
The Computer Club At Willow Valley

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The President's Pen by Sid Paskowitz

Membership Your Computer Club has 520 members at this writing, including 225 lifetime members.

Club Name Changed In light of Willow Valley Retirement Communities changing its name to Willow Valley Communities, the Computer Club Executive Committee voted to change the Club's official name from Willow Valley Retirement Communities Computer Club to Willow Valley Computer Club and that change was approved by Club members at the December 5th Computer Club meeting. A copy of the revised Computer Club Bylaws can be reviewed at <http://resident.willowvalley.org/kiosk/cclub/p/>

bylaws.pdf or by clicking on the Bylaws link in Information Central. Our new Computer Club email address is wvcomputerclub@gmail.com.

Changing the Club's name will necessitate changing a number of documents, forms and email addresses; however we will keep our current external Web site at www.wvrccc.com because we have a three year contract for that domain name. The site has video tutorials on Maintaining a Website, Mozilla Firefox, PC Tuneup in mp4 and wmv formats, Photo Story 3 in mp4 and wmv formats, and

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Microsoft Support for Windows XP Ends in April by Al Williams

Microsoft's support for the Windows XP operating system will end in April of 2014. This means that they will no longer provide security updates for XP after April.

Windows XP on your computer will continue to work. But, you will need to be more careful when you use your computer. There are indications that cybercriminals are waiting for Microsoft to stop support at which time they will start using malware exploits that they have been holding

back. It is very likely that you would never realize that your computer has been infected.

If your computer is infected and you do realize it, the only thing that you, as a user of an infected computer, can do to remove the infection is to re-install the XP operating system. This is a process that is long, involved, and for the person doing it the first time it is puzzling. A problem

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Coming Programs

January 9, 2014

Sid Paskowitz, Resident

Overview of Email Programs

February 6, 2014

Tony Poulos & Ralph Beedle

Dropbox and Search Engines

March 6, 2014

JoAnne Phillips

Protect Your Passwords

All programs are held in the Theater at the Cultural Center on the 1st Thursday of the month at 2:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

President

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USB Tuner. It also contains a Sudoku Puzzle Solver. We plan to add other tutorial videos that may be beneficial to Computer Club members.

Need Help? HELP! HELP! HELP! Who needs help? The Computer Club offers multiple ways to help Willow Valley Residents with computer issues. Computer Room Monitors can help you in Computer Rooms on Mondays at 1:00 p.m. The *Renaissance* publication contains information about classes and one-on-one help. Information Central at <https://resident.willowvalley.org/kiosk/cclub/index.aspx> has links to Technical Support Resources and Computer Expertise Resources. Information at those links can be extremely beneficial in your getting help. Check them out!

Mac SIG We still need a leader for the MAC Special Interest Group (SIG).

Recycling Ed Dahrsnin and his team have worked on more than 339 computer systems. No systems are currently available to give to Club members or to donate to the Lampeter-Strasburg School District to give to families who cannot afford a computer for their students. The number of available systems changes frequently, so check with Ed if you are interested in receiving a recycled system. Ed's team is accepting working towers, monitors and printers from Computer Club members for recycling. Included software driver CD's and other CD's are appreciated. Also, they continue to accept working laptop computers with power adapters,

and printer cartridges. Leave the items in Manor North's computer room on the first floor of 'M' building Mondays from 1 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Let Ed know if you would like to help recycle computers. Ed and his team meet on Monday afternoons at Manor North. Working in the recycling effort may also help you deal with your own computer when you have problems.

Information Central For those of you who are not familiar with Information Central and the Computer Club Newsletter archive, you can access recent Newsletters and an index to topics in those Newsletters at <http://resident.willowvalley.org/kiosk/cclub/p/Newsletter.pdf>. The Newsletter index page is also available by left-clicking on *Newsletter* in the left column in Information Central.

