



# The Quail Runner

Quail Run  
Condominium Trust

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December, 2007

The Quail Runner, our condominium's newsletter, is published four times a year in March, June, September, and December to bring you information Unit Owners need to know. The Trustees would appreciate your comments and suggestions about how to improve The Quail Runner. Please send in your ideas and material for publication. See contact information on Page 10.

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## FROM THE DESK OF YOUR PROPERTY MANAGER

I just arrived in the office after driving to Woburn from Maine. The snow has started early this year as compared to last year. The ski industry is happy and as long as it snows on the Ski Mountains, I will be pleased. With the Red Sox winning the World Series, the Celtics returning to the glory days, and the Patriots winning 13 games in a row, it is great to be a New England sports fan.

A couple of updates are in order in regards to the winter season. The trees kept their leaves until late into the fall season. Even the maple trees didn't cooperate. Therefore, we had the snow of December 3 before the gutters could be cleaned. We are hoping for a warming spell sometime soon so that we can clean the gutters. We didn't want to clean them when they were frozen because the cleaning may cause damage, and they are brand new. We will keep you posted and put up a notice when and if the gutters will be cleaned.

The snow stakes are missing! This year, the Board of Trustees decided to have fiberglass snow poles installed instead of the wood stakes. The stakes are on order and will be installed by our vendor, Vanaria and Sons.

As many of you know, Rich in-

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## FROM THE EDITOR

Winter is here, and many of us will go or already have gone the way of the snowbirds. The season of long nights and its festivals and holidays are here. Your Trustees wish you joyous times with family and friends and a fulfilling and happy 2008. We hope that the New Year will see our strengthening the ties among us and our growing closer as a community.

There are a number of things we can do as individuals that will benefit our Quail Run community, our country, our world, and ourselves.

There are "the three B's:" bags, bottles, and bulbs.

### BAGS

*[Adapted from a recent editorial in the New York Times]* Plastic bags floating freely adorn trees and power lines and clog the roadside gutters and vegetation. The unsightly airborne litter offers an opportunity for industry and consumers to think a lot harder about how much such convenience is costing the planet.

Plastic bags are as much or more trouble than they are useful. Up to 100 billion are used each year in this country, and they make bringing groceries home (or even protecting a newspaper from rain) so easy. But they also choke wildlife, create litter and overload dumps for generations to come. It also takes 12 million barrels of oil to make a year's supply.

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(Continued from page 1) FROM YOUR MANAGER

jured his foot stepping off a ladder. He will need stay off his feet for 10-14 days. Rest assured, APT will continue to provide maintenance for emergency requests, and routine requests will be attended to when Rich returns to work, hopefully by December 14, 2007

With the cold season upon us, please use caution when the temperature drops below freezing. There are some units that can have a problem with freezing pipes, and Unit Owners need to take precautions as they have in the past. Rich can give you suggestions on avoiding frozen pipes.

The new garage doors for Johnson's Grant have been installed, and the unit owners who paid to have these doors installed are VERY happy. The outward appearance of the building is much improved. This is another example of unit owners working together to improve the overall appearance of Quail Run.

We also had to remove a 100+-year-old white pine at Douglass Green. The tree was in the island in front of the garages of units 7 and 8, and while it is painful to remove such a grand tree, two different tree experts told us that the tree was in distress, would die in a few years, and presented a risk of falling on the buildings. The "box" surrounding the island, made of landscaping boards, is also in need of replacement, and that work will be done in the spring.

Well, I and the management of APT wish you and your families the happiest of the holiday season and a Happy New Year!!!

Jim

**FLU SHOT REMINDER**

***The influenza season has dawned in Massachusetts, public health authorities announced November 26<sup>th</sup>, with 38 cases confirmed so far.***

***Each year the flu kills as many as 36,000 people in the United States. The flu is estimated to cause the hospitalization of 5,000 Massachusetts***



**New Unit Owners**

**Janice & Daniel Serieka**

**7 Saw Mill Brook Way**

**Janet & Frank Lavey**

**7 Michael's Green**

**Dorothy & Frank Gilgun**

**10 Vine Brook Way**



**To Our Community**

***residents and the deaths of 800 Bay Staters.***

***Flu shots are recommended for everyone, particularly those over age 50, anyone with a chronic lung disease such as asthma, emphysema or chronic bronchitis or chronic diseases such as diabetes or kidney insufficiency.***

