The Villages Computer Club will meet at 1 p.m. Friday Oct 18th at Hacienda Recreation Center.

The program will feature a presentation on "Dealing with the Demise of XP" by Peter Cronas

Following the presentation will be refreshments, door prizes and a problem solving session.

If you have a computer problem you can't resolve, fill out the troubleshooting request form found at thevillagescomputerclub.com and bring it to the meeting. Forms are also available at the meeting. Ask for one when you pick up your door prize ticket.

Guests are always welcome, please bring your village ID card. For information or to sign up to be on the VCC email list, visit the website or email Paul Rabenold at TVCC.Pres@gmail.com

thevillagescomputerclub.com

Paul Rabenold, President

****

Labels Created in OpenOffice Draw

OpenOffice Draw is a free program provided by Sun Microsystems Inc. OpenOffice Draw is a drawing software that allows users to create posters, banners, labels and more. Creating labels in OpenOffice Draw is a fairly simple task. With a little patience and some information you will be creating useful labels in minutes.

Read more: How to Create Labels in OpenOffice Draw | eHow.com
http://www.ehow.com/how_2078620_create-labels-openoffice-draw.html#ixzz14Vzu5wWJ

Click here: How to Create Labels in OpenOffice Draw | eHow.com

1. Open the Draw program from the Start menu.

2. Create the label size or download a template off the Internet. Worldlabel.com has OpenOffice templates for all manufactured label sizes that are free to download. To create your own label, make a box in the main window and then click "Position and Size." Choose the size and position on the paper where the label is.

3. Right-click on the label. A window opens that lets you design the label. Pick a background and a font for the labels.

4. Click "F2" on your keyboard. A window opens that allows you to add text into label. Change the alignment, size, font and color of the text. If you click inside the label, the window disappears. Click "F2" to open the window again. Click "OK" when you are finished.

5. Copy and paste the labels into their position on the page to make duplicates.

6. Click "Save" in the File menu to save your labels. Click "Print" in the File menu. Select your printer and preferences for the printer before pressing "Print."

Purchase or use online labels –Click here: Online Labels - Labels for laser and inkjet printers! Compatible with all popular software programs for printing l

Office Depot® Labelswww.OfficeDepot.com
Paper, Labels, Envelopes & More.

 Avery Compatible Labelswww.uslabel.net
Freezer Grade Label Sheets 1000 Sheets

Pre Printed Labelswww.LabelUniverse.com
Buy Warning, Made in USA, Address & other labels online. Low Prices!

Stamps.com Official Sitewww.Stamps.com
Print Approved Postage w/ just a PC, Printer & Web Connection!

Read more: How to Create Labels in OpenOffice Draw | eHow.com
http://www.ehow.com/how_2078620_create-labels-openoffice-draw.html#ixzz14Vy32dSY
****

How to optimize battery power on your laptop

Have you ever run out of battery power on your laptop, notebook, or netbook during a meeting or a class? Sufficient battery life is a persistent challenge for mobile PC users. You can take simple maintenance steps to extend the life of your laptop battery. The Windows operating system also offers several ways to help maximize the battery life of your mobile computer.

In this article, I'll introduce some tips that you can use to recharge a battery and extend laptop battery life, and I'll discuss how to take advantage of Windows settings to manage power more efficiently.

Treat your battery right

For on-the-go computing, your battery is your best friend. Knowing how it likes to be treated is the first step to keeping both of you happy.

