



POLICE DEPARTMENT

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For Immediate Release

Westlake Community Police Academy Offers Experience, Increases Understanding

Deadline for Applications is Friday, August 19

Westlake, OH, June 20, 2022 — Members of the Westlake community can discover how a police department runs and what the Officers are trained to do directly from patrol officer, detective and civilian staff member instructors during the Westlake Police Department's Community Police Academy. The program is free and a cross section of the community is selected for each class.

"The goal of the academy is to increase understanding between the community and the police department that serves it," said Capt. Jerry Vogel, one of the academy's instructors. "The graduates also become more observant as they go about their daily activities which can make the city a safer place."

Participants will get hands-on experience in crime scene processing, self-defense, and firearms instruction. Other topics include K-9 operations, S.W.A.T., O.V.I. apprehension, Drone operations, law enforcement technology and detective bureau investigations. They will be encouraged to ask questions and express concerns on pertinent issues.

Classes will be held Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. beginning on August 31, 2022. The graduation ceremony will be held on the final night, November 16, 2022, which family and friends will be invited to attend.

"It's often the opportunity to get behind the wheel of a police car and drive it on a marked course or conducting a search of a building that may draw a potential student to the course," said Sgt. Ryan Pischel, also an instructor. "But after coming to the station for 3 hours a week for 11 weeks, they leave with new insights on all the inner workings of both their police department and law enforcement as a whole including what officers face on a day to day basis."

Several graduates become wonderful volunteers who assist in activities such as at the 4th of July celebration and community running races as members of the Police Auxiliary Unit. Lt. Jason Dancy leads the unit whose members receive additional training before working alongside officers.

Applications Accepted until Friday, August 19, 2022

Prospective participants must be at least 21 years old and have no criminal record. Preference will be given to those applicants that live or work in Westlake. Class size is limited to 20 students.

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The academy is designed with the intent of solidifying the partnership between the Community and the Police Department through education and understanding. The academy is NOT designed to assist those seeking to pursue a career in law enforcement.

Applications can be picked up at the Westlake Police Department, 27300 Hilliard Blvd. or online at the www.cityofwestlake.org/Police-Academy . For further information, please contact the Westlake Police Department at (440) 871-3311 and ask for Captain Jerry Vogel.



The Westlake Police Department's 2022 Community Police Academy is a free 11-week police discovery program that provides hands-on experience designed to increase understanding between the community and the police department it serves. The session starts on August 31, 2022 and applications are due by Friday, August 19, 2022. Details can be found at www.cityofwestlake.org/Police-Academy .

About The City of Westlake

The City of Westlake, Ohio, founded in 1811, is located on 15.97 square miles in the western edge of Cuyahoga County, approximately one mile south of the southern shore of Lake Erie. Its more than 32,000 citizens, vibrant businesses, and many visitors enjoy outstanding restaurants and shopping including Crocker Park. Scenic parks and recreational areas, a highly rated school system, college campuses, a nationally ranked public library, and exceptional city services and safety forces can all be found in Westlake. The city's largest employers include Hyland Software, American Greetings, Equity Trust, Nordson Corporation, TravelCenters of America, USG Interiors, and Q-Lab. University Hospitals St. John Medical Center and satellite operations for Cleveland Clinic Health System and University Hospital Health Care System are also located in the city. Westlake's location provides easy access to most of Northeast Ohio via I-90 and I-480 and beyond with a short ride to Cleveland Hopkins International Airport. Learn more about us at www.cityofwestlake.org.

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