

The Quail Runner

For and By the Residents
Of Quail Run



November — December 2009

Began Publishing 2003
www.QuailRunHudson.com

Hudson, Massachusetts

From your Board of Governors:

The Board would like to thank you all for your input into the hoped for resolution of the problem with the defective trim. A contractor has been chosen and we have a loan from a bank which will be converted into a mortgage when the project is completed. The workers may find additional subsurface rot as the top wood is removed and that will call for additional work as they go along.

The contractor may be able to begin next week if the weather stays mild. Vinyl can't be worked on in very cold weather and the Board has the authority to stop the work until the weather turns mild again.

The contractor will be parking at least two trailers on the property, one for their office and the other for materials. They may need a third trailer parked with additional supplies. The sequence planned is to start with the building in the most need of repairs and progress to the better units last.

We expect the work will be completed by August. At that time we will know the total cost. Individual costs will be figured and everyone will be given an option for paying this as a lump sum or over five years as an addition to their condo fees. The base condo fee for next year will not go up.

Now that we have gotten the trim replacement project under way, the Board will be able to turn their attention to other issues.

We will be using roof raking this winter to try to prevent ice dams on the roof and ice on the walkways. If this proves to be inadequate, we will try other measures without exceeding our budget.

(Continued p.8)

Holiday Party

Friday, 11 December at 7:00 at the Club House. Admission is \$5.00

BYOB

Finger Foods

Door Prizes

Holiday Music

No need to bring place settings this time, but an item for the Hudson Food Pantry and/or Toys for Tots would be greatly appreciated.

The sign up deadline is Monday, 7 December with a maximum of 80. A sign up sheet is posted in the Club House

Contacts are **Sally Mauro**, 978-568-0821
Srednims@aol.com
or
Barbara Baker, 978-562-2460 bak-erb2939@gmail.com



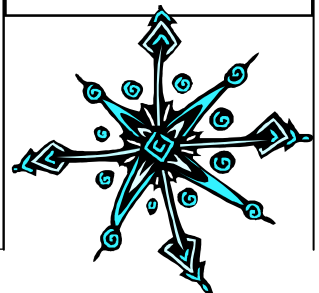
Social Committee Coming Attractions!!

**Friday, December 4
Medicare Changes**, etc
at the Club House starts at 1:30 PM. Light refreshments served.

Janice Long and members of the Hudson Senior Center will discuss the changes and give an update on the new Senior Center building.
Details on page 11

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 2/4 Strawberry **Barbara Champine**
 5 Strawberry **Lee Rouse**
 6/8 Strawberry **Toby Allen**
 7/12 Strawberry **Barbara Paradiso**
 1/4 Rotherham **Kevin Fitzgerald**
 6 Rotherham **Harry Morgan**

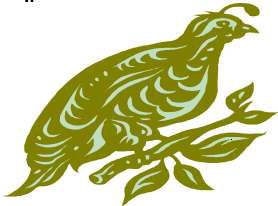
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Vacation Delivery

To Receive *Quail Runner* while away, give your reporter or the editor an extra long envelope with two first class stamps and your vacation address. The editor has some free extra large envelopes. Or you can get issues emailed to you.

Or you may view the current issue on [QuailRun Hudson.com](http://QuailRunHudson.com).

Happy 80th Birthday Rich!
 Thanks for being a great husband and father. mj



The Editor’s Desk

MJ Ebens, editor



The **Social Committee** continues keeping us all busy, entertained and fed! This year there is **no gift exchange** at the Holiday Party. Because the number of participants dropped last year, we decided not to have it this year. Instead revelers are asked to bring an item for the **Hudson Food Pantry** and/or **Toys for Tots** .

Kudos to the Social Committee for working towards a **green Club House**. **Jeannine Bensetzung** has some lovely bags to give away to carry your place settings to and from home.

Snow stakes have popped up. My Mother, visiting one year from Maryland, wondered what they were. Alas, we all know what they are for!! Too bad no one has come up with a way to make them more decorative the way fire hydrants have been spruced up in some communities.