***The flu season lasts until March, so it not too late to get your flu shot. For more information about the vaccine and where shots are given, contact your own physician, go on-line to <http://flu.masspro.org>, or call toll-free to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Hotline, 866-627-7968.***



(Continued from page 1) **EDITORIAL**

The plastic bag, like the plastic water bottle, has plagued environmentalists for years but has only recently worried consumers. Lawmakers across the country are proposing bans on plastic bags or ordering up studies. The most dramatic action came in San Francisco, where the city banned plastic bags in large grocery stores last month and in large pharmacies.

Already the market is responding to this public worry. Some stores are giving discounts or rewards for shoppers who bring their own bags. Others charge for each bag a customer uses. Many stores provide recycling bins for their plastic bags.

The Natural Resources Defense Council recommends neither paper nor plastic. Plastic pollutes and floats toward the nearest naked branch, but 10 billion paper bags each year use about 14 million trees. The council suggests that if you can't bring your own bag, the best choice is make sure that you recycle the bags you use, both paper and plastic.

### **BOTTLES**

[Condensed from the original.]

#### **THE TRUE COST OF BOTTLED WATER**

by Solvie Karlstrom

*Green Guide 121* | July/August 2007

From childhood, we're told to drink at least eight glasses of water each day. Unfortunately more and more Americans drink those eight glasses out of plastic bottles—a convenience that stuffs landfills, clogs waterways and guzzles valuable fossil fuels.

Last year Americans spent nearly \$11 billion on over 8 billion gallons of bottled water, and then tossed over 22 billion empty plastic bottles in the trash. In bottle production alone, the more than 70 million bottles of water consumed each day in the U.S. drain 1.5 million barrels of oil over the course of one year.

Though the sale and consumption of bottled water is still on the rise, certain policy makers and activists have taken steps to reduce it. San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom signed an executive order in June that bars city government from using city money to supply municipal workers with bottled water, and New York City launched an ad campaign this summer encouraging residents and tourists to forego the bottled beverage for the city's tap, long considered some of the best water in the country. Upscale eateries in Boston, New York and San Francisco have taken bottled water off the menu, offering filtered tap instead.

Not only does bottled water contribute to excessive waste, but it costs a thousand times more than water from our faucet at home, and it is, in fact, no safer or cleaner. "The bottled water industry spends millions of dollars a year to convince us that their product is somehow safer or healthier than tap water, when in fact that's just not true," says Victoria Kaplan, senior organizer with Food and Water Watch, a nonprofit that recently launched a Take Back the Tap campaign to get consumers to ditch bottled water. "As much as 40 percent of bottled water started out as the same tap water that we get at home," she adds. A 1999 Natural Resources Defense Council study found that, with required quarterly testing, tap water may even be of a higher quality than bottled, which is only tested annually.

Take the pledge to take back the tap, promising to choose tap water over bottled whenever possible.

### **BULBS**

The energy we use for lighting is second only to that used for heating our homes and water. Compact fluorescent lamps (CFL's) use less than 25% of the electricity as incandescent (heated filament) bulbs to produce the equivalent amount of light, and they last seven times longer than incandescent bulbs. With the current availability of inexpensive CFL's, individual homeowners can make a significant dent in their energy usage with minimal investment. Fluorescents are available in shapes to replace standard bulbs, three-way lamps, floodlights and spotlights, and even torchiere-style floor lights now come with fluorescent lamps that replace the old power-hungry halogen tubes.

The Christmas season, with most houses sporting holiday lights outside and in, is a particularly good time to think energy saving. Strings of light-emitting diodes (LED's) consume ONLY 3% of the electricity that incandescents do, MUCH less than even fluorescents! They are safer for indoor use because they generate little heat. LED strings cost little more than incandescents, but they are virtually indestructible (one reviewer on radio station WBZ reported that his LED string survived being driven over!) and should last for many Merry Christmases.

