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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Citizens Fire Academy opens second decade on Feb. 8

LITTLE ELM (January 19, 2016) Starting its second decade, the Little Elm's Citizens Fire Academy has scheduled its next class, marking the program's eleventh year of existence, says Deputy Fire Marshal Andy Sissney.

The ten-week class starts on Monday, Feb. 8, and runs until Monday, May 2. There is no charge to participate in the academy, but certain eligibility rules apply.

"Those of us in this profession, which gives us the opportunity to save lives and protect property, are exceedingly proud of what we do," he said. "We often find that firefighters and paramedics are either continuing a family tradition or have always known they wanted to be in this line of work. The Citizens Fire Academy gives civilians an idea why people are so passionate about this profession."

The Academy is open to eligible citizens who wish to gain a greater understanding of the day-to-day operations of Little Elm Fire Rescue. Applications for admission to the Academy can be obtained online by visiting www.littleelm.org/fire/cfa or by visiting the entry lobbies of the Town's Fire Stations.

Citizen Fire Academy (CFA) participants learn about virtually every aspect of the Fire Department from the essential administrative duties to actually fighting fires. Participants are also invited and encouraged to participate in "ride-outs" with the fire fighters on real-world calls.

"The CFA has a hands-on approach and includes CPR training and demonstrations of various life-saving implements like the 'jaws-of-life' vehicle extrication system," he said.

Classes are held on 10 successive Monday evenings beginning at 6:30 p.m. and ending at around 9:30 p.m. with two Saturday morning classes held for field day programs. Seating for the class that begins on Feb. 8 is limited. Interested citizens may obtain more information from Fire Marshal Sissney by e-mail at asissney@littleelm.org or by calling 214-975-0417.

"The Academy is one of our more popular activities within the department because it gives citizens a chance to see what we do on a daily basis," he concluded.

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ABOUT LITTLE ELM – Little Elm is one of the state's fastest growing communities. Nestled on the shores of Lake Lewisville, the Town was incorporated in 1966, adopting the Council/Manager form of government. The population increased dramatically over the last several years, growing from under 4,000 in 2000 to over 30,000 today. Little Elm's population exceeds the state average in education and income, and is increasingly trending younger and technologically proficient. The Town's footprint is just over 21 square miles and boasts some 66 linear miles of shoreline within its boundaries.