

Bowie Seniors Computer Club Minutes of June 21, 2018 Meeting

Prepared by Barry Hammond in the absence of our Secretary Bill Long

Dave Hackenberg announced that the City of Bowie IT Department will take over responsibility for the equipment in the Computer Lab/Classroom. Each workstation will get a new video card and a new high resolution monitor, 16GB of RAM, new solid state drives (SSD's), and an uninterruptible power supply (UPS). The equipment in the closet will be replaced. For software, there will be a fresh installation of Windows 10 and Microsoft Office 2016. There will be seven user accounts on each workstation.

As they can't order the parts until after July 1 they will likely extend the work into August. That means they will have to coordinate the installations with the Center's HVAC work schedule as there may be times when the computer lab is unavailable.

When something goes wrong we will have to call the IT Department. A work ticket will be created and we will have to wait our turn in line. There is a possibility of having a spare workstation available to swap out with the one that is defective.

Give a shout of thanks to retiring **Eric Hein** for his dedication and hard work in planning, budgeting, ordering, updating, troubleshooting, and repairing the equipment and software both in the computer lab and for the two publicly available computers in the lobby during the last two decades.



Photo courtesy of Dennis Edgington

Speaker: Ray Halleran, a long time realtor with Long & Foster Real Estate.

His phone number is 240-876-5268. His email address: rayhalleran@gmail.com . His webpage is www.RayHalleran.com . His office is at 2191 Defense Hwy, Suite 120, Crofton, MD 21114.

He has prepared a Google webpage for us with an outline of the information he conveyed to us along with quick links to helpful websites. Its URL is <https://sites.google.com/site/propertytoolsresources/>. You may need a Google account to access this.

The first page is essentially his business card with some Quick Links on the left side. RayHalleran.com is his website. Bright MLS is the Multiple Listing Service he uses and it is fairly accurate. In his opinion, Realtor.com is good, Trulia, and Zillow websites are well known but not as accurate. You can request information about your house or any other by entering its address. The information may be inaccurate and not up-to-date. The information is based on publicly available information which may be inaccurate. For example, my house was built in 1966. These sites say 1963 as do the Maryland Tax Record. The picture of the house exterior is a minimum of five years old. Can't expect Google Street View to come by every year, right? The house has no fireplace or addition, but all these sites say it does. When I get ready to sell, I and the realtor will update the information. If you want Ray Halleran to provide a Competitive Market Analysis, click on that link.

For searching for new homes, Halleran likes New Homes [Source](#).

Under Research Tools, PG Atlas gives you access to Prince George's County's highly rated Geographic Information System (GIS). To access another county's GIS, just enter the name of the county followed by GIS in Google Search.

Also, under Research Tools, are Maryland Tax Records, Maryland Plats, Maryland Land Records, and Maryland Judiciary judgements, etc. Home price indices are also available. You can also query the US Census Bureau for more general information.

Under Government Programs, HUD, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, VA, FHA, and USDA websites can be accessed.

Under HOA (Homeowner's Associations) Resources you can order HOA documents online from Homewisedocs.com or Condocerts.com.

To sum up, Ray Halleran has made available to us an array of website links to helpful real estate information. Let him know how much we appreciate his talk and this website he has set up for us.