Joel Seidman



### ANNUAL MEETING

November 7, 2007

The Annual Meeting of the Quail Run Condominium Association was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Library of the Joyce Middle School by Trustee Joel Alpert. Forty-nine Units were represented either in person or by proxy. Trustees Jack Deasy, Joe Fitzsimmons, and Joel Seidman were present, and APT was represented by Senior Property Manager Jim Boyle, Maintenance Supervisor Rich DeFilippo, Property Coordinator Kathy Asmar, and Assistant Karen Rennell.

cal help from Quail Run and its residents with trail maintenance, membership, conservation, and advocate activities.

Jack Deasy stood as a candidate for reelection to the Board of Trustees. There were no nominations from the floor, and he was re-elected by acclamation.

Jack Deasy went over the major and secondary goals that we had set for 2007: we addressed drainage issues; built our reserve fund to approximately \$150,000; installed a new pool cover; and replaced garage doors in Michael's Green. In addition, we added new garage doors in Johnson's Grant, rebuilt the retaining wall in Johnson's Grant, and partially completed crack sealing of the roadways and the tennis court.

Arthur Downing presented the work of the Landscaping Committee, detailing the accomplishments of 2007 and the goals for 2008. He thanked the members of the committee: Florence Fitzsimmons, Arlene Gold, Marie Kelleher, Eileen Lynch, Harry MacDonald, Eleanor Merz, Priscilla Samoiloff, and Bobbie Seidman. He announced he would be stepping down as chairperson and that Eileen Lynch has volunteered to be a co-chair, but that others would have to assist her.

Walter Howe, chairperson and webmaster, presented the report of the Communications



Joel Alpert introduced the Trustees and the APT personnel and went over the agenda and the ground rules.

The first speaker was Steven Keleti from the Friends of the Mary Cummings Park, Inc., who described the park's history and legal status, the work his group has done on the buildings and trails. He showed slides of the park and of the kiosk that has been erected at one of the entrances. He outlined the vision the Friends have for the park and updated the group on the legal maneuverings concerning the Archstone project. He concluded by detailing the support he would like from Quail Run, namely permission to install signage on our conservation land directing foot traffic to the park. He also requested our political support for anti-40B legislation and our lobbying the City of Woburn for financial help for conservation of undeveloped parcels. Finally, he asked for fiscal and physi-



Committee, whose membership includes Bernie and Paul Bacigalupo, Joe Doyle, Flo and Joe Fitzsimmons, Jackie Katzenstein, Dotty Metrano, Vincent Murphy, Joel Seidman, and

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Hope Tillman. Walter detailed the purposes of the committee, the several means we use for communication, and how the residents of Quail Run can contribute. He went over the goals for 2008.

Florence Fitzsimmons, chairperson, spoke for the Social Committee. Others on the committee include Arlene Gold, Eileen Lynch, Helen Quinn, and Phyllis Twitchell. The committee organized the Pool Social in August 2007; possible functions for 2008 include a spring brunch, a pool party for children and grandchildren in July, and a pool social in August.

Jack Deasy went over Unit Owners' responsibilities, including cold weather preparation, hot water heater replacement, dryer vent cleaning, compliance with parking rules and properly disposing of trash and recyclables. He also went over the necessity of getting prior approval from the Trustees for changes to common areas, keep common areas clean, and maintain decks.

Joe Fitzsimmons reviewed cold weather preparations.

Jim Boyle went over the budget and announced a 3.5% increase in the common area fees. There was a comment from the floor that in the past, the budget spreadsheets were available as a handout at the annual meeting, but not at this one. This oversight will be corrected next year.

Joe Fitzsimmons discussed the 2008 goals: replacement of the garage door in Douglass Green, addressing further any drainage issues, strengthening the volunteer program, continuing to build the reserve fund, evaluating the tennis court and the main road for further repair or replacement, and continuing addressing landscaping issues.

There was a discussion period about the proposed changes in the pool rules and about garage sales, but it had to be abbreviated because of the lateness of the hour. The Trustees announced again their opposition to the proposed changes in the pool rules, but they will look into a suggestion from the floor about using a tag system. The Trustees will revisit the issues at their next regular meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

## MESSAGE FROM THE FRIENDS OF MARY CUMMINGS PARK

Quail Run is fortunate to be located next to so much public parkland, but very few people seem to know everything that their neighbors are doing in order to make Mary Cummings Park a more enjoyable place for everyone.