- **Keep battery contacts clean.** Battery contacts can get dirty or corroded over time, reducing the effective delivery of power. With your mobile PC turned off and unplugged from its external power source, remove the battery. Use a cotton swab dampened with rubbing alcohol to wipe the metal contacts on the battery and inside the device. Allow them to dry completely before reinstalling the battery and reconnecting to a power source. Repeat this procedure every two to three months.
- **Charge your battery correctly.** When you're on the road, be sure to carry a power cord and plug your computer in whenever you have the chance. Unlike the older-generation rechargeable batteries like nickel-based (NiMH) batteries (see next paragraph), modern lithium ion batteries can be partially discharged and recharged repeatedly with no harmful effects, but you should avoid fully discharging lithium ion batteries. Consult your owner's manual for more specific tips on charging, and never use an AC adapter (power cord) or battery charger not approved by your device's manufacturer.
- **Completely drain nickel-based batteries periodically.** If you're using an older laptop (at least three years old) with a nickel-metal hydride (NiMH) battery, be sure to completely drain it and recharge it (every one to three months—consult your owner's manual) to ensure that it will hold a full charge. (Most newer mobile PCs use lithium ion batteries, which don't need to be drained to maximize their capacity.) To drain a NiMH battery, simply turn on your computer, unplug it from its external power source, and let the computer run. To speed things up, you could start several applications, turn the screen brightness to its highest level, and ignore all of the great power-saving strategies below. After the power is completely drained, recharge the battery fully. This may take up to 12 hours.
- **Cool it.** Your mobile computer generates heat, and higher operating temperatures reduce your device's efficiency, which in turn demands more battery power and can shorten battery life. Make sure that your computer can "breathe": Don't let clothing, lint, or other obstructions block the cooling vents. See How to clean your computer for more tips on keeping your computer spotless and running smoothly.
- **Carry a spare.** Buying an extra battery is a good investment for your peace of mind. Battery prices vary widely. You can significantly increase the power available to you if you're willing to splurge a little. Contact the manufacturer of your mobile PC to find a replacement battery, or search here.
- **Store it properly.** If you don't expect to use your mobile computer for a week or more, it's a good idea to store the battery, discharged to about 40 percent of full capacity, in a cool place. Click the battery status icon in the notification area of the Windows taskbar to check the current charge. Avoid storing a fully discharged—or fully charged—lithium ion battery for extended periods, as this can diminish battery life.

Optimize your power settings

The display and hard disk on your mobile PC are the two biggest consumers of battery power. By choosing a power plan (called a *power scheme* in Windows XP) you can extend your battery life by automatically lowering screen brightness and reducing other power-hungry functions. A power plan is a collection of hardware and system settings that control how your mobile PC manages power.

Windows 7

Windows 7 has two default power plans:

- **Balanced.** Automatically balances performance with energy consumption on capable hardware.
- **Power saver.** Saves energy by reducing your computer's performance where possible.

Change your power plan

1. On the Windows taskbar, in the notification area, click the battery meter icon.

2. Select either the **Balanced** or **Power saver** power plan.

Windows Vista

Windows Vista has three default power plans:

- **Balanced.** Offers full performance when you need it but conserves power when the computer is idle.
- **Power saver.** The best choice for extending battery life. The cost, however, is slower performance.
- **High performance.** Maximizes system performance at the expense of battery life.

Change your power plan

1. On the Windows taskbar, in the notification area, click the battery meter icon.
2. Select the **Balanced**, **Power saver**, or **High performance** power plan.

Windows XP

Windows XP includes two power schemes that were created specifically for laptops and other mobile PCs.

- **The Portable/Laptop power scheme.** Minimizes the use of power to conserve your battery but adjusts to your processing needs so that the system speed is not sacrificed.
- **The Max Battery power scheme.** Minimizes power use but does not adjust as your processing demands change. You should use Max Battery only in situations that require minimal processing, such as reading documents and taking notes in a meeting.

Use a power scheme designed to maximize battery life:

1. Click **Start** button, and then click **Control Panel**.
2. In Control Panel, verify that you're in Category view, and then click **Performance and Maintenance**.
3. In the Performance and Maintenance window, click **Power Options**.
4. On the **Power Schemes** tab of the **Power Options Properties** dialog box, click the arrow under **Power schemes**, and then click **Max Battery**.
5. Click **OK**.

You can also create a custom power scheme to suit your specific needs. You can create as many custom power schemes as you want.

Take advantage of low-power states

The different versions of Windows provide the following battery-saving states:

- **Windows 7.** Sleep and hibernation (which is like deep sleep)
- **Windows Vista.** Sleep and hybrid sleep (which is a combination of sleep and hibernation)
- **Windows XP.** Standby (which is like sleep) and hibernation (which is like deep sleep)

Sleep (Standby)

In a sleep state (standby), your display and hard disk turn off, and all open programs and files are saved in random access memory (RAM)—your computer's temporary memory—rather than to the hard disk. Information stored in RAM is cleared when the computer turns off, so it's a good idea to save your work before placing your system in sleep or standby mode. Otherwise you may lose data if you lose power or swap batteries or if your system crashes.

