Hennepin County Sheriff Rich Stanek is hosting a Citizen Law Enforcement Academy. This 11-week, hands-on academy gives people an inside look at the Sheriff's Office.

At the Citizen Law Enforcement Academy, participants will observe and participate in many phases of Sheriff's Office operations such as: DWI enforcement, narcotics, patrol and K-9 operations, a tour of the Crime Lab and jail, crime prevention training, use of force/defensive tactics, and a live fire shoot exercise.

The academy is a must for business leaders, members of the media, teachers, community leaders, and all citizens who would like an inside look at how law enforcement and the criminal justice system work. Applicants must be at least 18-years -old and will be screened for criminal backgrounds. There is no charge to participate.

Classes are Thursday evenings 6:30 pm - 9:45 pm and will be held at the following locations: Law Enforcement Training Facility in Maple Grove, Hennepin County Sheriff's Communications Division in Golden Valley, Hennepin County Public Safety Facility in Minneapolis, and the Hennepin County Sheriff's Patrol headquarters in Brooklyn Park. Transportation is not provided. A certificate of completion will be awarded at a graduation ceremony at the conclusion of the class (11th week).

The fall session begins September 10 and runs through graduation on November 19. To participate in this program, submit an application as soon as possible. No law enforcement continuing education (POST) credits are awarded for this course. Applications can be found online at www.hennepinsheriff.org. Questions about the program may be addressed to Sgt. Kathy Hughes at (612) 596-1720 or kathy.hughes@co.hennepin.mn.us.