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Madeira Senior Citizens Discover What's App?

A group of 15 local senior citizens received answers for their technology questions through a Madeira City Council sponsored event in conjunction with Madeira High School (MHS).

The March 23 event, 'What's App?' was held at MHS and was sponsored by the Madeira Senior Commission – an organization formed in 2008 as an advisory group to Madeira City Council. 'What's App?' provided participants free assistance with smart phone applications and other technology by Madeira High School students. Senior Commission member Claire Heinsler came up with the idea of helping senior residents of Madeira with technology and brought it up in a meeting several years ago. The event was first held in October, 2019 but not last year due to pandemic restrictions. Senior Commission chair David Walsh expects to hold 'What's App?' again next year, as this recent session was well attended.

After an introduction by Madeira Senior Commission Chair David Walsh, a list was made of specifics the community members in attendance needed help with. Student members of the Madeira High School National Honor Society (NHS) then offered personalized help to participants in small groups. Some of the issues the group asked for assistance with were the tracking device Airtag, dealing with SPAM, installing and using apps, purchasing tickets for school events, and sorting email into folders.

The Madeira Senior Commission is a sounding board for Madeira's seniors and works to improve the quality of life of the Madeira community's senior citizens by distributing information, sorting through aging-in-place issues, and researching housing alternatives. All positions to the commission are volunteer and are appointed by City Council.

Madeira resident Jackie DeWitt receiving help from Madeira seniors Madeline Hemmerick (left) and Lucy Bruemmer (right) on organizing emails into folders, her Apple Watch, and storing photos in iCloud.