Our December Meeting I was disappointed when only 31 people attended the December 5th Computer Club meeting where Les Stoltzfus talked to us about technology in the Lampeter-Strasburg School District. I was particularly impressed with the School District's approach to handheld devices and personal computers. Whereas most schools require their students to keep their smart devices locked in their lockers during the school day, Lampeter-Strasburg students are encouraged to use those devices as part of their classroom experience. Instead of putting all their resources into buying devices to be used by the students, Lampeter-Strasburg School District is putting resources into the infrastructure that enables students to use their personal handheld devices to communicate

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with the School District's servers. The students' parents, teachers, and staff room can also communicate with the same servers. Software is being implemented to enhance classroom management and make course content more up to date and available to students. Instead of students having to carry heavy text books to their homes or to their classes, the contents of those textbooks are located on the servers and are available as needed on the students' handheld devices. As Les pointed out, a significant challenge exists where students, parents, teachers, and administration are not personally into the technology that is available in today's world. Les also expressed his appreciation for the recycled computers that have been provided by the Computer Club to the Lampeter-Strasburg School District for distribution to families of students who do not have computers at home. To date, almost 100 Computer Systems have been

provided by the Computer Club to the School District. The School District now has a social worker that selects the recipients of those computers.

Windows 8 Issues I recently had the unfortunate experience of having my Windows 7 computer stop working. I immediately went to local stores to buy a new Windows 8 laptop. I'm not thrilled with the new computer, especially the loss of my solitaire and hearts games. I could not get those games from my Windows 7 computer to run on my Windows 8 computer. I will continue to work on that problem. On the other hand, there are a number of features that were available on my Windows 7 computer that I needed to find work-arounds in order to implement them on my Windows 8 computer. I have found the learning curve to be greater in going from Windows 7 to Windows 8 than in going from XP to Windows 7. We will be having future Computer Club programs about Windows 8 to help

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Microsoft Support for Windows XP Ends in April

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which I discovered in the past few months while doing an XP re-installation is that old software drivers that are needed during the installation process are hard to find. In summary, to remove an exploit infection requires re-installing XP but on old computers that is not easy.

Your anti-malware software will continue to work for awhile. If you are using an Internet security suite, anticipate that come the first of 2015 that it will no longer be supported. If you are using Microsoft Security Essentials and Malwarebyte's Anti-

Malware, you should anticipate that those products will no longer be supported at some time in the future.

Therefore, it is very important that you not do any on-line shopping or on-line banking using an XP computer after April. If your computer becomes infected through an exploit you very likely will not know that and you would be giving usernames and passwords away.

When your anti-malware software is no longer supported, you should then completely stop using your XP computer because you will then have no protection against malware. •

President

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with that transition.

January Computer Club Meeting The next Computer Club meeting will discuss different perspectives of email programs with a focus on Gmail. The presentation will be on a Windows 8 computer so attendees will be able to see some of the Windows 8 functions and displays. Ongoing changes to operating systems, browsers, and email programs necessitate a basic understanding of what to look for

when using a computer and the Internet. Links to functions are constantly changing locations or are being imbedded in unfamiliar icons. Hopefully the Computer Club presentation will help you understand what to look for and reduce some of the frustration when software developers insist on making constant changes to their applications.

Thank You My thanks to all of you who volunteer your time and knowledge to help other Residents. We need more volunteers!

Season's Greetings and have a Happy and Healthy New Year! •

Need Information? by Al Williams

I wrote an article in September of 2012 describing good sources of technical and security information. Several people have indicated that they now use those sources frequently. That article is reprinted here in its entirety.

Are you curious about computers? Would you like to know more? Do you have a problem with your computer that you need to fix? There are many good sources of information written for beginner through advanced. Here are a few:

Krebs on Security Brian Krebs is an investigative reporter who blogs about malware developers, security problems, online banking problems, etc. He writes for the Beginner but his material is need-to-know information for the Intermediate and Advanced user as well. You may read his blog at <http://krebsonsecurity.com/> or you may subscribe. If you subscribe, a email summarizing his latest blog will be sent to you as new material is posted.