One unit in our Westridge neighborhood is occupied — what a lonesome feeling that must be! Remember when **Mildred Chomko** was the only resident on Rotherham? I was sure she would abandon that lonely spot!

Toby Allen has extended a “thank you” to everyone who donated plants to make the Club House Ridge attractive. She and her gardening buddies have done a wonderful job. The Ridge should be beautiful next spring. **mj**

Transitions

Clifford West, 6-A Autumn, died on October 7
Wayne Hubner, 2-C Rotherham, moved to Florida

Phone Book & Email Updates

Bob Freedman roberthfreedman@verizon.net
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Helen & Roger Montgomery montgohr2@hotmail.com
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Need an extra Quail Run phonebook? Contact Marie Kapsalis to get one. 978-568-0713. \$1 a piece



HEALTHY LIVING

by Peggy Rittenhouse

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, a government panel of doctors and scientists of the Department of Health and

Human Services has just put out new guidelines for breast cancer screening. The Task Force recommend AGAINST regular mammography tests in women aged 40 to 49 and instead advise women aged 50 to 74 years to receive mammograms every other year. They say that early and frequent screenings often lead to false alarms and unneeded biopsies without substantially improving women's odds of survival. They also downplay the effectiveness of breast self-examinations. The Task Force says that its recommendations are based on accurate and up-to-date information. Some physicians back the new guidelines and others are vehemently opposed to them.

The American Cancer Society has long recommended that women have yearly mammograms starting at age 40 and they are sticking by their recommendations.

The former chief of the National Institutes of Health, Dr. Bernadine Healy is advising women to ignore the new guidelines saying that the new directive would save money but not lives. Because this directive came out just at the time the lawmakers are trying to come up with a health care bill, some see this as a form of health care rationing.



Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths among women and the seventh leading cause of death overall for women according to Foxnews.com. Many women in their 40's are speaking out saying that early screening saved their lives.

So what is a woman supposed to believe? Probably the best thing for a woman to do is to talk it over with her personal physician and then make the decision as to the best time to start screening and how often to be screened.

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 (\$19.95 membership fee refunded after 1st order)
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<http://healthy-attitude.myshaklee.com> or 1-866-212-8070 9/10

ROMEO's

Contact Harold Edelstein, 978-567-5909, tsvihesh38@comcast.net or Hugo Guidotti, hugosally@aol.com, 978-562-6501 for details.



H1N1 Flu Clinic Update

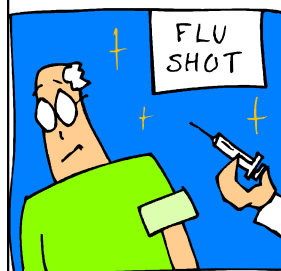
Currently, the Town of Hudson is providing, on a limited basis, H1N1 vaccine to the CDC Target Group 1.

This includes:

- Pregnant women, up to 2 weeks post partum (including pregnancy loss)
- Infants and children 6 months to 18 years of age
- Household contacts of infants less than 6 months of age
- Household contacts of pregnant women in their third trimester

The clinic format has been BY APPOINTMENT ONLY – through email to swong@townofhudson.org in order to reserve a spot for the clinics

As the Town continues to receive more H1N1 vaccine, the target populations will be expanded to including other residents, especially adults with chronic medical condition. Based on CDC estimates, larger-scale vaccination clinics will be held starting December.



To stay informed, sign on to the Town of Hudson home page TownOfHudson.org and click on H1N1 Flu Clinics.

These clinics are for Hudson residents only.

Curtain Call

Toby Allen



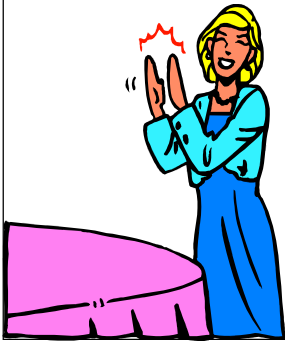
Curtain Call is a community group, who gather in the Club House to pick LOCAL plays and concerts to attend.

