



Puget Sound Computer Learning Center

Where skilled volunteer seniors teach seniors to use, enjoy computers

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Voice Mail: 206-232-5892; Email: senior@seniornetps.org; Phantom Lake Elementary School, Bellevue

For detailed Information, Class Schedules: <http://www.seniornetps.org/>

PHIL SCHEIER, Editor

SENIORS BRAVE SNOW, COLD TO REGISTER FOR WINTER-SPRING COMPUTER CLASSES

**By LOUISE FLORA
(Registrar)**

Eager and determined seniors ignored the extreme cold and early morning snowflakes Dec. 1 to begin lining up as early as 7:45 am for the 10 o'clock start of SeniorNet Computer Learning Center computer classes registration held at the New Hope Ministries Church in Bellevue. The large classroom with its 18 late-model, high-speed computers, is located at the nearby Phantom Lake Elementary School. However, under a new streamlined procedure to avoid having to stand in long lines, numbers were handed out to early arrivals by HELEN AND JOE HESKETH, along with JOHN LEGGATE, who also gave them the anticipated time when their number would be called. This permitted early registrants to leave for a coffee break, stay warm, and return at a specified time for the actual registration for the wide variety of computer classes being offered from basic, basic beginners to more advanced computer users.

By the time most students were either in the parking lot or registering, it began to snow quite vigorously but by that time nearly 130 people had come through the door, registered and were on their way home. We dodged a weather bullet one more time.

There were a total of 556 class spaces available and nearly 380 of them were gone by noon. A dozen classes were full with 14 students and several others with 11, 12 and 13 students. A very successful registration. Burning CD's, Introduction to Windows XP and Using XP & Potpourri, a collection of interesting programs, were among those filled. There are still openings in Word Processing, Photo Editing and some of the classes that start in late Spring. Be sure and watch this Newsletter and the web site for announcements of classes that might be added at a later date.

REGISTRATION COORDINATOR ROGER DALTON AND HARRY SHEDD organized their nearly 50 volunteers to direct traffic, give out numbers, serve pastries and coffee, advise students, register students and of course take their money. It all ran very smoothly. To provide parking space for registrants, registration volunteers parked further down the street in an

adjacent parking area. Two other volunteers, John Parkinson and Bill Sandstrom used their own vehicles as shuttles to ferry them back and forth.

To aid registrants signing up, advisers were on hand to provide help to registrants in selecting the most appropriate courses at that point, depending on the registrant's experience and goals. Our thanks and appreciation to all our dedicated volunteers. The registration date for the 2006-2007 Fall sessions will be July 18, 2006. Why not mark the date down now?

PARTY HIGHLIGHTS FINAL MEETING OF YEAR WITH LOOK AHEAD TO ACHIEVE NEW GOALS

The final membership meeting of the year took place Tuesday at 10 am, at the New Hope Ministries Church, Bellevue, not far from the SeniorNet classroom at the Phantom Lake Elementary School. PRES. DELORES DAVIS welcomed the large attendance and saluted the many volunteers who had contributed to the continuing expansion of the center, and discussed plans for the coming year. She said the registration was "very smooth," adding, with a smile, that three members, HELEN HESKETH, JOE HESKETH and JOHN LEGGATE worked outside in the frigid temperature to welcome and hand out numbers tickets to early arrivals to have them avoid standing in line. Another highlight was HARRY SHEDD'S Holiday Thoughts, at times solemn and other times humorous.

Those attending also brought food donations for the needy. Following the meeting program, drawings were held to award various prizes, with the meeting adjourned for the annual luncheon party.

REGISTRAR LOUISE FLORA hailed the Dec. 1 registration as "very successful, noting that 386 class spots out of a total 556 were filled at the in-person registration, with 12 classes completely filled. She said registrations continued to arrive for the remaining 170 class spots. REGISTRATION COORDINATOR ROGER DALTON who with HARRY SHEDD organized the 50 volunteers for the registration and set up the site and equipment, said "It gets better every time we come here." CURRICULUM COORDINATOR BOB BALSLEY looking ahead to changing student needs, urged members to provide feedback on subject preferences to aid in planning for the future. "It's up to you to tell us what you would like to see in future computer courses, so we can try and meet those needs." He also said SeniorNet which teaches computer skills to seniors, really is focused on having students learn the courses being offered. He also issued a plea for additional teacher assistants.

BELLEVUE MEMBERS ARE URGED TO SUPPORT QUALITY SCHOOL LEVY VOTE EXTENSION FEB. 7

Bellevue SeniorNet members, who more than most seniors, know first-hand on a virtual daily basis the excellent work by Bellevue schools,

are among the thousands supporting the campaign by Citizens for Bellevue Quality Schools (BQS). This campaign is urging city-wide support for the upcoming Tuesday, Feb. 7 vote when Bellevue School District residents are being urged to support the continuation of two needed school levies.

