

Caring for seniors' needs

If you're a senior and the computer intimidates you, don't fret. Help is available from someone who understands how you feel.

Senior CompuCare is dedicated to providing computer training for seniors to help them better understand the basics of computers and how to use them on a day to day basis.

"Truly we're seniors and we're teaching seniors what they want to know," said Shirley Mayor, now vice president of operations for Senior CompuCare. "The first thing I do is ask what they want to do. I listen, we listen, that's what we do."

Senior CompuCare offers one-on-one training to seniors in the comfort of their home.

"That's the beauty of what we do - we go to them," said Didier Nicholas, the founder of the company. "Our people are being dispatched out as the calls come in."

Like many entrepreneurial ideas, Nicholas had his brainstorm in an unusual setting. He'd been invited with his family to a jewelry party by his mom. That's where he met a senior who had worked for the Geek Squad. Nicholas asked if he'd ever considered starting his own business and offering services to seniors.

"I asked, 'What if I start a company and we go out one-on-one, seniors teaching seniors?'" said Nicholas.

One thing led to another and Nicholas offered him a position in his startup company.

That was February 2010. Since that time, the staff of independent contractors has grown to 12, all seniors. Repair has also been added, by A-plus certified technicians -- all seniors.

Ironically, Nicholas isn't about to train or do any computer repairs for his company.

"I'm not a senior," said the 46-



year-old.

Nicholas met Mayor a short time later, and was impressed with her computer knowledge and resume.

He told her she would be the model for the new company.

"So many seniors, among others, really need this help," said Mayor, 59. "They don't know anything about the computer and have been intimidated for years. But they realize they need it for more than playing games. They can access social security information, travel, how to open emails with pictures of their grandchildren."

And on and on. A whole world of

possibilities opened on the computer.

Mayor initially didn't like computers but realized at an early age how much she would miss if she didn't learn how to use them.

In addition to being an instructor, Mayor also considers herself an advocate. She told of one 80-year-old who never had a computer.

"Her husband did but he passed away," said Mayor. "She was so frustrated because so many businesses say to go to their website for more information."

She didn't know the first thing about getting a computer so Mayor

listened to what she wanted to accomplish with a computer and gave her a list options. They met at a store.

"They can listen to what's offered and I can express my thoughts," said Mayor. "They can make their own decision."

The 80-year-old got a really great wireless laptop, said Mayor.

"She's going to get internet service scheduled and have me back out for training to get her up to snuff," she added. "And if she wants me to come back out to learn more, I will

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do it.”

The cost for a one-on-one visit is \$35 per hour with a two-hour maximum visit. Small group training sessions are also available for \$30 per person if there are five or more. How many visits is up to the customer.

Cost for a basic repair liking cleaning a virus is \$75.

“And they don't have to leave their home,” said Nicholas. “We come to them.”

Senior CompuCare began in Orlando and has branched out into The Villages, Lake County and most recently Volusia County.

In a little more than a year there have been about 100 customers, which has pleased Nicholas. He's hoping to eventually take his company nationwide.

For more information, call (407) 925-3630. ❖

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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MOUNT DORA

ONGOING

Golden Triangle Toastmasters
5:45 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Wed., August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31.
Community Center in the Country Club of Mount Dora, 1900 Country Club Boulevard.
Cost: Free to visit.

Join us to have fun, overcome the fear of public speaking, learn effective listening, and how to organize a meeting

Contact Don Marx at 352-729-3948, ext. 113 or email Don@DonMarx.com for information.

Highwaymen
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Fri., Aug. 12
Mount Dora Chamber of Commerce, 341 Alexander St., Mount Dora.
Cost Free.

The Mount Dora Chamber of Commerce will host a "Meet and Greet" for the Highwaymen Artists at the Chamber's Historic Train Station. The artists' paintings will be on exhibit and for sale. Refreshments and light appetizers will be served.

Contact Randy Burgener at 352-383-4050 or email randy@heroncay.com, or visit www.heroncay.com for information.

AUGUST 3

Dementia Care Givers Support Group
2 p.m.
Avante at Mount Dora, 3050 Brown Ave.
Cost: Free.

A structured gathering of family, caregivers and friends, who come together to discuss issues related to coping with Alzheimer's disease and other dementia, offering guidance for respite care, placement issues, feelings of guilt and anger, veterans benefits, clinical studies, the latest Alzheimer's drugs available, companionship, comfort and more.

Contact Lori Wintersdorf at 352-267-4205 or email lwintersdorf@avantegroup.com.

August 12

2nd Friday Movie in the Park: "The Game Plan"
8 p.m.

Join us the 2nd Friday of the month for our free Movie in Donnelly Park, beginning at sundown.

For information call City Hall at 352-735-7100.

AUGUST 13

7th Mount Dora Florida Highwaymen Show and Sale

11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday, August 13, 14.

Donnelly Park Building, 530 N. Donnelly St.
Cost: Free.

The Florida Highwaymen artists will display and sell their art work at the Donnelly Building in Donnelly Park. Participating will be Curtis Arnett, Al Black, Mary Ann Carroll, James Gibson, Issac Knight, Robert Lewis, John Maynor, Roy McLendon, Willie Reagan, Carnell Smith, Charles Walker and 'Chico' Wheeler.

Contact Randy Burgener at 352-383-4050 or email randy@heroncay.com, or visit www.heroncay.com for information.

AUGUST 6

Chess Club
10 a.m. to Noon
Sat., Aug. 6, and 20
W.T. Bland Public Library, 1995 N. Donnelly St.,
Cost: Free

The club meets the first and third Saturdays of each month, and is for all ages and skill levels. Sign up at the circulation desk.

Contact Lynn Gonzales at 352-735-7180 or email gonzales@ci.mount-dora.fl.us, or visit www.mylakelibrary.org.

AUGUST 7

Visual Connections Exhibit open through August 7

Mount Dora Center for the Arts, 138 E 5th Ave., Visual Connections by Artist Dale Henry.

AUGUST 10

Mount Dora Area Chamber of Commerce Business at Breakfast

7:30 a.m.

\$6 with RSVP or \$8 at door.

Chamber of Commerce Baggage Room, 341 N Alexander St.

Continental summer breakfast. Join us for a fun filled morning of networking.

Call the Chamber at 352-383-2165 for information.

AUGUST 19

Yappy Hour

6 to 8 p.m.

Corner of 4th and Donnelly Streets

Bring your dog every third Friday of the month for this fun event for you and your dog. Ten percent of proceeds from both stores go to the Humane Society of Lake County (a no kill shelter).

For information call The Wine Den at 352-735-5594 or Piglets Pantry at 352-735-9779.

AUGUST 20

Casino Night - Hot Summer's Night

7 to 11 p.m.

Price: \$25/40.

Lakeside Inn, 100 N Alexander St.

Black Jack, roulette, craps and poker tables open at 7:30 p.m. Light hors d'oeuvres and desserts will be served. Cash bar.

AUGUST 12

Meet and Greet Reception for Florida