We meet at 2 PM, the second Wednesday of every month from September until June. We have 21 members.

Our season started this year with two concerts,

Symphony Pro Musica and Assabet Valley Master-singers. On Sunday, November 29th, 11 members attended the play *Steel Magnolias* at the Acme Theater in Maynard.

To become a member of our group, contact Toby Allen.



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04/10

Gardening time is over on the ridge, for this season. We are no longer accepting plants this year. We had many donations from numerous people. All of us who planted are really looking forward to next spring. If all comes up, the garden should be beautiful. We want to **THANK YOU** for your contributions, and we will accept more plants next year. Toby Allen

Real Estate Market

Condominium Activity in Hudson Third Quarter (July – September ‘09)

Price Range \$250,000-\$350,000

Property	List price	Days/Market
111 Brigham St.	\$259,900	144
111 Brigham St.	\$265,000	48
250 Main St.	\$272,500	74
2 C Rother. (pending)	\$274,900	145
111 Brigham St.	\$277,900	424
111 Brigham St.	\$278,900	63
111 Brigham St.	\$290,000	74
6A Autumn Dr.	\$294,900	18
11 Brigham St.	\$310,000	22
13 Dyson Cir.	\$339,000	106
23 Gerry Dr.	\$339,000	28
9 Dyson Cir.	\$349,000	106

Condominiums Sold		
Property	List Price	Days on Market
8G Strawberry	\$265,000	21
6H Rotherham	\$285,000	14
11 Brigham St.	\$290,000	179
Average list price	\$294,000	
Average sale price	\$280,000	
Ave sale pr. per sq. ft.	\$160.00	

Average price of listings \$295,992
Average days on market 104 days
Average list price per sq. ft \$173

The above data is provided to the *Quail Runner* by **Hugo Guidotti**. Let Hugo, the editor, or another member of the staff know if you find this information helpful and/or interesting.

Quail Run Real Estate Tidbits –

There are: 89 “A” units, 46 “B”, & 15 “C”

32—2 car garages

Can you guess how many have “walk out basements”?
Answer on page 7.



Stitch & Knit

The group meets the second and fourth Tuesdays at 7:00 each month at members homes. All knitters (or other types of hand-work) are welcome.

For more information **Barbara Baker**, 978-562-2460.

The Simple Knit Hat shown below with instructions is quick and easy and great gift for family and friends as well as donating to charity. **Pat McKay** has a huge bags of hats she made over the summer to go to charity groups.

Simple Knit Hat

Cast on 76 stitches. Knit for 9 1/2" Next row *k2 k2 together yo*. Repeat all around. Knit for 11 1/2 inches and bind off.

Make a crochet chain doubling yarn about 18" long. Weave it through the "holes" and pull tight and knot. Attach pom-poms to ends. Use the yarn from the pom-poms to bind off, just a little extra touch.

Knitting it in the round makes no finishing necessary.



Email Reminder to Renew Driver's License

Massachusetts now offers driver's the opportunity to be reminded to renew their driver's license by email. **The state no longer sends postal reminders to drivers but does offer email reminder service.**

Go to <http://mass.gov/rmv> and fill in the blanks which include your current, valid driver's license number and your zip code. Your license expiration date must be at least 45 days later prior to requesting the email service.

The email reminder will go out 30 days prior to your expiration date.



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03/10

Roger & Alice Gagne wish to sincerely thank everyone for their kindness during Alice's time of recovery from surgery.

"We both appreciate the casseroles, flowers, *Alice sitting*, and the many prayers coming our way."

Trash Pick-up Date Change

Because of the holidays, the regular Friday trash collection will be moved to **Saturday, 26 December** that week.

New Years Day (Friday) will remain the regular pick up date.

