

The Computer Club At Willow Valley

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The President's Pen by Sid Paskowitz

Membership As of this writing, your Computer Club has 533 paid members of the Club including 256 who have signed up as Lifetime members. Please make sure your email address is correct on Club records so we can send you important emails. Those emails only go to Computer Club members for whom we have a good email address. Please let our Treasurer, Charlie Trumbo, know if your email address has changed or if you don't get a future Newsletter.

Kiosks Have Even More Information Some new and hopefully helpful information: If you haven't explored the Resident Computer Kiosk displays recently, be aware a number of new features have been added, especially information about the new Clubhouse on the Manor Campus. If you click on the Administrative Resources icon on the Kiosk Home Page, you can display a link to an

excellent presentation of an overview of the Clubhouse. Clicking on the Clubhouse Scheduling icon on the Kiosk Home Page takes you to the page that allows you to schedule times for tennis, bowling and the Sports Center. In the Resident Life and Wellness icon area, there are links to a flyer about the Clubhouse, including the phone number for the Concierge desk, and a page with hours for food service at the Clubhouse. Note: Any time you click on a Kiosk display icon and the expected display does not appear in a reasonable period of time, click on the refresh icon on your browser. Sometimes the links need a little help to get going.

September Meeting Now for a plug for our September 4th Computer Club

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September Meeting and Expo by Bob Scala

Meeting The Computer Club will open the 2014-2015 season of meetings on Thursday, September 4 with a very strong and fascinating program. Headlining the effort will be a presentation by Tony Poulos titled "The What, When or Why of Obtaining or Replacing a Computer". Tony

has owned many computers over the years and has often helped residents with these decisions. What should I buy? When is it time to replace what I have? Are handheld devices the wave of the future or will desktop computers still be around?

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Coming Programs

September 4, 2014

Tony Poulos, Resident

Buying Your Next Computer: When, Why, What

October 2014

Ron Dillon

Early μ Computers

November 2014

Jim Cluck

IT Update

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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meeting. Bob Scala, our Vice President, has put together a special program that is described elsewhere in this Newsletter. I am pleased to be a participant in the Expo that follows the meeting and look forward to demonstrating my new “toy.” I recently acquired a Windows 8.1 phablet that I believe is at the leading edge in portable device technology. It is called a phablet because it does everything a smartphone will do but has a larger display that allows those of us with reduced vision to see the tiles, icons and text more like a tablet. Be sure to mark your calendar (or make a notation on your smartphone or tablet) to attend the meeting and Expo. One reason for my getting that device is that I have been told by Microsoft that they are working on new capabilities for Windows 8 phones that will allow speech recognition to “fully” control the operation of the device, and voice response to tell what options are available to the user and what is being displayed on the screen.

Soapbox Standdown In this Newsletter, I am going to stop getting on my soapbox on topics such as shortcuts and protecting your computer. I have covered those topics many times in past Newsletters. You can access an archive of 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 (the Computer Club icon on the Ki-

osk Home Page). If you think you remember a topic covered in an earlier Newsletter article and you want to review that article, or you want to see if an earlier Newsletter discussed a topic of interest, check out the Newsletter subject index link on the Newsletter page in Information Central. Another benefit of the Newsletter archive is that if you are a Club member and decide not to have an email address but want to read the Club Newsletters, you can still read them online by visiting Information Central and clicking on the Newsletter link. Let me know if you want me to continue to cover those topics or other topics in President’s Pen columns in future Newsletters.

XP Updates As we have been saying for several months, Microsoft announced that on April 8th, they would stop supporting XP and some other older software such as Office 2003. Well, it didn’t quite happen that way. Because of the Heartbleed malware, Microsoft put updates on its Web server and I was recently able to download some updates for an XP computer. Bottom line, if you have and want to continue using an XP computer, but where you are at increased risk, check for Windows updates periodically just in case Microsoft has added some protective software. There have also been reports of ways to get around the cutoff of support, but I have seen these kinds of things in the past where individuals have reported ways to outsmart Microsoft, only to have Microsoft change Windows where it stops working completely and nothing can be done to restore the operating system. If your

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President's Pen

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computer is not connected to the Internet and you do not expose it to risky external media such as thumb drives or hard drives, you shouldn't be concerned. However, if you have XP and connect to the Internet or external data sources, your computer can become increasingly at risk. At the September 4th Computer Club meeting, Tony Poulos may even have some updated information about what Microsoft may be planning with Windows 9, the next operating system that Microsoft is working on.

Willow Valley TV At the April Computer Club meeting we showed a video tutorial about Zap2it, the online TV guide that displays the WVComTV (Willow Valley Communities TV) channel lineup. The video is available on the Computer Club's external Website at www.wvrccc.com. Be advised that the video was recorded prior to Tribune Media making a major change to Zap2it. As of the writing of this Presidents Pen, Zap2it is still not taking new registrations; a six-hour option in lieu of a three hour dis-

play window is not available; and channel favorites (known as faves) cannot be identified and displayed at the top of the channel listings. On the other hand more selections (Genres) such as movies or sports can be highlighted in the listing. Stay tuned.

Previously Owned Computers Ed Dahrsnin and his team are accepting working computers and components for recycling. 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. Thanks to Ed and his team, the Computer Club passed the 105 mark of computer systems given to the Lampeter-Strasburg School District for families that cannot afford a computer for their students.

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

September Meeting and Expo

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Tony's talk will be at the usual 2 pm slot in the Cultural Center Auditorium. Immediately following the talk and the Q and A session, the group will adjourn to the Ballroom for our Expo.

Expo Having heard a presentation on buying or replacing a device, the attendees will have a chance to talk with owners of these items and see them in operation. There will be individual tables for each

device and enough time to gain some familiarity with what might be of interest. At this writing approximately one dozen different units will be displayed ranging from laptops to smart phones. The Expo will close with the raffle of a Ubuntu laptop. Tickets will be given to each attendee.

All Residents The presentation and Expo will be open not just to Computer Club members, but to all Willow Valley residents. •

The Equipment Corner by Ed Dahrsnin

Refurbished Systems

Dell 3000 with Ubuntu 14.04 LTS

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 wvcomputerclub@gmail.com •

The Leadership

Officers

President: Sid Paskowitz

Vice President: Bob Scala

Secretary: Marge Schmieder

Treasurer: Charlie Trumbo

Community Representatives

Manor: Larry Gallagher

Manor North: Lee Wermuth

Lakes: Gene Simasek

Committee Chairpersons

Program: Bob Scala

Training: Ralph Beedle

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, providing advice about the content, or writing an article? Please contact:

Al Williams at atwilliams136@gmail.com