SENIORNET PRES. DELORES DAVIS urged members at the Dec. 20 monthly meeting to fully support and work for the success of the campaign to continue providing needed education and training to students.

The first levy provides the school district funding for more teachers than the state pays for, textbooks and curriculum materials, teacher training, gifted and special education programs, richer curriculum choices and student transportation. The second levy focuses on technology, including improved communication & collaboration among teachers, students & parents and data analysis tools for teachers & principals to adjust classroom instruction. Both these levies are renewals of expiring levies approved by voters in 2002. State law requires the school district to ask voters to re-approve these levies every two, three, or four years.

The BQS Committee in a special appeal to SeniorNet, issued the following statement: "The committee (Citizens for Bellevue Quality Schools) feels that the Senior Net folks have such an understanding of district technology (provided from the last capital technology levy in 2002) that they could be real advocates to a demographic group that is usually removed from the schools. We have subsequent meetings of the BQS committee every other Wednesday. If you are willing to assist in this important work, your role would be to advocate for the messages that we should send to the voters regarding information mailers, opportunities to speak to various groups (Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, school PTA groups etc.) Because of your insights as to how this technology is being used in the classrooms by students, you would be a most resourceful person to have on our committee." For further details or to volunteer, contact Jack McLeod at jack.mcleodja@gmail.com. For more information for Bellevue voters about registration, including absentee ballot requests, please view <http://www.metrokc.gov/elections> or contact King County Voter Registration at (206) 296-VOTE.

SHE SIGNED UP WITH SENIORNET DETERMINED TO UPGRADE JOB SKILLS, INCREASE EARNINGS

By HARRY SHEDD
(Registration Advisor)

A new and highly motivated SeniorNet student who signed on for as many computer courses at the Dec. 1 in-person registration knows exactly why she is taking several courses at the same time:

She is a person in a hurry to play catch up to quickly develop salable computer skills, and finally—develop new job potentials, and achieve a higher standard of living. As one of the

advisors discussing with incoming students the most appropriate courses to take to achieve specific goals, it was obvious she was a very eager student in a rush to learn.

As she told me, she discovered the computer learning opportunities at SeniorNet from a friend while visiting in a local retail store. She had never before heard of this all-volunteer, non-profit center until this lucky meeting. The prospect of gaining some computer skills, so as to enhance her job potential, was more than exciting to her. It was a new golden opportunity, as she saw it.

She was an early comer to registration that very chilly Tuesday morning. She had heard that the lines can get quite long, and she was anxious to get all of the classes she felt would be helpful to her.

She wanted to sign up for seven classes, a very aggressive goal. In trying to see if she might be up to the task, we found that she had few computer skills at the present time. We tried, in every polite way possible, to discourage her from taking on so much initially. She told of taking a computer class at a local college where the class was too large for her to receive personal attention. So she went to the local library to use and learn the computer, and would not give up until she was able to understand the assigned lessons. It was evident that she would be more than an average “new student” at SeniorNet.

One of the things pushing her, she said, was the plight of her mother, now in her 70s, having to work two jobs in fast- food jobs just to make ends meet. She could see that would be her in the future unless she improved her skills. She had seen job opportunities on the Internet. The problem, for her, she said, she didn't know how to answer the ads, or even how to prepare her resume, and get it to the employer. At SeniorNet, she said, she had learned SeniorNet training will help her with all of these skills. Plus personal assistance, as she learns. She asked for assignments that would prove her initiative and desire to learn. This serious-minded lady convinced us that she can handle more classes than would normally be suggested and that she will prove to be a model student. I told her I would be the instructor in her first class on Jan. 3, 2006, and would closely follow her progress, and be her greatest admirer as she goes forward.

JAN. 17 MEMBER MEETING FEATURES XP REMOTE CONTROL: The program for the January Senior Net meeting, presented by, Chuck Goldstein, will demonstrate how a Windows XP Pro computer can connect remotely to another Windows XP. The remote computer user grants permission. It is especially helpful when a friend or family member can analyze your computer and help fix a problem-patty

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT AOL FEATURES? Instructor JOE HESKETH reminds all there is still some space for several more students in the SeniorNet AOL class scheduled for two Thursday afternoons, Jan., 19 and on Jan., 26, from 1:15 -3:15 pm. If you would like to attend or have questions please send an e-mail, and in the Subject Line, the words: AOL Class, and email to senior@seniornetps.org with your name and phone number, and our Registrar will contact you.

ARE YOU MISSING A CELL PHONE? During a Lab Session in November a cell phone was found in the classroom. It has never been claimed. If you can't find yours, come to the Lab,

identify it and we will be happy to return it to you. Free computer Lab dates, open to all, members and non-members, are coming up for three Tuesday mornings, Jan. 10, Jan. 24 and Jan. 31, from 9:30 am-Noon, at the Phantom Lake Elementary School classroom in Bellevue. For further details, call the voice mail: 206-232-5892.

