

FORT COLLINS FORUM

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CityWorks 101 Offers Inside Look at City

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It seems that nearly everywhere I go, someone stops to ask me about a city service or project. What's happening with Mason Corridor? How do you decide which services to fund? What's happening with the mall? How are my utility rates set? Why do snowplows clear some roads and not others?

Sometimes I know the answer. Admittedly, sometimes I don't. And sometimes the answer is far bigger and longer than the person asking the question expected. For the people who are truly interested in learning the ins and outs of city operations, and who want to know more about how their tax dollars are being spent, I've begun suggesting that they apply for the CityWorks 101 program.

Now in its second year, CityWorks 101 is an intensive eight-week program, which gives residents a behind-the-scenes look at the many aspects of running a city. This program provides a unique opportunity for people who live or work in Fort Collins to meet with city staff to learn more about what services the city provides, and how departments provide them.

The CityWorks 101 program will begin March 27, 2008 and continue through May 15. Classes will take place on Thursday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. and cover the following topics:

- ***Ready, Set, Gov - an introduction to Fort Collins local government, explaining how decisions are made. You'll learn more about how to stay informed and opportunities to get involved.
- ***Creating a Vibrant Community – featuring information on city finances, economic health, and community planning.
- ***The Utility of it All – an inside look at Fort Collins water, wastewater, stormwater, and electric utilities.
- ***The Way You Move – focusing on transportation planning, street operations, and transit.
- ***Rescue Me – a close-up look at police and fire operations.
- ***Let's Play – an in-depth look at city culture and recreation and what it takes to maintain city parks and programs.
- ***Open and Natural – information on natural areas and environmental programs.
- ***Pay it Forward – this last session brings it all together and gives participants a chance to see how the topics explored over the eight weeks come together to form the city's budget.

Each session will be held at a different city location, so that participants will get a mini-tour of city facilities. The program also offers an optional Saturday tour of a remaining city building not visited during the regular classes.

CityWorks 101 is an excellent opportunity to learn everything you ever wanted to know about how your city government works to keep Fort Collins a world-class community. It's also a way for us to

hear more directly from citizens who have a desire to be involved and to help make Fort Collins a great place to live. The class size will be limited to create an open, interactive environment.

This program will give you the knowledge to become more involved in our community, and the ability to answer all the questions your friends and neighbors ask about city services.

Visit fcgov.com/cityworks to apply online or call 221-6207. Applications are due February 29, 2008.