



Newsletter April 2013

It's that time of the year when everyone is thinking of getting out to enjoy the nice weather. If you have a digital camera now's the time to get some great pictures of the earth as it's coming back to life after a long cold winter! Just this past week we saw some eagles in our area and turtles were sitting in the park on a log....a sure sign that Spring is really here. If you don't have a camera and you're not sure about what kind of camera to buy, check out this website for the latest reviews and information. www.dpreview.com The people that write the reviews don't work for any camera companies so their information is honest and accurate. Myself? I'm finding that the Panasonic Cameras are amazing and have Leica high performance lenses in them. Has anyone heard about Google Glass? This is amazing and scary! They've developed a pair of glasses that you can wear to take movies or you can say "take a picture" and it will. What's scary is the fact that no one would know that they're being photographed! Check it out!

<http://www.google.com/glass/start/>

I know that everyone is wondering about...."JAVA". Can you believe that the news is still not great on that front? However, the last article I read said that if you download the latest version and DO ALL THE UPDATES as they come in, it **might** be safe to use. This means that you have to go into your control panel, programs and features, and make sure that all the old Java installations have been removed. I know that a lot of the programs just won't well work without it. Adobe Photoshop, Libreoffice and on-line gaming are just a few that require

Java. I recommend that you install it and then disable it when you don't need it. Here's the link to downloading the latest Java. <http://java.com/en/> I don't think we've heard the end of this topic yet! ☹

I've had a few emails from people who have switched over to Avast for their anti-virus software and are having problems. Even though it's free it's telling them that it's going to expire in so many days. You need to fill out a registration form and then enter the "free" license key they'll send you in an email into your Avast registration area. Here's how to enter the key

- Double-click on the Avast tray icon to open the main interface.
- Go to "Maintenance" > "Registration"
- Click on "Insert the License key".

In case you can't find the form, you can just click on this link.

<http://www.avast.com/registration-free-antivirus.php> After that you should enjoy using Avast. ☺

"News for Mac users". Avira has an anti-virus software program that's free, and YES you do need anti-virus software. Many believe that Macs are beyond the grasp of viruses, but it's not true anymore. Here's a link to a free download. I use it on my iMac and it's very user friendly. <http://www.avira.com/en/avira-free-mac-security>

Android users and Tablet users? Join the club!! You all need to have security put on your devices. Check for apps at Download.com.

http://download.cnet.com/1770-20_4-0.html?query=anti+virus&platformSelect=Android&tag=srch&searchtype=downloads&filterName=platform%3DAndroid&filter=platform%3DAndroid

Has anyone purchased a new laptop or desktop lately? Slim pickings are available for the Windows 7 machines and I'm afraid that many are going to have to bite the bullet and go with Windows 8. For those of you who noticed that with the new machines you're not getting any books or discs, it's because they expect you to "make your own". It's really important that you make a set of **recovery discs** as soon as you get a new computer...before it becomes infected with a virus or has any real problems. If you don't, you won't be able to reinstall Windows. A lot of the time the Recovery partition is also infected, so make sure you get to the task

as soon as possible. Without the discs you'd have to purchase a new copy of Windows. Not good! (and save the discs in a safe place!) One more article on Windows 8.... It needs HELP! http://news.cnet.com/8301-10805_3-57573370-75/four-months-in-windows-8-needs-help/

My husband John has become my "super sleuth" for my newsletters! He sent me this article on identity fraud and I think it's worth looking at. If you've ever given a store your zip code at the register you might want to think twice about it.

<http://www.nbcnews.com/business/should-you-tell-stores-your-zip-code-privacy-advocates-say-1C8912007>

I ran across an article on **prescription drugs** that might be helpful for some. It gives three different places to check for savings. I'm listing the places here for you to checkout.

- **Together Rx Access** -This program was created by a group of big pharmaceutical companies to help workers with no prescription drug coverage save on the medications they need.
- **Needymeds** - Needymeds is a nonprofit site that points you to all of the prescription grants, vouchers and patient-assistance programs that you might qualify for.
- **Lowrx** - Lowrx is a free iOS - and soon to be Android - app that combs the databases of pharmacies and drugstores to find discounted prices on drugs, which can fluctuate like gas prices. You could save up to 75 percent on some drugs. Just show the pass to the pharmacist on your next visit.

Since we're in Passover and Easter, this site might be of interest to some. You can see the Dead Sea Scrolls learn about them. The wonders of digitizing information!

<http://www.deadseascrolls.org.il/>

Did you ever hear a song and wonder what the name of it is and who sings it? Well, if you have this is your lucky day! This little app will work on android and iOS. It's free from itunes and Google Play

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/shazam/id284993459>

Now for the word of the month!

Hashtag

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia A **hashtag** is a word or a phrase prefixed with the [symbol #](#), a form of [metadata tag](#). Short messages on [microblogging social networking services](#) such as [Twitter](#), [Tout](#), [identi.ca](#), [Tumblr](#), [Instagram](#), or [Google+](#) may be tagged by including one or more with multiple words concatenated, e.g.:

#Wikipedia is an #encyclopedia

Hashtags provide a means of grouping such messages, since one can search for the hashtag and get the set of messages that contain it.

Aren't you glad you know all this! 😊

I hope you've found something of interest this month. Every month I say I'm going to shorten the newsletter, but there's always so much news to share. I still have pages of notes on things I want to let you know about. Guess I'll have to wait until next month!

Take Care!

Shirl

www.shirlscomputersolutions.com

Specializing in computer repair, training, upgrades and removal of viruses. I offer instruction in digital photography and Photoshop, and do scanning of photos, transparencies, negatives, (to DVD) and copy VHS and Cassette Tapes to DVD!