Over a few weekends this past summer and fall, the Friends of Mary Cummings Park organized park cleanups and trail workdays. After a lot of hard work using hand tools and a gas-powered trimmer, they reopened some trails and made others a lot easier to walk through. Also, plentiful garbage, both old and new, was bagged and then dragged out.

This Fall also saw some long discussed plans to promote the park begin to come to fruition. One message board kiosk was put up at the Blanchard Road entrance to the Flyers Field and others are on the way for the spring.

2008 will bring a lot of challenges to the park and Friends of Mary Cummings Park as an organization. On the ground, there will be better trail markers and better-defined boundaries so more people will feel comfortable exploring the park. And while significant progress has been made catching up with past dumping that has gone on around the park's periphery, there is still a ways to go.

And this winter or early spring, we will be looking for as much help as we can get so we can start planning for next summer at the park. To find out more about what we are doing and what is going on with the park, please check out our website at <http://www.cummingspark.org>.

Pat O'Reilly, Board Member & Sec'y/Clerk



The friends need quail run's help. Please go to their website and join and/or contribute. It's for our benefit, too. <The trustees>



### EGYPT REVISITED PART TWO

[See Part One in the December, 2006 issue]

By Eileen Lynch

Finally, we left smoggy, dirty Cairo for beautiful, green Luxor and a week sailing on the Nile aboard a luxury ship!

We flew to Luxor and went to visit the Aswan High Dam. The old dam was built by the British between 1898 and 1902, but proved insufficient to hold back the Nile's annual floods. The Aswan High Dam was built between 1960 and 1970 and financed by the US and USSR along with other world powers after the war on Egypt by Israel. By holding back the waters, the dam created the enormous Lake Nasser, which provided fishing, irrigation and "strained" the Nile of crocodiles, which the locals didn't mind a bit! The High Dam is considered the greatest public work since building the Pyramids.

One day we flew 45 minutes to Abu Simbel, the temples of Ramses II and his favorite wife, Nefertari. Its very existence is incredible. When the High Dam was built, it was known that these temples would be inundated by the new Lake Nasser; so in a huge UNESCO operation, these temples were carved into blocks, numbered and reassembled at this location, 200 feet higher.

Abu Simbel is awesome for two reasons. Yes, it is a monument to a large ego, but it is a tremendous museum to art and sculpture that is not dedicated to death or life after death, as were the tombs.

And the engineering that went into saving it is worth the price of admission!

Subsequently, we sailed to a small island to see the temples of Philae, the main one of which is dedicated to the Goddess Isis whose sacred barge, carrying her statue, landed here after its annual procession down the Nile.

Luxor is considered the world's greatest open-air museum, filled with incredible monuments of ancient civilization. They say a walk in Luxor is a walk through history.

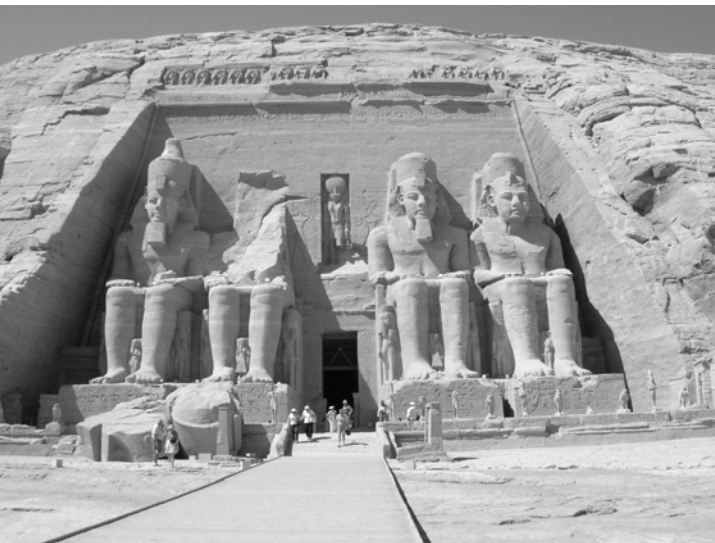
On the east bank is the Luxor Temple, parts of which date to the 14th century BC. It's main pylon, or gate, is fronted by one obelisk, it's companion a gift to France in October 1836, and which still stands in Paris, erected in Place de la Concorde, a very famous address.

