public Utilities	Public Works Building 915 Charles Avenue
Tuesday, May 5 th , 6:00 p.m.	Protecting Auburndale Fire Department	Auburndale Fire Department 100 Ariana Avenue
Tuesday, May 12 th , 6:00 p.m.	Behind the Scenes in Auburndale Finance Department, Information Technology Department, Library	Library 100 West Bridgers Avenue
Tuesday, May 19 th , 6:00 p.m.	Relaxing in Auburndale Parks and Recreation Department	History Museum 119 West Park Street
Tuesday, May 26 th , 6:00 p.m.	Building Auburndale Community Development Department, Community Redevelopment Agency	City Hall 1 Bobby Green Plaza
Tuesday, June 2 nd , 6:00 p.m.	Protecting Auburndale Police Department	Auburndale Police Department 2 Bobby Green Plaza
Monday , June 15 th , 7:00 p.m.	Graduation	City Hall 1 Bobby Green Plaza

CITIZENS ACADEMY: GENERAL INFORMATION

What is the Citizens Academy?

This program provides our citizens with a deeper understanding of how their City government works, and gives them a look at daily operations and services provided by their local government. The program sets the foundation for residents who are interested in furthering their civic knowledge, especially as it relates to government closest to the people.

When will classes be held?

Classes are held weekly on Tuesdays, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Classes will begin at 6:00 p.m. Dates are announced on the City's website and are outlined in the application. Participants should attend the kick-off session and graduation, and may miss no more than one (1) class to successfully complete the program. To help ensure the integrity of program, any student who misses two (2) or more classes will be withdrawn from the program and may apply to participate in a subsequent program.

What will I do in the Academy?

Classes provide an in-depth "behind the scenes" look at municipal government. Classes will involve presentations by City staff, as well as tours of facilities and key locations within the City that are not normally accessible to the general public. Dinner will also be provided.

Who is eligible to participate?

Citizens Academy participants must be 18 years or older and live within Auburndale city limits. Participants must meet attendance requirements to successfully complete the program.

How are participants selected?

Participants are selected on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications must be submitted to the City Clerk's office by the application deadline. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered. City staff will verify the residency of the applicants. Class size will be determined by interest and available resources. The City will notify applicants of their selection status by email and/or phone call. If a selected applicant determines they no longer wish to participate, the City reserves the right to replace them with another eligible applicant.

What is the cost to participate?

This program is offered free-of-charge.

What should I wear?

The classes are interactive, so business casual attire is acceptable. We will provide a Citizens Academy nametag for each student. The nametag should be worn during each class, so staff can easily identify class members. We recommend comfortable shoes, as there will be some walking and many activities during the classes.

Where are classes held?

Classes will be held at various City facilities. Meeting locations will be communicated to selected participants prior to the class. Participants are responsible for their own transportation to and from the meeting location each session. For some sessions, the City will provide bus or van transportation from the meeting location to other off-site locations. Additional information will be provided when applicable.

What do I do if I need to miss class?

Participants are allowed to miss one session; however, they are strongly encouraged not to miss any programs if possible.

May I bring a guest or relative to these activities?

Because of space limitations, participants may not bring any guests to the classes; however, they will be encouraged to bring guests to the graduation ceremony.

What happens after the Academy?

During graduation, you will be recognized by the City Commission during a presentation at a regularly scheduled City Commission meeting. Following graduation from the Auburndale Citizens Academy, you will better understand the role of municipal government in not only Auburndale, but our democracy at-large.

What if I have more questions?

For more information, please contact the City Clerk at (863) 965-5530, Ext. 140, or by email at bhenry@auburndalefl.com.

APPLICATION FOR SPRING 2026

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: () ____ - _____

Email: _____

- I am a resident of Auburndale Yes No

- The Citizen’s Academy will be held each Tuesday starting on April 21st from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and a graduation ceremony on Monday, June 15th, at 7:00 p.m. Will you be able to attend all classes?

Yes No

Dietary Needs, Food Allergies, or Accommodations: _____

Briefly explain why you wish to enroll in the Citizens Academy and what you would like to gain from the experience?

I have read and understand the forgoing information and agree to abide by the rules set forth in this registration form.

Print Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Send the completed application to:		
By Mail	By Email	In-Person
City Clerk PO Box 186 Auburndale, FL 33823	bhenry@auburndalefl.com	City Hall 1 Bobby Green Plaza Auburndale, FL 33823
Applications are due no later than 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 15th, 2026		