

# Dyker Group Puts Seniors On Internet

By PAULA KATINAS

Is Grandma getting her own Facebook page?

It could happen, thanks to the Dyker Heights Civic Association, whose leaders are teaming up with elected officials to sponsor free computer classes for senior citizens.

The classes will be given Tuesdays and Thursdays at P.S. 176, 1225 69th St.

A senior can choose to take the four-week course on a Tuesday or a Thursday. The Tuesday sessions, which will begin Aug. 4, will run from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The Thursday classes, which start on Aug. 6, will take place from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Space is limited, so seniors are encouraged to register for the course by July 30.

The goal of the computer course is to help seniors become familiarized with the Internet and the ins and outs of e-mail, according to Fran Vella-Marrone, the civic association's president.

"It's an introductory course. We'll show seniors how to get on the Internet and look up different websites," Vella-Marrone says.

The civic association is working with State Sen. Marty Golden and Councilman Vincent Gentile to organ-

ize the classes.

Seniors who sign up are required to have basic computer skills, according to civic association leaders.

"Some seniors in our community are very savvy when it comes to the Internet. But others aren't that knowledgeable. We're trying to help them," Vella-Marrone says.

The idea for the computer classes came from Jennifer DeFrank, the communications director for the civic association, Vella-Marrone says.

"Jennifer also built our website," Vella Marrone says.

The organization's website can be found at [www.dykerheightscivicasociation.com](http://www.dykerheightscivicasociation.com).

Seniors who successfully complete the computer course will receive certificates from Vella-Marrone, Golden, and Gentile at the next meeting of the civic association at St. Philip's Parish Hall, 1072 80th St., on Sept. 8. The civic association does not meet during the summer.

Vella-Marrone says she hopes seniors will not only become more comfortable with the Internet, but will use the computer classes as a springboard to becoming active in the community.

"We'd love to have more people become involved in community groups and our civic association," she says.