The Karnack Temple, known as the "most select of places," was built and enlarged over 1300 years and is the largest temple complex in the world, covering 100 acres! The Great Temple, at the heart of Karnack, is so big it could hold St. Peters Basilica and the Cathedrals of Milan and Notre Dame with tons of space left over. It is the Mother of all religious buildings, a place of pilgrimage for nearly 4000 years. Leading up to it is the avenue of ram-headed sphinxes, each with a statue of Ramses II in it's paws...a famous photo-op.

On the West Bank of Nile, across from Luxor, is the domain of the deceased. We visited the Colossus of Memnon and then drove through

the desert to the Valley of the Kings. During the 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty (1540 BC), the "New Kingdom" of Egyptians had

stopped building pyramids, and instead tunneled into the desert cliffs, presumably to foil tomb



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looters. They were at least partially successful. The tomb of Tutankhamen, or King Tut, was discovered intact only recently, and provides a treasure trove of artifacts and information. King Tut was a rather minor and short-lived king of the 18th dynasty, whose main claim to fame was keeping his tomb hidden from looters until the 20th century. Hiding a dead king with a treasure of gold for 3500 years is no mean trick!! We went into several of the tombs, which were hot and crowded, and I am now sated with such visits. It was also the one day it was in the nineties with no cover available, understandably, in the desert. We could still complain though. We then ran next door to the Valley of the Queens, but were too hot and cranky to take in much. Even our Egyptologist Guides were hot!!

We had other adventures, including a delightful felucca ride on their traditional sailboat.

We visited a Papyrus School and dropped many dollars buying art. We visited a silk-carpet weaving "school" where boys begin working at age nine, learning a trade and being promised an education. Slave (I mean Child) labor laws do not exist. But their talent in creating complicated designs and



color combinations was extraordinary. One day aboard ship, we were visited by the nearby Nubian women who showed their folk art and sold quite a lot of it. We learned how to bargain in the Bazaars, how to speak some Arabic, and how to count Egyptian currency, which is six dollars to our one dollar, a good deal. And we were privileged to interact with many very friendly Egyptians and learn some of their culture, old and contemporary.

All and all, we had an amazing experience in the ancient world of Egypt.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT WOBURN PUBLIC LIBRARY?

By Hope Tillman

**W**e have an invaluable resource at our fingertips in Woburn: the Woburn Public Library. It is housed in the remarkable and historic Henry Hobson Richardson building at 45 Pleasant Street, in the center of Woburn.



They have a useful website at <http://www.woburnpubliclibrary.org>. You can look up your books at home and see if what you want is available, and if not, you can request it. Also, it is very easy to renew materials online. Woburn is part of the Minuteman Library Network and so has access to a wide variety of resources. In addition to books, there is a large collection of DVDs and videos, periodicals, audiotapes, and computers with Internet access. And the library staff is very helpful.

**Three New Historical Databases Available at Woburn Public Library: Ancestry, HeritageQuest, and Digital Sanborn Maps.**

HeritageQuest and Digital Sanborn Maps are available in the library and via web access (<http://www.mln.lib.ma.us/electronic/wob1.htm> if one is a Woburn resident and has a valid Library card), while Ancestry is only accessible in the library building.

**Ancestry** is the world's largest online genealogical resource, containing information on over four billion names from the United States,

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Canada, United Kingdom, Ireland, and other countries. Content includes census schedules, vital records, immigration documents, slave narratives, military documents, and maps. New content is added to the database on a regular basis.

**HeritageQuest** is a vast treasury of United States genealogical data and local history sources. Content, dating back to the 1700s, includes civil records, local history books, and citations to periodical articles. New content is added to the database on a regular basis.

**Digital Sanborn Maps, 1867-1970**, contains a selection of Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, covering Woburn and more than 200 other Massachusetts cities and towns. Originally created for assessing fire insurance liability, the maps are detailed property and land-use records that depict features like houses, buildings, factories, streets, sidewalks, railroads, pipelines, wells, dumps, and parks.

**Current resource guides available at the library include, among others:**

New England: Nature and Wildlife

Highlights books on birding, insects, flora, fauna, climate and weather, activities; periodicals; and organizations listing their websites.

