

Town of Fairview Technology Newsletter



Special points of interest:

- Wireless Printers
- WIFI Protection

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Have you gone Wireless?

Do you have more than one printer in your home? Are you tired of having to connect your computer to the printer in the other room so you can print a document or email? If so, you may want to look at purchasing a Wireless Printer. Printer technology has advanced substantially over the last few years. From the dot matrix printers of the 1950s and 60s to the laser printers of the late 1970s by Xerox, and now we have LaserJet, inkjet, and printers capable of printing high quality pictures at home. The next inevitable step was wireless printing. The ability to print from anywhere you could connect to a network with a wireless printer.

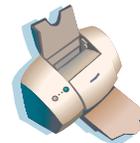
Numerous benefits come with a wireless printer. One is the convenience to print from

anywhere without having to wire your computer to the printer. Another is connectivity availability. Not only are wireless printers allowing you to print from your laptop or computer, but also the newer models are allowing users to print pictures and documents from their smart phones. Additionally, wireless printers will have the most up-to-date hardware and technology, providing the user with the best technology at the time. This may include the ability to scan, fax, copy, and/or print documents at a faster pace.

However, with any type of technology there are a few drawbacks. With any type of wireless device, signal interference can affect the ability of the printer to receive a

proper signal. To combat this, experts recommend placing the printer in an area that will have minimal interference. Also, in order to have the printer function at its full capacity a strong wireless connection is required. Cost is another big concern with consumers. When wireless printers first came out, the prices were substantially higher than a normal printer. However, over time the prices have dropped to a more reasonable level.

If you are tired of the hassle of wires coming from your printer, perhaps it is time to go wireless!



Are you Protected?

Today, a vast majority of family households and businesses have moved towards wireless internet connections. However, when hurrying to get their wireless routers up and running, many homes and offices fail to protect their network from outside intruders. *About.com* has listed several ways to protect your network. The first is to place a WPA or WEP encryption on your router. Several technology experts recommend using a WPA or WPA2 encryption over the more

vulnerable WEP. The second is to change the default administration passwords and username. This will help ensure that an outside hacker cannot login in by simply using the default. Thirdly, use a strong password that includes uppercase, lowercase, numbers, and symbols (Example "Abcd123!%"). Lastly, place your router in the central part of your home or office in an effort to reduce leakage of your signal outside the structure.

When you are traveling, make sure your computer or other wireless device does not automatically connect to any available network. These networks may not be secure and will leave your device vulnerable to anyone else connected to that network. If in doubt, turn off your wireless settings until you need to connect to the network.





Leaving for a long trip?

Every year, Americans leave for family or personal vacations. If they are going to be gone for an extended period of time, the mail either gets forwarded or stopped, newspapers are collected by the neighbor, and the security alarm is set. However, one thing that many people forget to do is unplug their electronics. This may be their computer, television, game console, or any other form of electronic device. It is recommended that when leaving for a long period of time (a week or more), these devices should be unplugged from the wall to insure their safety. Although surge protectors are there to protect

these devices in the event of a power surge, they will still be drawing power. Many electronic devices are never truly off. Although they may appear to be off, they are may be in standby mode and drawing a little power.

With the advent of the DVR, many people will be hesitant to unplug their beloved DVR in an effort to stay caught up on the new hot shows. If this is the case, it is recommended to unplug everything except the DVR. However, if you would feel more comfortable leaving the devices plugged in, electronic companies, Monster and Belkin, have developed "green" surge protectors that allow you to plug your

energy hungry devices into designated plugs that will completely cut off power to that device when it is not in use.

When leaving for vacation, do yourself a favor; protect your electronics and pocket book by unplugging any non-essential electronics.



"When leaving for vacation, do yourself a favor; protect your electronics and pocket book by unplugging any non-essential electronics"

LED Lights on Fairview Parkway

The Town of Fairview was the first municipality in Texas to completely light a street with LED lights as opposed to metal halide lights. Not only do the LED lights provide better lighting coverage for Fairview Parkway, but they also only require 33% of the energy to do so (when compared to the metal halide lights). That is an esti-

mated energy cost savings of over \$175,000 over the life of the lights.

The streetlights you see along the parkway were designed specifically for Fairview by EvoLucia, a division of Sunovia Energy Technologies, Inc.



Apple Releases OS X Lion

On July 20th, 2011, Apple released its next operating system, "OS X Lion." If calculations are correct, this will be the 8th operating system in just 10 years.

OS X Lion boasts over 250 new features including: multi-touch gestures, full screen apps, mission control (which allows you to see all open windows and apps), Launch pad (show all of the applications on your computer),

and a new and revised "Mail."

Perhaps one of the greatest improvements for an everyday Mac user is the "Autosave and Versions" feature. The new system will automatically save your documents while you work, during pauses and every five minutes. In addition, this new feature automatically creates a new version of a document each time you open it and every hour

while you're working on it. This will allow users to go back and compare past versions.

OS X Lion is only available for download through the Mac Store and only costs \$29.99 (for snow leopard users).

For more information go to www.apple.com/macosex



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Keeping it Country



Town of Fairview Technological Goals

- Provide residents with the best possible infrastructure, consistent with the Town's Comprehensive Plan.
- Serve the needs of the Town Council with recommendations, analysis and information.
- Listen to, and share with residents technology questions, issues, and opportunities.
- Work with existing and new service providers to meet the needs of our residents and businesses.
- Promote free choice and open competition.

We're on the web! Check us out! www.fairviewtexas.org



EvoLucia LED Streetlights on Fairview Parkway