Minutes for the Bowie Seniors Computer Club Meeting on November 2, 2017

Carl Bulger presided.

The entire meeting was devoted to Nedra Davis' Digital Services Presentation of the many online and other resources of the Prince George's County Memorial Library System. The resources available to us through the Library System have grown since it went online. To take advantage of all of them, you need a library card which you can obtain at any branch library. By the way, the newly renovated Bowie Branch is now open.

Attached is a copy of the information sheet that Ms. Davis handed out at the meeting. She listed helpful web pages. Their URLs begin with https://www.pgcmls.info/website/   Not all of the services are digital services.

Educational Smartspot is a WiFi hotspot device that can be borrowed for up to nine weeks from nine library locations for educational purposes.

FLIR OneThermal cameras can be borrowed for the purposes of assessing a home's thermal leaks for the purposes of upgrading insulation, siding, windows, and other energy saving home improvements.

Fairmount Heights Library has a 3D printer that will "print" an object that you have designed for about $0.25/gram of final weight in plastic.

Check the listings under Events for special activities. For example, the week after our meeting the Bowie Library host a three day event featuring Virtual Reality topics and devices.

If you're looking for a specific library material or have a library policy question, you may access a form on webpage 659 where you solicit a response from a librarian.

For patrons with visual problems, there are audio books, books with large print, screen enlargement software on the public access computers, and screen reading software (Optelec). The services of the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped are available.

The catalog of the Integrated Library System (ILS)(Polaris) is one of the Online Resources.

The Digital Library System will/will not keep a record of what you read or checkout depending on your preference.

The PGCMLS Academy provides video tutorials.

The Overdrive App for phones and Kindles allows users to checkout audio books and eBooks.

Freading (Free reading) requires the Adobe Digital Edition software.

Recorded Books Digital,Inc. also offers magazines that can be viewed online.

FREEGAL (Music) You can stream up to three hours for free and download up to 5 songs per week.

HOOPLA streams movies, TV, music

Kanopy streams films.

Online learning via Lynda.com is free only through the PG Library website

Dave Hackenberg mentioned that the Computer Lab has used GCF Learning for computer courses.

Specific articles in past issues of the Washington Post can be referenced. The current day's edition is available free online.

When you use the public access computers in a library branch, whatever you've done on it is erased when you sign off. The software that wipes the computer is called DEEP FREEZE.

Nedra Davis said that the intellectual level of the library's content is limited to high school and college undergraduate level. For advanced content, one needs to access other libraries.

Nedra Davis' presentation and question-and-answer session consumed the entire meeting and actually went slightly overtime.

There is plenty available through the Library System to keep us busy. If you don't have your library card, get one.

Email nedra.davis@pgcmls.info to tell her how much you appreciated her presentation and the work she does.