Woburn Public Library Museum Passes available to:

House of the Seven Gables  
New England Aquarium  
Museum of Science  
Children's Museum  
Museum of Fine Arts  
Peabody Essex Museum  
Zoo New England

eAudiobooks: Listen to books on your portable device

Easy instructions to get a free account, download, transfer to your device, and renew eAudiobooks

Genealogy Resources for Woburn

**Save the date! The 5th Annual Library Gala will be April 5, 2008.**

**[The following article is taken from the City of Woburn's website and links contained therein.]**

**W**oburn, Massachusetts, is located about 10 miles northwest of Boston, nearly at the head of the Mystic River Valley and roughly halfway between Lowell and Boston. L-shaped and comprising 13 square miles of land, it is a small city of approximately 37,000 people. We are bordered by the towns of Wilmington on the north, Stoneham and Reading on the east, Winchester on the South, and Burlington and Lexington on the west.

First settled in 1640 and incorporated as a distinct township in 1642, it is thus one of the oldest and most historic communities in New England. Colonial Woburn also once encompassed the modern Massachusetts towns of Wilmington, Burlington, and Winchester, but these communities eventually broke off into separate townships in 1730, 1799, and 1850 respectively.

Though small tanning and shoemaking activities had begun by 1700, Woburn's economy remained primarily agricultural until the early 19th century. The opening of the Middlesex Canal in 1803 provided Woburn tanners with a new means of obtaining tanbark, and as a result, the leather business within the town boomed. The opening of the Boston & Lowell Railroad in 1835 and its Woburn Loop line in 1844 served to further expand the shoemaking and tanning industries. The nation's early rubber industry was also established in East Woburn by 1836, and revolutionized by Charles Goodyear's pioneer discovery of the vulcanization process in East Woburn in 1839.

Demand for shoe leather during the Civil War gave a boost to Woburn's leather production, and by 1865, there were 21 tanning and currying establishments in town. Immigrants from Ireland, Nova Scotia, and Canada moved to Woburn to take jobs in the tanneries. By 1885, Woburn was the leading leather producer in the area. The City retained this lead well into the 20th century, developing with it a range of associated support industries, including a chemical works, machine

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shops, and makers of tanners' knives. Henry Thayer of Woburn developed the process of chrome tanning in 1901, which took the place of bark tanning.

By the 1930s, however, under the combined adversities of the Great Depression and changing markets, the tanning industry declined. By 1940 only six tanneries remained. Today there is none.

The Woburn of today is mix of quiet residential neighborhoods, vibrant office and industrial parks, and wooded conservation areas, such as the Horn Pond Reservation, Forest Park, and Shaker Glen. As a result of its long history, virtually all the historic architectural styles typical of New England are found in Woburn. These include the Baldwin Mansion, built in 1661 by Deacon Henry Baldwin and altered to its present Federal-era appearance by his great-grandson, Colonel Loammi Baldwin in 1803, and the Woburn Public Library, the first public library designed by the great Victorian-era architect H.H. Richardson, his first work after completion of his masterful Trinity Church in Boston.



Richardson studied at Harvard and the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris (1859-62). While in Europe, he worked under Henri Labrouste and Jakob Ignaz Hittorf. Trinity Church, Boston and defined his unique style, which became known as "Richardsonian Romanesque" because of the parallels with Romanesque principles. He was

very influential in his short life; followers include Charles Follen McKim, Stanford White, Louis Sullivan, and John Wellborn Root.

Richardsonian Romanesque is the style named for Henry Hobson Richardson (1838-1886). It is a revival style based on French and Spanish Romanesque precedents of the 11th century. (Romanesque preceded Gothic in European architecture.) Richardson's style is characterized by massive stone walls and dra-

matic semicircular arches and a new dynamism of interior space. Continuity and unity are keynotes of Richardson's style. The Richardsonian Romanesque eclipsed both the 2nd Empire Baroque and the High Victorian Gothic styles; the style had a powerful effect on such Chicago architects as Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright, and influenced architects as far away as Scandinavia.

Buildings by Richardson

Brattle Square Church, Boston, 1871

Trinity Church, Boston, 1872-77

Winn Memorial Library, Woburn, MA, 1876-79

Ames Free Library, North Easton, MA, 1877

Oakes Ames Memorial Hall, North Easton, MA, 1877-79

Ames Gate Lodge, North Easton, MA, 1880-81

Crane Library, Quincy, MA, 1881

North Easton RR Station, 1881-82

Austin Hall, Harvard, 1881-84

Stoughton House, Cambridge, MA, 1882-83

Allegheny County Courthouse &

Jail, Pittsburgh, 1885.

