



WHAT: What is Zeeland's Citizen's Academy?

- Zeeland's Citizen's Academy is designed to provide Zeelanders an opportunity to expand their knowledge of the structure and functions of their city government. Sessions will offer an in-depth look at the fundamentals of the City's administration, elections, local history, library, finance, IT, streets, parks, cemeteries, utilities, public safety, community development, downtown and marketing.
- Graduates of the Academy will be honored at a City Council meeting following the completion of the program.

WHY: Why was this program created?

- The purpose of Zeeland's Citizen's Academy is to: educate residents, encourage new leaders and volunteers & spread the ZEEL!
- The Citizen's Academy is an ideal program for community leaders, current or potential future appointed or elected officials, or curious residents with an interest in local affairs. Participants will increase their knowledge of City operations while demonstrating their commitment to the community, networking with fellow community members, engaging with City staff and becoming better equipped to help shape the future of the community.

WHO: Who can participate?

- Participants must be one of the following:
 - City of Zeeland residents (*preferred*).
 - Utility customer of the Zeeland Board of Public Works.
 - Work at an employer within the Zeeland City limits.
- Participants must be 18 years of age & pass a background check.

WHEN: When is it? What other dates do I need to know?

- The 2026 Zeeland's Citizen's Academy will take place on the following dates:
 - Session 1: Wed., April 15 - 5:45-9:00 PM (*dinner is included*)
 - Session 2: Wed., April 22 - 5:45-9:00 PM (*dinner is included*)
 - Session 3: Wed., April 29 - 5:45-9:00 PM (*dinner is included*)
 - Session 4: Wed., May 6 - 5:45-9:00 PM (*dinner is included*)
 - Session 5: Wed., May 13 - 5:45-9:00 PM (*dinner is included*)
 - Session 6: Wed., May 20 - 5:45-9:00 PM (*dinner is included*)
 - Graduation: Mon., June 1 - 6:00 PM
- It is the expectation of the program that participants will attend at least 5 out of 6 full sessions.
- The application window will remain open from February 2 - February 13.

WHERE: Where will the sessions be held?

- Sessions will be held at a variety of City of Zeeland / Board of Public Works facilities as well as walking and bus tours through the city. Location information will be provided with the program itinerary.

HOW: How do I apply? How will I know if I am accepted?

- Apply online www.cityofzeeland.com/citizens-academy
- Or visit City Hall (21 S. Elm Street) during business hours and request a paper application.
- Applicants will be notified by March 3 if they have been accepted into the program.

MORE: What else do I need to know?

- ATTIRE: There is no dress code, however, we recommend business casual attire (jeans are ok!) and comfortable shoes for walking. Sessions will be in and out of doors, so please dress comfortably for air conditioning and the outside heat.
- FOOD: Dinner will be provided at 5:45 PM for each of the six sessions. We will celebrate with cake at graduation!
- ZEEL GEAR: Participants will receive a Citizen's Academy T-shirt upon completion of the program!
- COST: Free!

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