Quail Run Birthdays

December

Jane Freedman, 2
Richard Ebens, 6
Theresa Bosio, 19
Renee Kossuth, 21
Ken Spears, Marilyn Hoffman, 29
George McGoldrick, 31

January

Nina Schlikin, 6
Barbara Langley, 10
Helen Marckini, 13
Barbara Kansky, 17
Peggy Rittenhouse, Terry Milot, 20
Shirley O'Connell, 27
Deborah McCormack, 30
Karen Hart, 31



To include a birthday, contact your reporter or the editor at 978-562-7880 or RmjEbens@Verizon.net

Condo Care

New Plexiglas Storm Window Care – Thanks to **Sally Mauro** for checking this subject out on the Housekeeping Channel. Like a lot of plastics, Plexiglas is durable, flexible under wide-ranging temperatures, fairly easy to clean — and all too easy to scratch. Leave the scrubbing pads and gritty cleansers alone when cleaning this plastic. In addition, don't use strong solvents since these agents will render clear acrylics opaque.

What's more, Plexiglas cannot be dusted as effectively as other solid surfaces, even though this plastic certainly attracts a lot of dust. Moisture, airborne grease and smoke all help bind dust onto Plexiglas in grime that must be removed by gentle cleaners and cloths.

Clean Plexiglas with a neutral cleaner such as a solution of water and a small amount of liquid dishwashing detergent — a teaspoon per pint of water should do the trick. Apply the solution generously to a sponge or soft cloth and wipe the plastic surface gently. If the cloth becomes dirty in one spot, use a cleaner area on the cloth to reduce surface scratching from dirt and grit abrasion. Wipe with plenty of clean water. Dry with a soft, lint-free cloth.

Don't use any cleaner with alcohol or ammonia (common ingredients in many window cleaners and all-purpose household cleaners); solvents such as acetone, dry-cleaning fluid or thinners; or any gritty cleanser or polish. Highly diluted bleach is safe for use on Plexiglas, but bleach will darken adjacent aluminum surfaces.

Abrasive pads, stiff brushes, paint scrapers, or razor blades will quickly scratch the surface. Even paper towels aren't a good choice when cleaning this plastic—recycled brands can leave fine scratches, while the kinds that aren't too harsh may leave lots of lint behind.

Calendar:

Notify Quail Run management, 508-481-8288 when you plan to be away for more than a month.

Storm Door Reminder – Don't lock the storm door while you're away. In an emergency the door may be broken to get in.

This is a good time of year to **change the batteries in your thermostat and smoke detectors**

(Continued at right)

9/10

Great Lengths HAIR SALON

Appointment _____

176 Maple Street, Marlborough, MA 01752
(508) 481-8086



Cinema Night

Selection is "Annie Hall" Friday

December 4 at 7:30

Enjoy this fascinating movie with friends and family. See it on our 100 inch screen.

Annie Hall is a 1977 American romantic comedy film directed by Woody Allen. One of Allen's most popular films, it won numerous awards at the time of its release, and in 2002 Roger Ebert referred to it as "just about everyone's favorite Woody Allen movie".

Allen had previously been known as a maker of zany comedies; he has described *Annie Hall* as "a major turning point" as it brought a new level of seriousness to his work.

The movie selection for each month is announced on the Quail Run web calendar.



(Condo Care Continued from left)

WINTER PRECAUTIONS If you have not turned OFF the water to your outside front and rear spigots, please do so immediately; otherwise the pipes can freeze and burst. If you plan to be away this winter, please make sure your heat is left ON at no lower than 64 degrees F to prevent pipes from freezing and bursting. Insurance will NOT cover a loss if adequate heat is not provided at all times. If you live in an "A" style unit, we recommend you turn your fireplace on occasionally to warm up any non-insulated pipes that may be located in the open space behind the fireplace.

No longer used Christmas decorations are welcome at **Project Home Again** – pass them on to the **Brad-bards** at 1-B Strawberry.

New Hudson Businesses



Lowe's will open approximately in January. They have opened a temporary office on Main Street to hire workers.

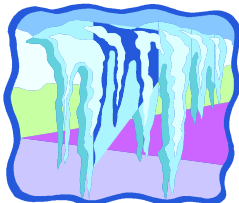
There are two new stores opening "soon" in the Esplanade building:

- **Hudson Roast Beef** will be opening next to the Ariba Coffee shop.
- Next to that will be **Cage Rage Gear**, selling UFC (Ultimate Fighting Championship apparel), TAPOUT (martial arts clothing) and NAGA apparel. (**Harry Morgan** couldn't find what NAGA is all about but suspects that Cage Rage will not be high on the Quail Run destination list, but you never know.