Church, Newton, MA, 1886

J.J. Glessner House, Chicago, IL, 1887

## NOTICES

**Items, Services to Sell  
Items, Services Wanted  
Contractors You Like  
Restaurants You MUST Try  
Your Favorite Recipes  
Looking for partners for bridge?  
Mahjongg? Tennis?**

**Put out your call in  
*The Quail Runner!***

**Do you have something that  
would go in this space?**

**Let us know!**



### ANIMAL NEWS

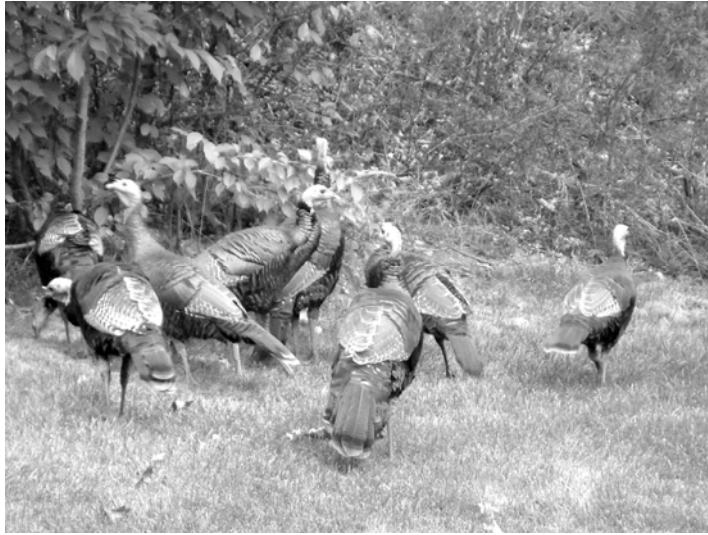
While animal sightings in our community are common, it is still a thrill to catch a glimpse of the wild creatures with which we share this land.

Recently there has been an abundance of deer and turkeys and, of course, the ever-present squirrels and rabbits. Birds are plentiful, but there haven't been any quail (see next article).

Karen Nerpouni of 2 Johnson's Grant wrote the following:

Nature abounds at Quail Run all year round and the fall is no exception.

From my upstairs window, I spotted some large shapes near the garage. I grabbed a camera and quietly approached. I saw over a dozen large turkeys munching on the grasses and meandering around. They seemed to have no fear of my presence, so I kept clicking photos. Finally, they trotted off single file up the hill. I have never seen a quail in our neighborhood, so maybe we should change the name of our complex from Quail Run to Turkey Trot!



Pat and Mark Hughes sent this report:

Looking out the back of our unit at 14 Vine Brook Way, there is an open area of low brush before the woods begin. At the edge of the woods, there is a large, tall dead tree that stands out from all the live ones. It is devoid of all bark, twigs and leaves and quite often we see many types of birds perching way up there taking in the view.

One afternoon in early May, we looked out back and saw an enormous dark bird with its wings spread open sitting on one of the naked branches. We rushed to get the camera and shot a couple of pictures before it flew away. When we downloaded the pictures to our computer and zoomed in on the bird, it was unmistakably some sort of vulture...similar to what you'd see in old western movies...with a tiny red bald head, long hooked beak and large body.

We looked through our *Peterson Field Guide for Eastern Birds* book and found that it indeed was a turkey vulture. A few days later, we looked out back again and this time, there was a pair of them! But by the time we got the camera this time, they had flown away....and we haven't seen them since.



Send in your stories about wildlife (animals) you have spotted in quail run and any photos you have managed to capture.



## MILLIONS OF MISSING BIRDS, VANISHING IN PLAIN SIGHT

By Verlyn Klinkenborg

*[Condensed from an Op-Ed piece in the New York Times, June 19, 2007]*

Last week, the Audubon Society released a new report describing the sharp and startling population decline of some of the most familiar and common birds in America: several kinds of sparrows, the Northern bobwhite [*another name for quail, Ed.*], the Eastern meadowlark, the common grackle and the common tern. The average decline of the 20 species in the Audubon Society's report is 68 percent.

