



Front row from left to right: Becky Lucas, Bridgette Tracy, Melisa Arms, Heather Hensley. Middle row: Douglas Lucas, Sue Smith, Shannon Clark, Ken Gore, Pat Gore, Pat Lucas, Doug Woodard, Patty Miller. Back row: Rob Hensley, Michael Angulo, John Cloughessy, April Wilson, Tonya Buerschen, Steve Buerschen, Sandy Sanner, Robert Brockman, Joe Lucas, Norm Miller.

Nov. 14, 2007

### News Release

#### **POLICE DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES GRADUATES OF NEW CITIZEN'S ACADEMY CLASS**

WEST CARROLLTON, Ohio – Twenty-one people have been added to the roster of graduates of West Carrollton Citizen's Police Academy.

Approximately 141 citizens have completed the 10-week course since its inception seven years ago. The 2007 Academy graduates were recognized during the city council meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 13.

In addition to topics such as evidence collection, crash investigation, self-defense, driver training, domestic violence and a Taser demonstration, this year's course covered computer crime, internet safety and hostage negotiations.

"My favorite part was the crime scene investigation night where we had to find evidence in a room" said Tonya Buerschen, who completed the course with her husband, Steve. "It was just like being on C.S.I." she said.

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Buerschen said that she was surprised by the volume of calls that come into West Carrollton's police department. "I really didn't realize all the different types of calls that police officers respond to in a small town like West Carrollton. Buerschen also serves as the water clerk for the city.

"The academy gives citizens a better understanding of the police department and why we do certain things that they may not understand, said Administrative Sergeant Rob Hensley, who coordinates the academy with Deputy Chief Doug Woodard.

"A lot of times, our day-to-day interaction with citizens happens when they are having a bad day," Woodard said. "This course gives us an opportunity to interact with residents on a more-positive note," he said. "The program helps develop relationships between members of the police department and members of the community, including the business community," Woodard said.

Woodard said many residents continue a relationship with the department after the course is complete. "We have people who help with civilian finger-printing, speed and seat belt surveys, supply restocking and data entry," he said.

The next Citizen's Police Academy will begin in the fall of 2008. For more information, call (937) 847-4668.

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For media interviews, call **Doug Woodard** or **Robert Hensley** at (937) 847-4672. Call **Tonya Buerschen** at (937) 859-8280.