A Japanese restaurant, will be also opening soon, next to the new Honey Dew location on Washington Street.

Building & Grounds Committee

The committee is inspecting damage from last year's **ice dams**. About 74 units seem to have been affected. The committee expects to finish their work around the end of November.



If you haven't been contacted by the committee, please notify Vinnie Picarello or one of the other committee members.

How Many Walk-Out Basements — 57

Astrology — What's Up

By Beverly Beylounne



AQUARIUS Jan 20 – Feb 18

During the next year or two you may discover a change in your values – and what you value. The values you are beginning to consider important are different than the old values you held ...your need for material things – possessions. This is a time when you will begin to free yourself from 'things' and 'possessions'. A time when you will begin to redefine your relationship to the outside world and the people around you. Old patterns and ways of thinking as well as the old limitations you placed on yourself no longer seem acceptable.



You also have the tendency at this time to 'see' through rose colored glasses. You tend to see things not as they are but in the way that you would want them to be.

PISCES Feb 19 – Mar 20

This is a year of very big changes in you. A time when you make major changes in your appearance and life in general. You may change the color of your hair, or decide on a totally different style. You may change the type of clothes you wear or begin wearing colors you never tried before. This is the year (or two) of 'out with the old and in with the new'. This includes things as well as people. This is a time when you'll find yourself making new friends and going to new places. You see everything and everyone in a different way. This is a very important time in your life when you will strive to achieve more now than you ever have before.



Welcome New Residents

Patricia and Ronald Ruest and their cat Sam at 8-G Strawberry





Storage Shed Behind Club House

If you haven't had a chance to see the Storage Shed located behind the Club House, just off the parking lot. Check it out.

From your Board of Governors: continued

We will consider several changes in the Rules and Regulations proposed by a group last year. Remember that seasonal decorations this year are still governed by the existing Rules and Regulations.

Some people have flags or other decorations attached to wood posts on their porch or garage at this time.

You will not be allowed to attach anything to the vinyl once it is up. Please consider putting the flags on poles in the plant beds in front of your unit, being careful not to hit the sprinkler or gas lines.

We would like to wish you all a very happy holiday season and a very happy and healthy New Year.

Robert Freedman, MD, for the Board of Governors



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3/10

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End-of-Life plan?

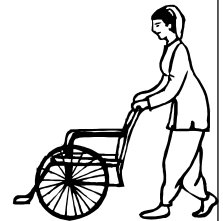
From Annie's Mailbox (Boston Globe)

Q. I'm glad you brought up the end-of-life plan dilemma faced by "Aunt Thelma, Uncle John, and Marie."

I am a doctor, and my patients have embraced my own end-of-life plan as follows:

"If you can fix me, please do. If you can't fix me, please help me avoid pain, fear, lack of air, hunger, nausea, thirst, loss of dignity, and prolonging the dying process. I understand it might take a few days to figure out whether you can fix me or not."

This format helps facilitate conversation between generations without the feeling of abandonment. Most of us old folks don't fear death as much as the process of dying or prolonged disability.



JOHN R. DYKERS JR., M.D.

Hudson has a Pooper Scooper Law

In case you feel that this isn't a problem at Quail Run, you probably don't realize that **other dog owners are picking up** the dropping left by the thoughtless! Visitors and guests at Quail Run must obey the law too. Be sure your doggie visitors know the law.

At some point these scofflaw owners are going to be recognized and reported to the Board.

This includes the "night raiders" who go out after dark.

Once you have the *privilege* of walking in dog mess, you will strongly agree with any fines the Board metes out.



Vote December 8 Primary Election for US Senator



Absentee ballots are available the Town Hall for the Primary.

