

Technology Corner

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Ordering your furnace filter on the web

Those of you who ordered the Air Bear furnace filter upgrade when you bought your Quail Run townhouse might be interested in knowing that Google with web commerce is an excellent way to get replacement filters or other hard to find replacement parts. Replacement of the filter should be on a yearly basis. We could not find a replacement at Home Depot or local hardware stores, so we searched for “part 255649-102 air bear media filter” on Google and immediately found several suppliers. We decided to buy genuine Trion Air Bear replacements from Bel-Aire Electronic Air Cleaners in Attleboro MA. They were about \$35 each (\$100 for three including shipping and tax). They arrived in two days by UPS. See web site <http://ElectronicAirCleaners.com> (remember web addresses are case-sensitive).

Senior Citizens fastest growing group of users of Internet

According to a new study, the ranks of Americans over 65 who use the Internet have jumped by 47 percent since 2000, making them the fastest-growing group to embrace the online world.

Despite the increases, this age group still has a long way to go. Only 22 percent of Americans over 65 go online, the study shows, compared with 75 percent of those ages 30 to 49. But Seniors learn fast, and once they find all of the good things that can be done on the computer, they never look back.

One of the biggest factors in influencing Seniors to learn and use computers is their families. The families use e-mail, digital pictures, surf the internet, and want their parents and grandparents to do the same. Computer training courses are available at the Hudson Senior Center, both at the fundamentals and intermediate levels. There are some intangible benefits as well – mental activity such as that required to use the computer can delay the onset of aging effects such as Alzheimer’s disease. Physicians even prescribe computer use to older patients who have suffered minor strokes, to help them regain motor control.

As more older people gain online access, there has been a concurrent rise in the number of Web sites geared for them. Government agencies, in particular, have patterned their sites after early models established by organizations like SeniorNet, which has been around since 1986 and has had a Web site, <http://www.seniornet.org>, since 1995. The United States Administration on Aging has one (<http://www.aoa.dhhs.gov>), as does the Social Security Administration (<http://www.seniors.gov>). Sites like these are intended to make it easier than ever for older people to use the Web.