Sleep (standby) is particularly useful when you're using your mobile PC intermittently during the day. For example, when driving between clients' offices, put your computer to sleep or on standby to maximize the life of your battery and to maintain quick access to open programs, files, and documents. When you want to use your computer again, it wakes up quickly, and your desktop is restored exactly as you left it.

Windows 7

- To put your computer into a sleep state, click the **Start** button, click the arrow to the right of the **Shut down** button, and then click **Sleep**. This action saves all open documents and programs and puts your computer to sleep while still allowing the computer to quickly resume full-power operation (typically within several seconds) when you want to start working again.

- To wake your computer, press the **Power** button on your computer.

Windows Vista

- To put your computer into a sleep state, click the **Start** button and then click the

  Power button. This action saves all open documents and programs and puts your computer to sleep while still allowing the computer to quickly resume full-power operation (typically within several seconds) when you want to start working again.
- To wake your computer, press the **Power** button.

Windows XP

1. Click the **Start** button, and then click **Control Panel**.
2. In Control Panel, verify that you're in Category view, and then click **Performance and Maintenance**.
3. In the Performance and Maintenance window, click **Power Options**.
4. In the **Power Options Properties** dialog box, click the **Advanced** tab.
5. Under **Power buttons**, click the arrow, and then click **Standby**.
6. Click **OK**.

Hibernation

In hibernation, your computer saves everything to your hard disk and then shuts down. When you restart the computer, your desktop is restored exactly as you left it. Hibernation uses less power than the sleep state (standby), but it takes a bit longer to resume.

Windows 7

To put your computer in hibernation, click the **Start** button, click the arrow to the right of the **Shut down** button, and then click **Hibernate**.

****

Q: Why don't laptop batteries last longer?

A: This answer applies both to laptops and other hand-held devices. The biggest drain on battery life is using the backlight. If you are working in a well-lit room, turning down the backlight can extend your battery's run-time by 20 percent or more. If you can see the screen clearly without the back-light, don't use it. Save the battery for situations when you're in the dark and there's no electrical power available.
          Another way to extend battery life for a laptop is to avoid using the CD-ROM or DVD when you're not plugged into an electrical socket. Either of these devices will consume battery power at a rapid clip.

When you first get a laptop use it on the battery enough so the battery needs charging. Be sure to run the battery low 5-8 times during the first few months. This seasons the battery to accept a full charge. Rarely using it on battery will cause the battery to fail to accept a charge after a year or two.

Revised 7/15/2006 JMM

Laptop Low Battery Alarm

To set a warning alarm for a low or critical battery condition

Open Power Options in Control Panel.

1. Click the **Alarms** tab.
2. In **Low battery alarm** and **Critical battery alarm**, specify the settings you want by dragging the slider.

3. Click **Alarm Action** to select the type of alarm notification and power level you want.

Notes

- To open Power Options, click **Start**, click **Control Panel**, and then double-click **Power Options**.
- If you want your computer to shut down when the alarm occurs, click **When the alarm goes off, the computer will** in the **Alarm Actions** dialog box.
- You can set a low battery alarm, a critical battery alarm, or both.
- Using Power Options in Control Panel, you can adjust any power management option that your computer's unique hardware configuration supports. Because these options may vary widely from computer to computer, the options described may differ from what you see. Power Options automatically detects what is available on your computer and shows you only the options that you can control.

Taken directly from the Explorer's HELP feature in Windows XP

YOU CAN LEARN A LOT BY USING THOSE HELP OPTIONS ON ALL PROGRAMS AND ESPECIALLY ON YOUR OPERATING SYSTEM PAGE.
****

3 Things You Should Already Know About Your Lithium Ion Battery

April 7th, 2007 Paul Mah Leave a comment Go to comments

Too many people I've met have misconceptions, wrong understanding or simply no idea at all about how to maintain the batteries inside their new spanking new electronic gadgets. More often than not, it will be one of those nifty, super-slim lithium-ion variants. So I decided to write this little primer to help you, erm, I mean, your techno-phobic friends along.

Note that my recommendations are catered along the lines of practical convenience as well as pure battery maintenance facts alone. As with everything, there is often more than a way to skin a cat. I do try to explain my rationale behind my recommendations, so do try to read on before clobbering me on the head with your PhD in advanced materials science.

Tip #1: Lithium-ion batteries are limited by their life-spans
Found an e-bay offer for a lithium-ion battery pack for your ageing notebook or PDA at bargain prices? Or saw that battery pack for your gadget in its dusty sealed package at the corner store of the flea market? Before you jump and snap it up, be sure to first check the manufacturer date.