Windows Secrets A series of weekly articles about Windows computer problems and how to fix them. Covers XP, Vista, and Windows 7. Delivered to your email inbox. Beginner to Advanced. You

may subscribe at <http://windowssecrets.com/> subscribe (suggested by Ed Dahrsnin)

bleepingcomputer.com Have a pop-up that won't go away? Have you been attacked by the FBI ransomware? This site has excellent and understandable instructions on how to remove malware. You go their site and describe what is happening; it will usually find the appropriate set of instructions. Beginner to Advanced.

support.microsoft.com Have you been looking for an answer to a Windows problem? If Google displays a support.microsoft.com option, do check it out. This series of web pages provides answers to questions from Microsoft employees (and others). In some cases, a Mr. Fix-It solution is offered. Once downloaded and executed, the Mr. Fix-It script fixes problems on your computer that match your description of the problem. For Beginner to Advanced.

Know How... This is a twit.tv show (a video podcast) that provides hands on information showing the viewer how to do something of interest. The

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Need Information? by Al Williams

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first show is titled “Roll Your Own Cloud.” The fourth is “Setting up a Media Server.” A media server allows you to access movies and music around the house. Intermediate to Advanced.

Security Now Want to know how the Internet works? How the latest malware attacks a computer? Steve Gibson explains. This audio podcast’s early shows were designed for the Beginner. After the foundation was laid, it moved to the Intermediate level and is now at the Advanced level. All of the over 360 shows are available. www.grc.com/securitynow

Forums Have a piece of software or hardware that is giving you a problem? Many manufacturers support on-line forums for their products. Look for a Forum tab on the manufacturer’s website. Someone on the forum for your product may know the answer to your problem. These forums are for Beginner to Advanced.

Microsoft’s MSDN and TechNet websites Microsoft also offers information through their MSDN and TechNet sites. These sites provide excellent information although it may take a while to assimilate what they are saying and you may have to read background information to understand what is being said. For Intermediate to Advanced. •

Would you like to read about a topic? Like to write about a topic?
Contact Sid Paskowitz or Al Williams

The Equipment Corner by Ed Dahrsnin

Refurbished Systems Presently, there are no refurbished systems available.

Miscellaneous We have 3 volt CR2023 batteries (suitable for motherboards to keep the system clock running) and a variety of CD-ROM's, floppy disk drives, keyboards, 2-button mice, various power supplies, and assorted cables. Please contact Ed Dahrsnin at 464-6591.

Donations We accept used, *working*, tower and laptop computers (with power units and batteries) from club members along with all software CDs. Used printer cartridges also accepted. You may deliver them to the North's Computer Resource room on the first floor of M building after 1 pm on Monday. No Macs or Mac parts, see JoAnne Phillips or Bob Handler for additional information. •

The Mission

The Mission of the Willow Valley Computer Club is to:

- Provide the means to educate beginners or interested non-users on how to use a computer.
- Arrange for speakers to talk to the Club about subjects that would be of interest to those with some background and experience in computer use.
- Provide a forum for interchange of computer information among members.

For more information about the Club, contact Sid Paskowitz at 464-2127 or wvrccc@gmail.com

The Leadership

Officers

President: Sid Paskowitz

Vice President: Ralph Beedle

Secretary: Marge Schmieder

Treasurer: Dick Dressel

Community Representatives

Manor: Larry Gallagher

Manor North: Lee Wermuth

Lakes: Gene Simasek

Committee Chairpersons

Program: Ralph Beedle

Training: Wayne Barner

Equipment: Ed Dahrsnin

Technical Support: Tony Poulos

Website: Sid Paskowitz

Publicity: Wally Gordon

Newsletter: Al Williams

Mac Interest Group:

Computer Room Coordinators:
Gene Simasek JoAnne Phillips

Microsoft Liaison: Ed Dahrsnin

Past Presidents

Larry Gallagher

Reviewer Acknowledgment

The following individual kindly reviewed this issue:

Sid Paskowitz

Thank you,

Al Williams

Interested in reviewing the Computer Club newsletter before it goes to press, or providing advice about the content? Please contact:

Al Williams at atwilliams136@gmail.com