Area Highlights

By Barbara Champine

AMERICAN TEXTILE HISTORY MUSEUM

Even if you have visited this museum before, you are in for a treat. The Museum reopened at the end of June after a \$1.5 million renovation. It's new exhibits range from linen home-spun to high-tech swimsuit material. The exhibits show both growth of an industry and the lives it has touched.

This Museum, now affiliated with The Smithsonian Institution, was founded in 1960 in North Andover, Mass. In 1992 the Museum purchased and renovated the historic Kitson Building, built in 1860 in Lowell. The American Textile History Museum is home to the most significant textile history collection in North America and is one of the world's largest and most important publicly held collections of tools, spinning wheels and hand looms. The Museum tells America's story through the art, history and science of our textiles.

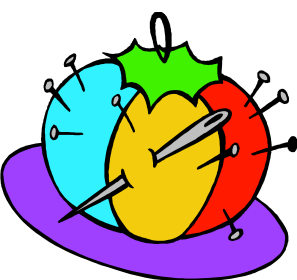
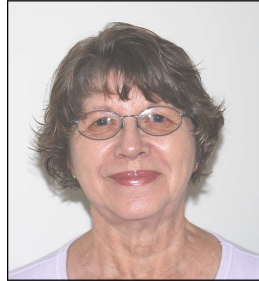
Visitors can sit down at a small treadle loom and actually try weaving. You (or grandchildren) can simulate parachuting from a real single-engine plane. You can design your own clothing on a computer. See how textiles are changing our lives from protective clothing for firefighters to "shark skin" suits for our gold-medal Olympic swimmers. In the Techniques Gallery, 15 historic machines spin, twist yarn and weave fabric. There are fashion exhibits including an 1897 golden evening gown for a Back Bay Socialite.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS: Until March 14, 2010 see contemporary Chinese Fiber Art co-curated by Tsinghus University in Beijing. Until April 18, 2010 see Aprons: Fifties Functional Fashion that bring to mind the housewives, waitresses and hostesses who wore them.

MUSEUM HOURS: Wed. - Sun. 10 -5pm closed holidays
ADMISSION: \$8 adults 17+, \$6 seniors, children & college students with ID

DIRECTIONS: 491 Dutton Street, Lowell, MA Route 495 to exit 35C (the Lowell Connector). Follow the Connector to exit 5B, Thorndike

Street. Go through the traffic signals and look for the Museum immediately on the left. Turn left into the free parking lot. **INFORMATION:** www.athm.org



3/10
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Living Will Form (courtesy of Pat McKay)

I, _____, being of sound mind and body, do not wish to be kept alive indefinitely by artificial means. Under no circumstances should my fate be put in the hands of pinhead politicians who couldn't pass ninth grade biology if their lives depended on it or lawyers or doctors interested in simply running up the bills.

If a reasonable amount of time passes and I fail to ask for at least one of the following:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Chocolate | Martini |
| Glass of wine | Chocolate |
| Chicken fried steak & cream gravy | French fries |
| Chocolate | Chocolate |
| Margarita | Pizza |
| Mexican food | Chocolate |
| Chocolate | Ice cream |
| | Chocolate |



Then it should be presumed that I won't ever get better.

When such a determination is reached, I hereby instruct my appointed person and attending physicians to pull the plug, reel in the tubes, let the 'fat lady sing,' and call it a day!

Book Club

Meetings are at our Clubhouse on Wednesdays, from 7 to 9 PM and are generally scheduled for the last Wednesday of each month.

Contact **Marcella Monte** for more information; 978-562-0823 or marcellamonte@comcast.net



Communications Committee

Quail Run Email Distribution Policy. The Communications Committee has developed a policy on emails to be distributed to the community. *We will no longer forward messages involved in fund raising or donation requests.* If there is any question of a request falling into one or the other of those categories, we will err on the conservative side and not forward them.

Since the development of the Quail Run email distribution list we have tended to waffle back and forth between sending out these messages and refusing them.

Our purpose is to concentrate on providing information of general, local interest, and specific Quail Run related information.