NEED SENIORNET INFORMATION RIGHT NOW? Always one of the best sources of information for SeniorNet class schedules, of the many courses being offered and other news of the many SeniorNet activities here, is our SENIORNET COMPUTER LEARNING CENTER web site at www.seniornetps.org which is kept up to date by HAL MOZER. Even as you receive this Online Newsletter, chances are it is already installed on our web site, along with archived past copies. Included on the site are photos of the large classroom at the Phantom Lake Elementary School in Bellevue, instructors and others. So make it a habit to regularly check out our web site.

HOW TO INSTALL A NEW CD/DVD DRIVE: The very handy, helpful and free online program, ABOUT Computer and Technology, to which you can subscribe to receive regular email messages, just featured an article, with photos, on installing a cd/dvd drive, which many are now doing. The instructions and photos are accessed in segments in that one email, apparently for best exposure of the advertising messages. Fair enough. This writer doing his copy-and-paste routine, and using Word 2002, copied and pasted the short segments into one word document for later printout. To access this helpful guide, insert the following URL/address into your Internet Browser: <http://compreviews.about.com/od/tutorials/ss/DIYCDDVD.htm>

STILL USING WINDOWS 98? YOU ARE NOT ALONE: Even though it's seven years since Win 98 was introduced, apparently there are still lots of users around, according to EWeek Magazine. Tech writer Jim Rapoza notes: "Amazingly, you can still use Win 98 and get by nicely..." According to the writer, "Microsoft hasn't given us much reason to upgrade." According to SENIORNET'S JOE PONTECORVO, who showed us the clipping, a lot of the old programs are still being used and work well. Hmm! Joe, who was SeniorNet's original facilities coordinator way back when we only had cast-off, worn-out computers and it was a challenge to just keep them running, has just—for exercise—built himself a new computer, using parts from here and there. For most of us, new is easier to use, or at least we'd like to think so. For Joe, old is always a challenge.

A HANDY ALERT AGAINST CAR JACKING: You walk across the parking lot, unlock your car, and get inside. Then you start the engine and shift into REVERSE, and you look into the rearview mirror to back out of your parking space and you notice a piece of paper stuck to the middle of the rear window. So, you shift into park, unlock your doors and jump out of your car to remove that paper (or whatever it is) that is obstructing your view. When you reach the back of your car that is when the car-jackers appear out of nowhere, jump into your car and take off! Your engine was running and they practically mow you down as they speed off in your car. And for lady drivers, the purse probably is still in the car. If this ever happens to you, ignore the piece of paper or card on the rear window, and just drive away. When you get to a safe place, then, and only then, shut off the engine, remove your keys, step out and remove the paper. *(From Florida HighwayPatrol, sent in by Bob Bumpus)*

WHEN THE SUBJECT LINE IS GIBBERISH you can be virtually certain the email is just another sales pitch. These sales messages range from house loans to buying Viagra. Reason for the weird group of unrelated, nonsensical words in the subject line is they are usually automatically generated, and used to avoid spam filters. This also usually includes the name of the alleged sender, designed to entice you out of curiosity into opening the message. And there is always the threat of a virus. So just think twice and carefully check messages from unknown senders with the subject lines full of unrelated words, before opening them.

YOUR SENIORNET DATE BOOK FOR JANUARY:

Tuesday Jan. 3, at 11:30 am

**No-Host Kaffee Klatch, Meet, Make New Friends
Crossroads-Bellevue Mall Food Circus, 156th Ave. NE, at NE 8th, Bellevue**

Tuesday, Jan.17, at 10 am

**Monthly Membership Meeting
New Hope Ministries Church, 15760- NE 4th St., Bellevue
Followed by Kaffee Klatch at Crossroads Mall**

Tuesdays, Jan. 10, 24, 31 at 9:30 -12 Noon

**Free Computer Help Labs-All Welcome, Members or Not
Phantom Lake Elementary School, SeniorNet Classroom
Instructors will sit with you at a computer to help solve problems**

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NOTE: Those submitting news items for consideration are asked to keep them brief, and email them before the 25th of the month. All material subject to editing. Please send to b26flyer@comcast.net
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If you wish to receive this free monthly newsletter, update your email address or unsubscribe, rush your full name, phone and email address to pugetsnet6@qwest.net. NOTE: While all computer-operating tips come from usually reliable sources, readers are reminded you use them at YOUR OWN RISK. Again, in case you have friends who are online, and may be interested in taking classes to expand their skills, please forward this newsletter to them by clicking **Forward** when this message is displayed. Then enter their address in the **To** box, and click **Send**. We welcome your brief personal news items and article items, suggestions, sent to the editor at b26flyer@comcast.net
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