

Technology Corner  
By: George Champine

### **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 September 13 at 10:00 to 11:30. The course consists of five sessions covering 1)internet access, spyware, virus protection, 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, along with keeping your computer in good health.

There is also a beginners course offered on Thursdays which is very good. You can sign up for either by calling the Senior Center at 978-568-9638.

### **Useful Web Sites for Seniors**

People who are too busy to go grocery shopping or who are house-bound may want to use web-based grocery shopping. Those who use it like it and feel it is worth the small extra cost. The quality is reported to be quite good. The two leading vendors are:

Peapod at <http://www.peapod.com>

NetGrocer at <http://www.netgrocer.com>

My daughter, who lives in Hudson, has used Peapod and says they do a very good job.

For those who like crossword puzzles, there is a daily crossword puzzle in <http://www.dictionary.com/> along with a full dictionary, ZIP code listing, and a link to a thesaurus.

In these days of high gasoline prices, we all want the lowest cost available. You can check gasoline prices in your zip code at <http://www.autos.msn.com>. Click on "gas prices" in the lower right corner, and enter your zip code on the next page.

### **Printing and Distributing Digital Pictures**

I am sure you have noticed that printer ink is VERY expensive. Although there are cheap third-party inks available, they generally have poor print quality and limited archival properties. If you want to see what vendors are available for your cartridge, input the code for your cartridge and printer into Google and you will get a list of vendors that sell it and compatible replacements. For example, if you type "HP deskjet 840C C6615A" into Google, you will see several vendors for it. Staples backs up its remanufactured ink and toner cartridges with a promise to pay for any damage to the printer caused by a defective cartridge. If you bring your empty ink cartridges to the Caboodle Cartridge store at 416 Boston Post Road East in Marlborough (in the shopping center between Bertucci's and the Marlboro theater) they will exchange them for refilled ink cartridges at about a 50 percent discount from new. I have had good luck with Caboodle.

Another option for printing digital pictures is to take the memory chip to a local drug store or Wal-Mart who will print them immediately for about 25 cents per print. Or you

can upload them on the web to Wal-Mart (<http://www.walmart.com> and select “Photo Center on left side). You can pick them up an hour later. The same is true at Ritz Camera in the mall, at <http://www.ritzcamera.com>. Ofoto, which is owned by Kodak, (<http://www.ofoto.com>), and many others will accept uploaded images and return photographic prints by mail.

Another way to share your pictures without cost is to use the free web posting service. Comcast offers a free photo web posting service and another is provided by PixVillage. Anyone with access to a web browser and the address can view the pictures. You can see the directions and download the software for Comcast at <http://www.comcast.net/photocenter/index.jsp> and for PixVillage from: <http://www.pixvillage.com/>.

Some people like to create “digital scrap books” with annotated pictures. Examples can be found at: <http://www.digitalscrapbookplace.com/gallery/>. Another free system to create electronic photo albums and post them to the web or burn them on a CD is at: <http://jalbum.net>