We all know that all batteries are limited by a finite number of charging "cycles". However, it is a little publicized fact that the lifespan of lithium-ion batteries are also limited by their manufacture date.

your lithium-ion battery starts dying the moment it leaves the factory

The fact is, your lithium-ion battery starts dying the moment it leaves the factory! Of course, the actual life-span of an unused lithium-ion battery can vary by a fair amount based on its internal charge as well as the external temperature. But suffice to say that you can expect to irreversibly lose 20% of a lithium-ion battery's charge every year from its original date of manufacture.

PDA came with more than one spare battery? Take it out of its shrink-wrap and use it interchangeably – today. Thinking of buying a "spare" battery for use in future? Well, just save the money and buy it only when you are ready to use it.

Tip #2: Avoid allowing your device to discharge completely
Every wondered why your modern phone, PDA or iPod is able to cheerfully tell you that "Your battery is now exhausted" for several seconds on its brightly-lid LCD screen before switching off? The reason is simple; there is an artificial circuit that shuts off the device when the charge in the battery is too low.

This extraneous circuit is built to protect from the damage that could result if the charge of your lithium ion battery falls too low. If you still don't get it: if the charge of your lithium ion battery falls too low, the battery can get irreversibly and permanently damaged. So since Lithium Ion has no "memory effect", it is better to simply charge your portable device as and when you can or remember.

To set your mind at ease, a "charge cycle" means a single iteration of depleting followed by a re-charge until 100% of battery charge. If you consume 50% of your iPod's battery on day 1, recharge to 100% at night, and do the same thing on day 2, then you would have just finished up one charge cycle of its battery life.

constantly recharging a lithium ion battery does not shorten the battery life more than normal usage would

Hence constantly recharging a lithium ion battery does not shorten the battery life more than normal usage would. Avoid letting it sit on empty for too long; instead, keep it charged-up if you can.

Tip #3: Take the battery out of your notebook computer when connected to AC helps... not!
Well ok, actually, taking out the battery from your notebook computer might help, but the reason it does is not really what you think it is.
It is not because of over-charging as most people might believe. There are some really smart circuits monitoring your lithium ion battery (See reason #2 above), and these circuits also ensure that your precious lithium ion never gets overcharged. So leaving the battery in when the AC is on has no detrimental effect whatever on the health of the battery.

However, if there is another killer of lithium ion batteries other than old-age, then it would be heat. Long term exposure of a lithium ion battery to temperatures higher than 40 degrees Celsius

permanently reduces its total charge capacity by noticeable percentages chunks per year. Having said that, I would hazard that modern processor like the Centrino Duo runs quite coolly overall.

On the other hand, it is really painful to see someone plug their AC adapter to their laptop, carefully remove the battery and put it aside, then finally sit down and switch on their laptop. Then have someone trip over their AC adapter an hour into an unsaved document. Ouch.

Unless you are setting up the laptop at Wal-Mart or Carrefour to run practically 24/7 until its time to sell it off at "display unit" pricing, my recommendation would be to save yourself the trouble and just leave the battery in. Actually, I think the real motivation to take the battery out of shop display units is to prevent theft. Really, why make it so inconvenient for yourself when the battery will be literally unusable in a few years time.

****
****

ASTROLOGY FOR SOUTHERNERS

WHAT'S Y'ALL'S SIGN?

It has become pretty obvious to me that our present astrological signs have served their purpose and that we should get rid of them. When I'm out driving around I'll see bulls, and once in a great while I suppose I'll even see a ram. Up the street from me there's some twins, but I don't see them much. The rest of these things are just too obscure. You only see crabs on vacation. There are no lions, or scorpions, not many archers and no damn water bearers. Virgins? the neighborhood's not crawling with them either, needless to say. SO what we need here is some relevance. We need things we can recognize up there in the night sky.

 Okra Dec 22 – Jan 20
Although you appear crude, you are actually very slick on the inside. Okra have tremendous influence. An older Okra can look back over his life and see the seeds of his influence everywhere. Stay away from Moon Pies

Chitlin Jan 21 – Feb 19
Chitlins often come from humble backgrounds. Many times they're uncomfortable talking about just where they came from. A chitlin, however, can make something of himself if he's motivated and has plenty of seasoning. When it comes to dealing with Chitlins, be very careful. Chitlins can burn and then erupt like Vesuvius, and this can make for a really terrible mess. Chitlins are best with Catfish and Okra. Remember that when marriage time rolls around. No, not with a Moon Pie.