Those Quail Runners who want to send out email involving fund raising or donation requests can use the phone book email listing to create their own distribution list. This is one of the purposes in including (or not including) an email addresses in the phone book.

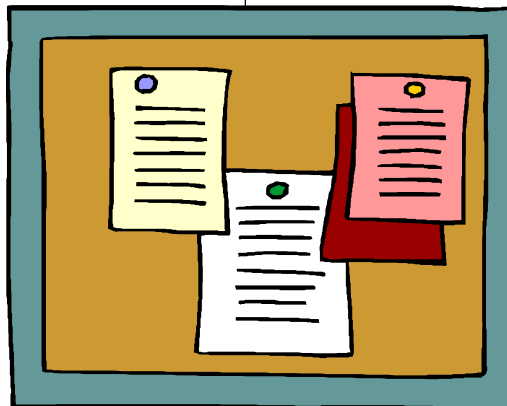
New Communications Forum

In response to requests from Quail Run residents, the Communications Committee is establishing two new mechanisms for resident-to-resident communications. For those who prefer electronic communications, an **electronic bulletin board Forum** is being set up for the exchange of messages among residents. For those who prefer traditional methods of communications, a bulletin board is being established in the Clubhouse where residents can attach messages.

In both cases, the following rules apply.

1. All messages must be signed and dated.
2. No bad language, profanity, or pornography allowed.
3. No statements that could be considered slanderous or libelous allowed.
4. The Forum is for Quail Run residents only.
5. The Forum is for non-social events
6. No business promotion topics are allowed, but comments about a

(Continued at right)



HUDSON, MA

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

December 12, Rivers Edge Holiday Concert, band and chorus, festive music of the season. Hudson High School, 3:30 pm. \$fee

January 16, Taste of the Arts Gala, celebrate the Arts Alliance's 20th Anniversary, Hudson Public Library, 7-10 pm.



February 26, Celtic Traditions with Kate Chadbourne and the Irish Music Guy, and evening of story and song, Hudson Town Hall, 7:30 pm. \$fee

Communications Forum continued from left vendor's quality of products and services are allowed subject to restrictions listed above

7. Messages that are brief and concise are encouraged.

A Moderator will be assigned to review all posted messages to enforce these rules. Any message that does not conform to these rules will be deleted. If you have

questions, comments, or opinions that you would like to express about these forums, contact MJ Ebens, Chairperson of the Communications Committee.

An announcement will be made once the Forum is up and running with details on how to access it.

Social Committee Events

Medicare Presentation at Club House

Put Friday, December 4 on your calendar to hear Janice Long and members of the Hudson Senior Center make a presentation on the following Medicare and health topics.

Medicare changes including Medicare Advantage, HMO's and PPO's, and the Medicare Supplement plans, i.e. BCBS Bronze and Medicare Drug Plans will be discussed.

Changes in financial guidelines for Fuel Assistance and an overview of the many programs at the center as well as an update on the new building will be covered



The presentation at the Clubhouse starts at 1:30 PM.

Light refreshments will be served.



Dates have not been finalized but the Social Committee is planning the following: **Pancake Breakfast and Polar Bear Dinner**

JULIETS NEWS

December 8, 12:30. The ladies will be at **Dino's Restaurant** in Marlborough.

There is a choice of four entrees.

Haddock with Panko crumbs, potato and vegetable or Oriental Salad with Crispy Chicken, or Beef Tips with potato and vegetable, or lastly Chicken Parm with Pasta, soup or salad. Also included: Tea or Coffee and ice cream with chocolate sauce or strawberries.



The total will be \$16.00 including the tip and tax. alcoholic drinks or soft drinks not included

Call **Ginny Bosio**, 978 568 0301 or **Sally Guidotti** , 978 562 6501

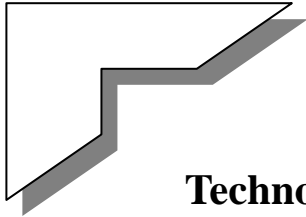
January 13, Wednesday 12:30 at the **Olive Garden, Marlboro**

Order off the menu.

