

Technology Corner
By: George Champine

Web site of interest to seniors

A web site of interest to seniors is: <http://www.firstgov.gov/Topics/Seniors>. It deals with issues of: rights, fraud, abuse, legal issues, and benefits.

Disposal of surplus computer equipment

Troop 1 Boy Scouts of Stow will be accepting unwanted computer equipment including monitors in their annual "Operation Motherboard". The collection will take place Saturday morning April 23 behind the Stow fire station. 9:00 to 1:00. They will accept everything from old TVs and unwanted computers to broken printers and circuit boards, but will not accept air conditioners, dehumidifiers, or anything with Freon. They request donations by check or cash to cover the cost of approved disposal and to help raise funds for the Scouts many activities. The suggested donation is \$5 per item which is tax deductible. For more information contact Al Amos at 978-568-8541.

Fraud against seniors

Seniors are favorite targets of various kinds of fraud. The fastest growing fraud is identity theft which will claim 75,000 victims this year. . Identity theft occurs when someone steals your personal information to establish credit, purchase items, or borrow money in you name. A free brochure that describes how you can protect yourself against identity theft as well as what to do if you are a victim can be obtained from <http://www.AmericasCommunityBankers.com>.

Another favorite method of fraud is the "phishing" attack where you receive e-mail asking you to click on a web address to provide some information. The e-mail looks completely authentic, and the message often will say that there is some problem with your account. The latest appears to come from the FBI requesting information. Never respond to these phishing attacks, as no reputable organization will solicit this kind of information by e-mail. If you receive a phishing attacks, please forward the e-mail message to the Federal Trade Commission at spam@uce.gov.

Intermediate level computer course offered again

The intermediate level computer course that I teach at the Hudson Senior Center will be offered again starting Tuesday April 5 at 10:00. The course consists of five sessions covering 1)internet access and e-mail, 2)digital photography, 3)document preparation using Microsoft Word, 4)spread sheets using Microsoft Excel, and 5)developing your family history on a computer. We have had five people from Quailrun so far and would like to have more.

United Way Security Alert

The United Way of America has notified supporters that a group identifying itself as "United Ways Charity Foundation" is using the United Way name without permission to attract and defraud users. The unauthorized group, which is not affiliated with the United

Way, is sending fraudulent e-mail messages that show "United Ways Charity Foundation" as the sender.

The e-mail attempts to lure the user to a Web site, uniteways.org (notice the missing "d" and the added "s"), requesting personal bank account information supposedly for purposes of receiving and transferring charitable contributions. Any financial transactions performed with this organization are NOT authorized by the United Way organization.