



Chesterfield Council on Aging Newsletter

January 2026

The purpose of the Chesterfield Council on Aging is to identify the needs of older adults ages 60+ in the community and to develop and carry out programs and services to meet those needs.

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Chesterfield, MA Council on Aging

Valley Bouny: Hillside Christmas Tree Farm: A family-run, cut-your-own operation that offers unique ‘bear-trees’ and more

Excerpts of original article by Jacob Nelson and photograph by Carol Lollis Dec 5, 2025, courtesy of the Daily Hampshire Gazette.

Most Christmas trees grow for six-to-eight years before they end up in anyone’s living room. So, compared to most crops on local farms, they have seen a lot.

For example, at Hillside Christmas Tree Farm in Chesterfield, “sometimes bears will lean against a tree to scratch themselves, and they’ll break the leading branch or push them over,” says owner Louise Spear. “Normally, those trees end up curved, and we get rid of them, but sometimes people decide that’s what they want. I sold a few last year. It’s fun to tell people why they look like that.”

Hillside Christmas Tree Farm is a family-run, cut-your-own operation that also sells pre-cut trees and pre-made wreaths, kissing balls, garland and swags. “Bear-trees” aside, the rest of their nearly 5,000 firs have a more traditional look of straight trunks and dense blue-green branches. Yet they all come from that same wild, sloping hillside, surrounded by acres of preserved forest on all sides. The beautiful setting makes it easy to believe these trees have some magic in them worthy of the season. At the very least, it is a wonderful place to walk and admire the Hilltown scenery before taking home a tree.

Today, Spear runs the farm with her son, Joseph Lynch, but she started it in the 1980s with her late husband, John Lynch. “It just captivated him,” Spear says, of John’s fascination with tree farming. “He was a logger at one time, a tree surgeon, the town’s tree warden...he had all sorts of expertise around trees.”



LISA SPEAR, OWNER OF HILL SIDE CHRISTMAS TREE IN CHESTERFIELD, CUTS TWIN TO TIE A TREE ONTO A CUSTOMERS CAR ON FRIDAY MORNING. CAROL LOLLIS / STAFF PHOTO

While they have grown many varieties over the years, today they focus on balsam or Fraser firs. Both are prized for their hardiness, fragrance, springy branches that can hold some weight and great needle retention. They are also very well suited to the soils and climate of the Hilltowns.

continued on page 3

January Calendar of Events

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1 <i>Happy New Year</i>	2 Mahjong 1pm
5 Advanced Tai Chi 9:30am Strong Seniors 11:30am Grab 'N Go 11:30am	6 Chair Yoga 10am Tech Drop in 11-2 Mahjong 1pm	7	8 Grab 'N Go 11:30am Brown Bag Program 1pm	9 Mahjong 1pm
12 Advanced Tai Chi 9:30am Strong Seniors 11:30am Grab 'N Go 11:30am	13 Chair Yoga 10am Tech Drop in 11-2 Mahjong 1pm	14	15 Blood pressure clinic 11:30 Grab 'N Go 11:30am	16 Mahjong 1pm
19 Advanced Tai chi 9:30am Strong Seniors 11:30am Grab 'N Go 11:30am	20 Chair Yoga 10am Tech Drop in 11-2 Mahjong 1pm Gentle Yoga 3:30pm	21 Watercolor class 1-3pm	22 Grab 'N Go 11:30am	23 Mahjong 1pm
26 Advanced Tai Chi 9:30am Strong Seniors 11:30am Grab 'N Go 11:30am Oil Painting 1-3pm	27 Chair Yoga 10am Tech Drop in 11-2 Mahjong 1pm Gentle Yoga 3:30pm Expressive Arts Group 5-6:30pm	28 Watercolor class 1-3pm	29 Grab 'N Go 11:30am	30 Mahjong 1pm

Exercise Programs Chesterfield Community Center



Advanced Tai Chi - Mondays 9:30 - 11am. This class practices the 3 parts of the Yang style long form on both the left and right side. There is no formal instruction. New participants are welcome to attend and observe, suggest arriving a few minutes early for introductions and orientation. Suggested donation \$5.00

Chair Yoga - Tuesdays 10 - 11am. A modified version of traditional yoga, designed to be practiced while sitting on a chair or using the chair for support during standing poses. This is an ideal exercise for seniors, particularly those with limited mobility, balance issues, or health conditions that render traditional yoga poses challenging. The practice includes gentle stretching, strengthening exercises, and focused breathing. We keep it simple and fun, always time to share some laughs. Suggested donation \$5.00

Gentle Yoga resumes: Tuesdays 3:30-4:30pm January 20, 2026 - May 26, 2026. Please join instructor Michelle Ryan for this series. Bring your own mat or props you might need. (The COA has some available for use). Suggested donation \$5.00

New!

