

# The Pueblo Chieftain

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Published: May 27, 2009

## Police schedule Citizens Academy in June

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*Class will be the last session at the old police headquarters.*

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By PATRICK MALONE  
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

Anyone who has ever wondered what the police do, or why they do it, can learn more next month during the Pueblo Police Department's annual Citizens Academy.

Throughout the month of June, citizens may receive lessons and watch demonstrations about the history of the police department, the function of patrol, crime prevention, community relations with police, firearms, SWAT and bomb squad, tactical driving, police dogs and building searches.

According to Pueblo police officer Eric Gonzales, who organizes the academy, participants also will get a chance to meet the department's command staff and learn the functions of the various units within the department - including investigations, narcotics, gangs and DARE.

"Citizens can ask questions about what they've seen, what they've heard and why we do what we do," Gonzales said.

Hands-on demonstrations of weapons, driving, the bomb squad and dogs are sure to fascinate participants, Gonzales said. "Anyone who takes part will leave with a full working knowledge of what the whole department does, not just the guys you see on the street every day in uniform, but the detectives who investigate homicides, work on crime prevention, pawn detail and other functions they might not be aware of," said Gonzales.

Each year the police department holds its citizens academy in English, and another primarily for Spanish-speaking residents of Pueblo.

Next month's academy will be the last to take place in the current police headquarters. A new building will be erected before the next session. Gonzales said participants in the Citizens Academy will receive an overview of the new police headquarters.

Gonzales said there is no charge to participate, but class size is limited to between 20 and 25.

Sessions are held each Tuesday and Thursday from June 2-25, from 6 to 10 p.m., at the Pueblo Police Department's training room at the rear of the police station, 100 Central Main St.

To register or for more information, contact Gonzales at 553-2582 or via e-mail at [egonzales@pueblo.us](mailto:egonzales@pueblo.us).

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