

Technology Corner 24
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Quailrun Web Page

I have created a temporary web page for Quailrun for some fun. This can be used until the Board of Governors creates a permanent one. The web site for all of the pictures is:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/quailrun>. I have set up three subsets of pictures that are shown as smaller picture sets in a column along the right side. The top set is a set of pictures of the Romeos lunch on May 17 at the Harvest Café. Click on the small picture of the Harvest Café and the set will open. I suggest that you then click on “Details”. You can also click on “Slideshow”. You can do the same for the set of Quailrun Scenery pictures and 2007 Candidates for the Board of Governors. In Slideshow mode, a large “I” will come up in the center of the picture. Click on the “I” and the captions will be shown.

If you have pictures that you would like to have on the web site, please send them to me by e-mail.

By the way, <http://www.flickr.com> is a very popular way to display your pictures on the web for friends and relatives rather than laboriously sending them out by e-mail. The web site is free and signing up is easy. You can make the pictures public for everyone to see, or make them private with a password required. Just follow the directions on the web page to sign up for an account. Once you have an account you can upload your pictures for all to see.

Do you know 211

We all know that we should call 911 is for fire and safety service, and 411 for directory services. But do you know about calling 211 for social services? The 211 number is a new state-wide agency that provides a wide variety of social services or help in locating services for people in trouble and especially senior and poor citizens. The troubles might include: lost electric power, needing fuel for heat, needing food, a water heater repair, or counseling for a teenager. Presently the agency is staffed 8 A.M to 8 P.M. Monday through Friday. By the end of the year they hope to have 24/7 coverage. They have access to about 8,800 service agencies. They do not ask for a name or identity of the caller. Presently they are receiving about 700 calls per week, and try to answer most calls within 90 seconds. Another phone number of use to senior citizens is the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs at 1-800-243-4636.

Goodbye Comcast Charges

Are you tired of paying high charges to Comcast for cable TV? Can you get along with fewer than 100 TV channels? Here is another alternative.

With our favored location in our “enclave on a hill”, we can get TV over the air with an ordinary indoor amplified antenna (about \$40). I tried it in my location and got the following channels with very good quality:

Channel 07 WHDH NBC
Channel 25 WFXT FOX
Channel 27 WUNI Univision (Spanish only)

Channel 38 WSBK IND
Channel 44 WGBX PBS
Channel 56 WLVI CW
Channel 66 WUTF TFA (Spanish only)
Channel 68 WBPX ION.

We can also get the following channels with good sound but some snow in the picture:

Channel 02 WGBH PBS
Channel 04 WBZ CBS
Channel 62 WMFP SAH
Channel 64 WNAC FOX

If anyone wants to try reception in your location, I would be glad to bring over my antenna and try it.

Be warned, however, that that analog TV broadcasts over the air will end on Feb. 17, 2009 when the FCC requires them to switch to all-digital. You can still receive these programs free through the antenna but on non high-definition (non-HDTV) sets you will require a digital converter to receive the signals at a cost of about \$200. The good news is that all newer HDTV sets already have a built-in digital receiver (called an ATSC tuner).

Sluggish Computer

Is your computer acting sluggish these days? There are many possible problems, but a common reason is that your anti-virus checker is running quietly in the background. You can check to see if this is happening by going to the Task Manager by typing control+alt+delete (and though you were going to shut down) and then clicking on the Applications tab at the top. If the anti-virus program is running you will see it there. If the problem is slow startup time, go to Start>Run, type msconfig, click on OK. When the window comes up, click on the "Startup" tab. You will see all of the programs that start when you turn on the computer. You can uncheck applications such as Word and Excel which do not need to start at power-up time. Do not uncheck the antivirus programs or any system program. When done, click on "Apply" and "OK".