



SoftTalk

The Official Newsletter of the Roanoke Valley Personal Computer Club

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Financial doc kit worth getting

By SANDRA KELLY

Are you ready? Ok. Get set; go.

Words from childhood races or the federal government. Both.

If you haven't checked out the ReadyAmerica, Department of Homeland Security website, you ought to visit it.

For someone who grew up in a rural area where wells got contaminated by the occasional drowned rat and electricity was often fickle, much of the Ready America advice reads like common sense. But, there's

more. Some of the site's material is fun –FEMA for Kids -- or fluff, but the site has one especially valuable planning document.

This document is the Emergency Financial First Aid Kit, which comes in a downloadable pdf file or as a text document.

Recent disasters have made everyone more of the need to have family documents "documented" so to speak.

Families' important papers are in files – probably most
See page 2.

PREZ' NOTES

by Earl Abbott, president@rvpcc.org

I hope each member is well, and happy, and enjoying personal computing. I have been opening each of my columns with the same greeting for a number of reasons.

I truly want our members to have all three of those attributes. When someone is happy, it usually spreads to others. When someone is well, it can spread to others. When someone enjoys personal computing, it gives that person a good reason to come to out meetings and to participate in out activities.

This month, our program will be a CD presentation of "Introducing Windows Genuine Advantage." Members are encouraged to bring questions or answers to Q & A. They can also bring PC-related items



of interest to Show & Tell. This month, our neighbor across the street (General Electric) will have an Open House to celebrate 50 years in the Roanoke Valley. This will be on Oct. 15 from 4 to 7 p.m.

I have been retired from GE/Salem for five years and have many friends and many fond memories for having been a GE Employee.

I hope to see each of you at our meeting where we will have a chance to give/receive information, and to have fellowship.

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Financial kit

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people have them in safety deposit boxes – but many people don't have a good listing of all the information that might be needed if homes and the banks were inaccessible.

The kit, which has been around since 2001, includes four pages of background, and after that come forms for you to document everything from basic information about family members, in case someone is incapacitated, to checklists of the documents a family might need in an emergency.

The forms cannot be filled out electronically, but can be printed and then done by hand. They are excellent reminders of some of the paperwork we ought to do whether or not there's a national disaster.

The kit can be a planning document for older citizens to use to compile information for younger family members, and it can be a good learning exercise for younger people who may not have thought of the need to keep important information handy and portable.

You can find the pdf file under Supply Checklists accessed at:
www.ready.gov/index.html.

**(Meets 2nd Saturday
of Month)**

**Next Meeting
Sat., Oct. 8**

Place: Arnold R. Burton
Technology Center, Room
105, 1760 Roanoke
Boulevard, Salem, Va.
24153

Time: 9:15 a.m. - noon

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Free credit report

The Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) requires the nationwide consumer reporting companies – Equifax, Experian and TransUnion – to provide you with a free copy of your credit report once every 12 months.

You will need to request that report, which became available Sept. 1 for the Eastern States, which includes Virginia. A good starting point is the Federal Trade Commission site,
www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/credit/freereports.htm.

You can phone or mail to get the report or you can view it online.

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