



**Marion County
Board of County Commissioners**

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COUNTY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2012 CITIZENS ACADEMY

Immediate Release

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (Dec. 30, 2011) – Residents who want to find out more about their local government will soon have an opportunity to do so. Marion County is now accepting applications for its 2012 Citizens Academy, a free 10-week program where local residents and business owners can get an inside look at county government and its operation, services and challenges.

Citizens Academy participants will attend sessions on a different department or facet of county government each week. Sessions last approximately three hours and include presentations, tours and hands-on activities at various county locations. Past academy experiences have included touring the Marion County Animal Center and Baseline landfill, designing a park and even serving as a commissioner for a day. Planned areas for this year's academy include: Community Services, County Engineer, Growth Management, Public Library System and Utilities among many others. The academy begins in March.

Marion County residents or business owners ages 18 and older are eligible to attend. All participants must complete a registration form and be accepted prior to attending and go to a minimum of eight of the 10 sessions to graduate. For more information or to apply, visit www.marioncountyfl.org/citizensacademy.htm.

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