



CATAWBA COUNTY

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CATAWBA COUNTY RESIDENTS LEARN MORE ABOUT COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Catawba County Government periodically offers a two day course on the programs and structure of the county government. "Catawba County University" is a revamped version of a two week course offered on occasion from 1994-2008.

"From time to time, we've offered a class for citizens about Catawba County government, with only moderate success at best," said Dave Hardin, the County's Public Information Officer, who is organizing the classes. "I asked a committee of County employees, whose work involves public information, public relations or media relations, for their ideas on ways to improve and revamp our old class. The committee suggested we shorten the course to a day or two half-days at most and possibly tailor it for a particular part of the county".

Catawba County University focuses on different areas of County service to citizens, with an emphasis on explaining programs and services through real-life stories whenever possible and on how the programs and services work in the southeast part of the county.

One segment will cover how the County helps protect citizens and include an overview of the Sheriff's Office and Emergency Services. A second session will focus on Catawba County's work to assist families, with a discussion about Public Health and Social Services.

"We'll explore environmental protection and the County's nationally known "green" programs, as well as how we help plan for our future," Hardin added. "We'll have a section on how the County seeks to help educate and inform the public through the Library, Cooperative Extension, Technology, the Public Information Office and through funding for public schools."

The final section will tie everything together, including other major County services such as the conducting of the elections process and the Register of Deeds Office. Students will examine how decisions on County programs are made and how we all help pay for them, during an in-depth discussion with County Manager Tom Lundy and Board of Commissioner Chair Kitty Barnes on the annual development of the County budget.

For more information on Catawba County University, you may send an e-mail to dave@catawbacountync.gov or call 828-465-8464.