

CITIZENS ACADEMY

The Citizens Academy is a free eight-week course offering an inside look at the criminal justice system. The next session of the Wayne County Prosecutor's Citizens Academy will begin on Tuesday, September 8, 2009. The Academy will be held at Henry Ford Community College, S.A.E. Building, 5101 Evergreen, Dearborn, MI 48128. Classes are held from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. The Citizens Academy is designed to educate and inspire the citizens of Wayne County by providing insight into the criminal justice system and criminal prosecution in the county. The program will feature an anatomy of a criminal case and the justice system by discussing the role of the Prosecutors Office as well as other law enforcement agencies involved in a criminal investigation. The Academy will include discussions on crime investigation, specialized units designed to protect the most vulnerable members of our county, and the opportunity to weigh in with experts in the criminal justice system.



Prosecutor Worthy at Citizens Academy

Citizens Academy graduates will help create a safer and stronger community-based response to crime. Topics include: Combating Violence, Special Challenges to Prosecution and students take a virtual tour of the Michigan State Police Crime Lab. The first Citizens Academy was held in 2008 at Greater Grace Temple in Detroit. It was so well received that many people had to be turned away. The Academy is now held twice a year at various locations in Wayne County. Enrollment information can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.

RECENT CASE HIGHLIGHTS

Walter Harris—Darian Dove has been charged with Felony Murder and Arson in connection with the death of Firefighter Walter Harris. The case will be handled by **Homicide Division Principal APA Athina Siringas**. The preliminary exam will be held on August 20, 2009 at 36th District Court in Detroit.

Deed Fraud—Congratulations to **APA Abed Hammoud** and the **Wayne County Deed Fraud Unit** consisting of the **Register of Deeds, Bernard Youngblood**, the **WC Sheriff** and the **WCPO**, for the successful prosecution of **Nelson Sumpter** and his brother **Omar Sumpter**. The Sumpters were involved in several deed fraud schemes.

ALEXIS GOGGINS EVERYDAY HERO & WITNESS AWARDS

The WCPO is proud to present the Alexis Goggins Everyday Hero Award to **Norris Elkins**. Mr. Elkins was a witness to a homicide. He boxed in the defendant's vehicle and testified at the trial. The office also presented 2009 Witness Awards to **Keith Kingery**, **Billy**

Baker, **Shirley Snyder** and **Rochell Copeland** in recognition of the sacrifice it takes to appear as a witness at a criminal trial. The awards were presented at a session of the WCPO Citizens Academy. Our congratulations and thanks to all the awardees!



Prosecutor Worthy with Alexis Goggins

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CITIZENS ACADEMY ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Applications can be
found on our website
at
[www.waynecounty.com/
mygovt/
prosecutor](http://www.waynecounty.com/mygovt/prosecutor).

You may also contact
Nicole Scott at (313)
224-5780. Enrollment
is limited to 250

NEW ANIMAL PROTECTION UNIT

On January 19, 2009, the Detroit Police Department arrested 9 people on charges related to attending a dogfight at a home in Detroit. At the time of arrest, paperwork related to dog fighting were removed, along with 17 Pit Bull adults and puppies, all in poor or severe medical condition. Following the initial arrest, a search warrant was issued and a raid was performed at the residence by Detroit Police Department officers and Michigan Humane Society cruelty investigators. The raid resulted in the removal of dog fighting-related paperwork, training equipment and trophies. The evidence was presented to the new Animal Protection Unit of the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, which includes Assistant Prosecutors **Raj Prasad** and **Amy Slameka**. Four people arrested were



charged with dog-related felonies. One of these individuals, a Detroit resident named Marlon Anthony Rogers, had been convicted of dog fighting four times previously, twice in Ohio. On June 19, Rogers accepted a plea agreement in which he pled guilty to all four dog fighting related charges, as well as an HAB 3 charge (habitual offense – 3rd time). He was sentenced to 2 to 8 years in prison on July 17, 2009 by Judge Bill. He is also the first dogfighter in this area to be sentenced to prison, rather than just county jail, for charges solely related to dog fighting.

PROSECUTORS BUILD FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Once again, volunteers from the WCPO Juvenile Division and their families will volunteer to build a house with Habitat for Humanity on Lakepointe Street in Detroit. "For the last several years our Juvenile Division has partnered with Habitat and it is such a rewarding experience we are doing it again. So many people are being affected by these difficult economic times. Providing a family with a home can make a tremendous impact. This is a significant way to help our community because there is definitely a correlation between homelessness and crime," said Prosecutor Worthy. **Brian Morrow, Deputy Chief APA for the Juvenile Division** is a dedicated Habitat volunteer and is happy that the opportunity to build a house has come to fruition. "This is a chance to give something back to the community in a

different and meaningful way. We also gain valuable knowledge. Building a house allows us to learn new skills while make a better place to live and raise a family," said Morrow.

Habitat was founded by Millard and Linda Fuller in 1976. With volunteer labor and donated materials, Habitat has built or rehabilitated over 225,000 houses.

