

# THIS & THAT

by

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Cobb County Senior Services has done it again! It continues to be a leader in bringing quality of life opportunities to us seniors right in line with its mission statement which I recently reread. I thought you might want to review it again yourself, so I copied it below.

## “CSS - Our Mission Statement

It is the mission of Cobb Senior Services to improve the quality of life for our senior citizens through innovative programs and state of the art facilities that meet their levels of need. Our primary goal is to assist our clients in their efforts to remain independent through affordable transportation, nutrition, recreation, education, socialization and in home services. Cobb Senior Services is committed to its role as the catalyst for senior advocacy, volunteerism and information resources for our elder population.”

Our Computers 4 Seniors program is just one example of how Cobb delivers on its mission, and it has gone another step forward by offering WiFi service at its east Cobb Multipurpose Center (soon to be expanded to the other four Centers in January 2010). This addition not only facilitates additional Computers 4 Seniors training opportunities, but it immediately expands our Tax Aid and Medicare Part D support. In addition, internet dependent presentations and education possibilities are now available in the “big room and classroom” areas of each Center.

With WiFi we can now bring the world, via the Internet, into each room of each multipurpose center whenever it's needed. The possibilities are endless. Thank you Cobb County Senior Services for your outstanding support in improving our quality of life...this time through another giant technology step forward.

Now for all of us that might be wondering just what WiFi is. The definition that follows came from [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com).

“**Wi-Fi** is a class of [wireless local area network](#) (WLAN) devices based on the [IEEE 802.11](#) standards. Today, a Wi-Fi device is installed in many [personal computers](#), [video game consoles](#), [smartphones](#), [printers](#), and other [peripherals](#), and virtually all [laptop](#) or palm-sized computers.”

The operational word here is *wireless*. Personal wireless enabled devices, such as laptop computers and the like, are able to electronically connect to the Internet through wireless enabled routers and modems thus breaking the need for hard wires between these devices...providing access capability where wires can't or haven't gone before.

Wikipedia goes on to say:

“A Wi-Fi enabled device such as a [PC](#), [video game console](#), [mobile phone](#), [MP3 player](#) or [PDA](#) can connect to the [Internet](#) when within range of a [wireless network](#) connected to the Internet. The coverage of one or more interconnected [access points](#) — called a [hotspot](#) — can comprise an area as small as a single room with wireless-opaque walls or as large as many square miles covered by overlapping access points.”

Our WiFi is limited to the area within each Multipurpose Center.

“**HOW WILL I USE IT?**” You may ask.

Well, for one, a lot of the time you won't even know it's being used. If you take part in Tax Aid or Medicare Part D services, the

computers used for those services will connect to the Internet when needed while you partake of them. It will be transparent to you. On the other hand you may attend an educational program which includes access to on-line resources for some of its content...another transparent WiFi use.

But then, you may want to use your wireless enabled laptop in training or outside of class at a center. Here you will depend on making the connection yourself, and when you do you will well appreciate directly the advantage of WiFi. And that brings us to one more item of importance.

### **How will I and my laptop make direct use of our WiFi?**

All persons who desire to use Multipurpose Center WiFi access (presenters, instructors, Seniors) will be required to read and sign a *Multipurpose Senior Center Cobb Senior Services Wireless Internet Access and Safety Policy* agreement.

This agreement, in brief, states that if you sign the agreement Senior Services Staff will provide you with a logon SSID and Password for your personal use while in the Center, and that you will not use that access for any illegal, immoral, or nuisance purposes, and that if through your use you cause your computer harm in any way you, and not the Senior Center or Cobb County Government, are liable.

### **What if I don't know how to connect to a wireless hotspot?**

Our Computers 4 Seniors program will offer, beginning in the Winter 2010 semester (signup is in January 2010) a WiFi Seminar which will help you learn how to use WiFi. C4S volunteer staff will also answer

questions, to the best of their ability, during class and open lab sessions...or you can just ask a grandchild; what can I say?

I'm excited, and I hope you are too. You now have more and easier public access to the world, and it's free! I love that word.

**ENJOY!**