Forty years ago, there were an estimated 31 million bobwhites. Now there are 5.5 million. Compared to the hundred-some condors presently in the wild, 5.5 million bobwhites sounds like a lot of birds. But what matters is the 25.5 million missing and the troubles that brought them down — and are all too likely to bring down the rest of them, too. So this is not extinction, but it is how things look before extinction happens.

But in the past 40 years, we have killed all those millions of birds or, let us say, unintentionally caused a dramatic population loss, simply by going about business as usual.

Agriculture has intensified. So has development. Open space has been sharply reduced. We have simply pursued our livelihoods. We knew it was inimical to wolves and mountain lions. But we somehow trusted that all the innocent little birds were here to stay. What they actually need to survive, it turns out, is a landscape that is less intensely human.

Environmentalists of every stripe argue that we must somehow begin to correlate our economic behavior — by which I mean every aspect of it: production, consumption, habitation — with the welfare of other species.

The trouble with humans is that even the smallest changes in our behavior require an epiphany. And yet compared to the fixity of other species, the narrowness of their habitats, the strictness of their diets, the precision of the niches they occupy, we are flexibility itself.

*[If you are thinking of changing from Comcast to Verizon FiOS, you may want to check with the installer to ensure that the Comcast cables remain in place.]*

## FIOS USERS SAY VERIZON CUTS COPPER WIRES, CHEAPER OPTIONS

By Associated Press | July 9, 2007

PHILADELPHIA -- When Henry Powderly II ordered Verizon Communications Inc.'s FiOS fiber-optic service, he knew he was about to be connected to the future of telecommunications. He also got unplugged from its past.

Verizon's installer -- without warning, Powderly says -- removed the copper wires that used to carry his phone calls.

Verizon's new high-bandwidth fiber lines are fully capable of carrying not only calls but also Internet data and television, with room to grow. But once the copper is pulled, it's difficult to switch back to the traditional phone system or less expensive Digital Subscriber Line service. And Verizon isn't required, in most instances, to lease fiber to rival phone companies, as it is with copper infrastructure.

What's more, anyone who owns Powderly's house in the future will face higher bills with FiOS than another home with copper. Currently, Verizon's DSL plans cost as little as \$15 a month. FiOS Internet starts at \$30 a month.

"I was not given an option," said Powderly, a 30-year-old Long Island, N.Y., resident.

As it hooks up homes and businesses to FiOS, Verizon has been routinely disconnecting copper, many subscribers say. More than 1 million customers have signed up for FiOS. A Verizon spokesman said customers should have been notified at least three times: by the sales representative, by the technician, and in paperwork.

The trustees encourage new residents (and current residents who have not done so) to sign up for the directory so that others may get in touch with you. To add your contact information, Go to our website ([www.quailruncondo.org](http://www.quailruncondo.org)) and follow the link to communications>directory of residents>updates.



**The Quail Runner needs to hear from you.**

We ask that all Unit Owners try to contribute material for publication. We will accept almost anything – social notes, requests for participation in activities, items wanted to buy or to sell, essays, editorials, poetry, letters, wildlife sightings, tips for Unit Owners, restaurant reviews, photographs (we publish in black and white only), etc. Please send any of these to the editor by February 29th for inclusion in the next (March, 2008) issue of the *The Quail Runner*. Articles should be limited to 500 words. The Trustees reserve the right to accept, reject, or modify any submission. We cannot publish anonymous submissions. The editor can be contacted by e-mail (preferred) or by mailing articles, questions or other submissions via US Postal Service.

**COMMITTEES**

The lifeblood of our condominium association is volunteerism. There are a number of committees that assist the Board of Trustees in their management duties. We encourage all residents to sign onto one or more committees to help keep Quail Run a beautiful and valuable property.

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Contact Joel Seidman at  
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to submit material for publication.

**COLD WEATHER PREPARATIONS**

When leaving home between November and April:

- Turn off water at meter
- Open lowest spigots to drain pipes
- Close valves to sill cocks, leave sill cocks open
- Reduce temperature on water heater to vacation setting
- Leave thermostats set no lower than 58 degrees
- Ask neighbor to check unit weekly
- Notify APT of contact information for you, person checking your unit
- Install low temperature signaling device
- Turn off washing machine valves
- Consider hiring plumber to winterize system