Contact **Dean McEvoy** 978-562-5238, or **Susan Ciampi** 978-568-1625, or sign up at the club house.

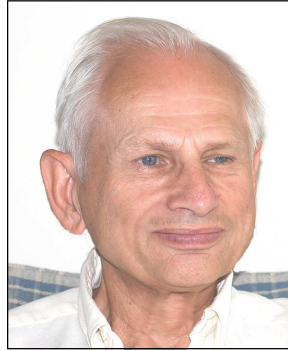
Recent Club House Activity





Technology Corner

By George Champagne



E-Book Reader Faceoff

Let's face it, senior citizens like to read books and to travel. Unfortunately, books can be large and heavy, making travel with them difficult. The solution is an e-book reader. Older technology readers were not as easy to read as a book, but the new ones are quite good. There are two popular e-book readers: Amazon Kindle, and Sony Reader Digital Book.

In both cases, you download the books from the internet, and take it with you. Each holds over 1000 e-books, and if you prefer to enjoy the book with your eyes closed, text-to-speech is available. And they also play MP3 music or audio books. What is not to like (other than the price)?

Amazon Kindle

The Kindle price has come down to \$259 in Amazon, with books costing about \$10 each. Once you buy a book, you can always download it from Amazon even if you delete from your Kindle to make room for another. Amazon presently offers more than 350,000 titles, and in addition has magazines and newspapers. The unit is 5X10 inches and about 1/3 inch thick, with a six inch diagonal screen. The screen resolution is 600 by 800 pixels, which provides crisp and legible text. It has a 2 GB internal memory which will hold 1500 books. Books are downloaded from Amazon over the Sprint cell phone network at no cost. The download works anywhere there is cell phone service, and no computer is required. The typical book can be downloaded in about one minute. Kindle also provides free wireless access to Wikipedia. Input is with a QWERTY keyboard, and the battery will last for two weeks of continuous use. Weight is about ten ounces.

Sony Reader Digital Book

The Sony PRS-600 Reader has taken a different approach in several areas. The unit is shorter than Kindle because it has no keyboard; input is by touchscreen, but the screen is the same size and has the

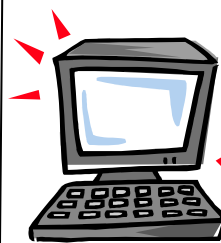
same resolution. Users say that the Sony unit feels more like a book than Kindle. As usual, Sony costs more, at about \$330, and the books are somewhat more expensive. There is no wireless support: books are downloaded via a computer from estore.sony.com, which has about 57,000 titles. A major benefit is that the Sony unit can download and present PDF files of books. There are many thousands of free PDF books on the Internet, for example from www.gutenberg.com. The memory is much smaller, at 256 MB, but there is a slot for an SD media card of up to 4 GB costing about \$15. Without the media card, the unit holds about 350 books. Battery life is about the same. Because Kindle uses ambient light, it cannot be read in the dark. The Sony unit has a built in screen light so that it can be used in total darkness. The Sony also supports audio output.

In a new initiative, Google and Sony have announced a project to make more than 500,000 public domain books published before 1923 available free to Sony users through the Sony eBook store.

Parlez-vous français?

Recently I received an email in French. I cannot read French but not to worry, Google did it for me.

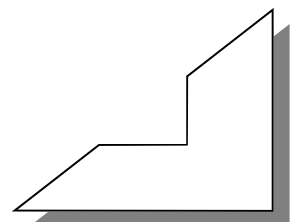
Website:<http://translate.google.com/#> will translate between any pair of about 50 languages. Simply cut and paste (or type) the text into the box, or upload an entire file. The results were very good.



Free Computer

I have a desktop computer to give away free to someone who cannot afford to buy one. If you know

of someone, let me know.



Quail Run Website

We are in the process of trying something new with both the Condo Care column and our website. We will try to publish past Condo Care items on the site so that they will be there as a ready reference for new residents. We are also investigating adding "Tradesmen Recommendations" too. However, we will still continue to publish the Condo Care column in its usual spot.