

BSCC Minutes for November 3, 2016

Carl Bulger presided

No regular meetings in December. The annual **Annual Holiday Luncheon**. will be held at 12 O'clock, Tuesday, Dec 6, at the Osaka Grill & Supreme Buffet, 1633A Crofton Centre, Crofton MD 21114. (Northbound MD Route 3 in the same complex as Friendly's, K-Mart and Shoppers Food Warehouse.)

The City has installed Wi-Fi in the remaining parts of the Senior Center not covered by our Wi-Fi. You need to login to the City's website to access it. No password is required.

Tom McCabe gave a humorous talk about the pros and cons of smart phones. Tom fancies himself as "cheap" or "frugal". Up to now he has used a flip phone. "Easy to use (doesn't require a user manual), relatively inexpensive, rugged"

His wife uses an Android smart phone, specifically a Samsung S3 and recently upgraded to a Samsung S6. Advantages: can text, take pictures including selfies, send them over the internet, use a built-in GPS, play music, watch movies, surf the internet including Facebook, You Tube and other social media, download apps such as games, weather reports, banking software, compare prices, etc. NOT SIMPLE! But thousands of applications are available.

Tom was frustrated by the old Samsung S3. When he plugged it in to a computer nothing happened. The charger didn't work after 3 years. Cable plug-ins would only work in one orientation (unlike Apple devices that allow you to plug in "upside down"). Icons often weren't standardized so it was difficult to operate the device when he wasn't the primary user.

They then replaced the Samsung S3 with the newer Samsung S6. It's more expensive, more complicated, leading to nasty surprises like the battery running low prematurely because he neglected to turn on Airplane Mode (i.e., turn off Wi-Fi, so as they drove the Wi-Fi was constantly connecting in the background with new transmitters running down the battery. Same with GPS.

It doesn't work in Europe unless you have a special data plan, and/or buy a SIM card compatible with Europe cell phone transmitters.

The S6 is frustrating to Tom who favors simplicity. When he wants to make a call, the S6 takes him to the Contact List. An unfamiliar icon brings up a virtual keyboard that he didn't ask for.

75% of adults have smartphones, so we may have to get used to them. Until then, standup comedians like Tom will have understanding audiences.

To solve the charger cable connection, many Android cell phone users use a magnetic charger pad – no cable necessary.

Barbara Parthasarathy teaches a course in the computer lab on mobile devices (cell phones, tablets, laptops). It's a BYOD (bring your own device(s)) course, so it isn't limited to 12 students.

Russ Vaughn and Barry Hammond have been experiencing problems with the Mozilla Firefox browser on their laptops. Russ's is a new laptop; Barry's is a three-year old HP laptop. Russ complained about slowness. Bob Blum suggested reviewing the profile and preferences. If that doesn't work, try clicking on the "hamburger" icon in the upper right corner, then selecting Help at the bottom of the menu, then selecting "Troubleshoot" or "Refresh". If that doesn't work, try removing Firefox using Revo Uninstaller using the advance removal option that allows you to remove all of the entries in the registry. Reboot, then download the latest version from the Mozilla.org website and re-enter your profile and preferences.

After the meeting, Barry tried this with the same result: The 32-bit version downloaded instead of the 64-bit version. He has a 64-bit processor and a 64-bit Windows 10 Anniversary Edition Operating System. Performance (poor) was the same as before. So he clicked on "trouble-shooting" and nothing happened. He then clicked on "Refresh". A message came up on the screen: "Almost Done". Three hours later it was still saying "Almost Done" followed by this message:

"Your connection is not secure. The owner of accounts.firefox.com has configured their website improperly. To protect your information from being stolen, Firefox has not connected to this website. This website uses HTTP Strict Transport Security (HSTS) to specify that Firefox may only connect to it securely. As a result, it is not possible to add an exception to this certificate."

On the internet he found instructions for getting the 64-bit version. They recommended finding and downloading the 64-bit version for Windows 10 from a non-Mozilla website such as CNET.com. Download it and install it before uninstalling the 32-bit version. That worked and seems to have solved some of Barry's problems with Firefox.

With this version you can click on the "hamburger icon" in the upper right-hand corner, and then click on the Help question mark icon at the bottom of the menu. That brings up several help categories. Clicking on the icon that says, "Fix slowness, crashing, error messages and other problems" brings up an extensive list of troubleshooting procedures and advice on what to do for various problems.

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