Boll Weevil Feb 20–Mar 20
You have an overwhelming curiosity. You're unsatisfied with the surface of things, and you feel the need to bore deep into the interior of everything. Needless to say, you are very intense and driven as if you had some inner hunger. Nobody in their right mind is going to marry you, not even a Moon Pie, so don't worry about it. Moon Pie Mar 21–April 20 You're the type that spends a lot of time on the front porch. It's a cinch to recognize the physical appearance of Moon Pies. Big and round are the key words here. You should marry anybody who you can get remotely interested in the idea. It's

not going to be easy. This might be the year to think about aerobics. Maybe not.

Possum APR 21 – May 21
When confronted with life's difficulties, possums have a marked tendency to withdraw and develop a don't-bother-me-about-it-attitude. Sometimes you become so withdrawn, people actually think you're dead. This strategy is probably not psychologically healthy, but seems to work for you. One day, however, it won't work and you may find your problems actually running you over. No room in your life for Moon Pies.

 Crawfish May 22 – June 21
 Crawfish is a water sign. If you work in an office, you're always hanging around the water cooler. Crawfish prefer the beach to the mountains, the pool to the golf course, the bathtub to the living room. You tend to be not particularly attractive physically, but you have very very good heads. Keep a distance from Moon Pies. Collards

June 22–July 23
Collards have a genius for communication. They love to get in the "melting pot" of life and share their essence with the essence of those around them. Collards make good social workers, psychologists, and baseball managers. As far as your personal life goes, if you are Collards, stay away from Moon Pies. It just won't work. Save yourself a lot of heartache.

Catfish July 24 – Aug 23
Catfish are traditionalists in matters of the heart, although one: Whiskers, may cause problems for loved ones. You catfish are never easy people to understand. You prefer the muddy bottoms to the clear surface of life. Above all else, Catfish should stay away from Moon Pies.

Grits Aug 24 – Sept 23
Your highest aim is to be with others like yourself. You like to huddle together with a big crowd of other Grits. You love to travel, though so maybe you should think about joining a club. Where do you like to go? Anywhere they have cheese or gravy or bacon or butter or eggs. If you can go somewhere where they have all these things, that serves you well.

Boiled Peanuts Sept 24 – Oct 23
You have a passionate desire to help your fellow man. Unfortunately, those who know you best–your friends and loved ones–may find that your personality is much too salty, and their criticism will probably affect you deeply because you are really much softer than you appear. You should go right ahead and marry anybody you want to because in a certain way, yours is a charmed life. On the road of life, you can be sure that people will always pull over and stop for you.

Butter Bean October 24 – Nov 22
Always invite a Butter Bean because Butter Beans get along well with everybody. You, as a Butter Bean, should be proud. You've grown on the vine of life and you feel at home no matter what the setting. You can sit next to anybody. However, you too, shouldn't have anything to do with Moon Pies.

Armadillo Nov 23 – Dec 21
You have a tendency to develop a tough exterior, but you are actually quite gentle. A good evening for you? Old friends, a fire, some roots, fruit, worms and insects. You are a throwback. You're not concerned with today's

fashions and trends. You're not concerned with anything about today. You're really almost prehistoric in your interests and behavior patterns. You probably want to marry another Armadillo, but Possum is another somewhat kinky, mating possibility. Stay away from Moon Pies.

Jmax

Jmax's Website   http://www.jmaxbits.com/

Jmax Bits Newsletter is now posted each Monday & Thursday on the website. You have the option for a .pdf or a .rtf file.

1.For help with a computer problem, put HELP in the subject line and give me info about the computer you're using, if you know it.

2.To view or print Jmax Bits Good Services List in the Villages area, click link www.jmaxbits.com

3. To sign up for the non-computer newsletter, send an email to VLGSClassifieds@aol.com. Put SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To send an Ad, place AD in the subject line.

4. The Villages Computer Club's web page: Click here: Welcome To The Villages Computer Club
To add your name to the VCC announcements list, send email to TheVCC-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

5. Fred Benson's website www.thevillagescomputerbasics.com