

THE GEEK CORNER

By Dan Law

I am a retired person who writes for *The Shoreline* just for fun, as a volunteer. I write mostly about software and technology, using information from national magazines and online technology news articles. My favorite magazine and online news resources and advisors are *PC World*, *Smart Computing*, *Maximum PC*, *Wired*, *CNET.com*, *How-to Geek* and a few close friends who are in the computer building and repair business. I am happy to help neighbors with troublesome software and some hardware issues by phone and e-mail, but I am not in the business of computer repair. If your PC problems cannot be resolved by phone or e-mail, I would be happy to refer you to local commercial professionals whom I trust from experience to deliver reliable repairs at a fair price and to guarantee the quality of their work.

Yesterday, I drove to Sneads Ferry to conduct an interview to prepare for another article. When I returned home, I had a message on my answering machine that sounded like a simple issue to resolve. The question concerned difficulty installing a newer version of Adobe software. The caller and I haven't connected yet but I'd be happy to try to help resolve this issue, which could have several causes. Normally, it is simple to fix, and most likely is caused by an older version of Adobe which was not completely uninstalled prior to applying a newer version. Most software does not require you to manually uninstall older versions and will automatically perform this task for you as part of the installation of the newer version. In my experience, Adobe software products are troublesome to work with and routinely fail to have good security patches to protect our computers, and unfortunately, too many Web sites require Adobe in order for their pages to perform properly.

This month, I am writing about the joys of using Facebook. Last year, it was reported that people over 50 like me are the fastest growing segment of our population joining Facebook. I joined a couple of years ago and truly enjoy my free membership. I am now better able to communicate routinely and share in the daily lives of many new and old friends, but my greatest enjoyment comes from being included with friends of my grandchildren (who are old enough to join). I can monitor their interactions online, watch over them and keep them safe from bullies and predators. Whenever one of their online friends starts to lose it and get aggressive or threatening, I will either add a comment in the chat session, click on the "Like" button to remind them that I am there or will send a private e-mail to the kid who has made inappropriate or aggressive comments. I have done this many times, and my input has been openly accepted and respected. Many of my grandkids' friends have asked me to be their friends on Facebook and occasionally ask me for advice or to be a soft shoulder to cry on. It is a true joy when I read them commenting about how smart or cool g-pa is!

Most young people these days don't want to sit and carry on a conversation by telephone or write letters or cards. They are heavily into texting, using bizarre secret acronyms, misspelling or butchering partial sentences and using cute symbols created from numbers and other keys found on the phone keyboard, for example ;-)<3 OMG BFF LMAO, etc. In the beginning I needed help reading their messages to each other, but my 13-year-old granddaughter was sweet enough to teach me. Since then, many of their friends help me too. I now know what they are talking about, who their friends are, what they are doing each day, if they are depressed or happy, if they are seeing someone, using drugs or hanging out with undesirable people, and I am enjoying a more complete connection in their lives. My grandchildren live in northwest Florida, and I used to wonder if they were happy, safe and well, but now I know. If they are not sharing with their parents or me the troubles they are facing, one of their friends will privately share with me, their personal online g-pa.

Any neighbors here in Pine Knoll Shores who decide they want to join Facebook and build a more complete connection with friends and family can feel free to e-mail me at dlaw2@ec.rr.com. I can return e-mail advice from *Smart Computing's* recent articles about how to set up an account and privacy settings to safeguard against online predators, scammers, thieves and unwanted online junk mail. I can also send some online links to this information.

Until next month, I can be found in the yard working on my garden, flower beds, house, cars, etc. I am looking forward to the coming of spring, biking, boating, fishing, traveling and sailing. Let's all get outside, exercise and enjoy the fresh air. We should enjoy the beauty of our town and participate in the activities of our many clubs and committees, making the most of living in our beach paradise home.

PKS Easter Egg Hunt

There will be an Easter egg hunt on Saturday April 23 at 10 a.m. at Garner Park. Children 12 and under.

(All Welcome)

If you would like to donate candy for the plastic eggs please drop off at town hall or call Jill Cross at 631-905-6788 or Missy Klor at 727-5567.



WILLS, TRUSTS, ESTATE PLANNING & ASSET PROTECTION FOR SENIOR CITIZENS



Jane Gordon,

Attorney at Law

KIRKMAN, WHITFORD, BRADY & BERRYMAN, P.A.

GENERAL PRACTICE ATTORNEYS

jgordon@kirkmanwhitford.com

710 Arendell Street • Morehead City, NC 28557
252-726-8411
lawyers@kirkmanwhitford.com • www.kirkmanwhitford.com

HOME REPAIRS & REMODELING

- Replacement Windows
- Vinyl Windows
- Vinyl Siding
- Decks
- Porches
- Painting
- Roofs
- Interior/Exterior Remodeling
- New Construction
- Electrical & Plumbing Services

NC Licensed General Contractor

Serving homeowners in Emerald Isle for 22 years



Darryl Marshall
1186 Salter Path Road
252.354.2883
HomeRepairs1@eastnc.twcbc.com