Strong Seniors: beginning Monday December 15th. Mondays 11:30am-12:30pm. This class will be taught by a local certified personal trainer. Weight training for all abilities to strengthen and condition. Bring a yoga mat if you have one - some mats available at the COA. Suggested donation \$3. This program funded in part by a Title III grant from Highland Valley Elder Services.

Financial assistance is available for exercise programs. The COA does not want anyone left out because of a lack of funds. Assistance is available for eligible Chesterfield Seniors age 60+. Residents must meet income and residency requirements. Please contact COA Director 296-4007.



Healthy Bones and Balance with Marie Tuesdays 9:30 Goshen Town Hall. HBB is sponsored by RSVP (retired senior volunteer program) was created to increase strength, balance and flexibility. Marie is certified by RSVP as an HBB instructor. To register contact Marie at golivewell4ever@gmail.com. Space is limited. first come-first served. Please wear or bring sneakers or exercise shoes. Cost for HBB classes: free!

Are you interested in becoming a trained volunteer to lead the RSVP Healthy Bones & Balance Program (HBB)? Classes are led by trained volunteers at more than two dozen locations throughout the Pioneer Valley. HBB classes are a free, fun, way to exercise and socialize. Training to be held in the spring. Please contact the COA if you are interested in being trained to lead this class!

Hillside Christmas Tree Farm continued from page 1 ...

“Here in Chesterfield at 1,200 feet above sea-level, we’re at the southern edge of the natural range for balsams,” Spear explains. “Further north they grow wild in spots, where here we’d see hemlocks instead. Fraser firs, meanwhile, are native to the southern Appalachians, but they can be grown up into Quebec even, as long as it’s not bitterly cold.” “I remember when we first started, the artificial tree was making real inroads,” Spear said. “Now we’re seeing interest growing for more live trees and local trees. I think some of that is because there’s more focus on natural and locally grown things, thanks in part to organizations like CISA (Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture).”

In Christmas tree farming, the work begins in late April, when young fir trees are transplanted into the meadow. Trees are fertilized over the spring and summer, and mowing keeps vines and other plants from impeding their growth. For older trees, summer is also time for their yearly shearing. Left alone, fir trees planted in an open field send branches high and wide, claiming as much sunlight and space as possible. Shearing is the art of selectively pruning to encourage a compact, symmetrical shape and sturdy branches to hold decorations.

In Spear’s opinion, weather is the most challenging variable Christmas tree farmers face. “Especially because we depend on natural rainfall,” she explains. “If it doesn’t rain enough in the spring when new seedlings are establishing their roots, you can lose a lot of trees.”

(You will often see Louise volunteering at the COA on Mondays for Grab and Go meals!)

Special Events

Watercolor Painting

Wednesdays 1:00-3:00pm. Beginning January 21, 2026

**Contact the COA to register: phone 296-4007 or email
coa@townofchesterfieldma.com**

This program funded by a Cultural Council grant. Donations are appreciated

Did you know? ... Chesterfield is a member of the Northern Hilltowns Consortium of Councils on Aging. The Consortium is a collaborative that includes the town Councils on Aging of Williamsburg, Westhampton, Chesterfield, Worthington, Goshen, Cummington and Plainfield. Residents of the Hilltowns are welcome to attend events at any of the Consortium COAs. For more information, including a calendar of events, check out the website! <https://northernhilltownscoas.org/>

Special Events

Oil Painting Class

Oil paints are surprisingly versatile and the long length of time you have to work with them is unique and worth investigating. Come experience this fascinating medium in a calm and supportive atmosphere. The class will experiment with value and glazing while creating 2 different paintings from still lifes. This class is a multi-level class meant to be taken over and over again. There will be different projects for each level of student.

Mondays 1:00-3:00pm. Beginning January 26, 2026. Suggested donation \$10 per class All materials and supplies provided. Register at www.lenagarcia.com



Expressive Arts Group Tuesday, January 27, 2026, 5:00—6:30 pm.

This monthly group, for grieving adults, offers a safe space to make a visual response to prompts provided using collage. There are no limits on how, when or where the person passed away. Shelly Lenn, Cooley Dickinson Hospice Bereavement Coordinator will lead this group.

For some the word “ART” can be scary, but don’t worry. Please know that this group isn’t about what you make, instead it’s about y-o-u-r individual, and unique process. AND by no means are we here to evaluate or judge. Contact the COA to register: 296-4007 or email coa@townofchesterfieldma.com

For more information about bereavement support services through Cooley Dickinson VNA & Hospice, please visit:

<https://www.cooleydickinson.org/programs-services/vna-hospice/bereavement-support/?brid=Fa0IHHi3C2ToPpN1m7xCSA>

Resources

Community Connector - Do you need help finding resources in the area such as:

- Obtaining benefits such as Fuel Assistance, SNAP, Social Security, etc.
- Help continuing to live independently in your home
- Repairs
- Connection to local groups / activities to prevent isolation
- Transportation assistance

Please contact Jen O'Connell!
email communityconnectjo@gmail.com or call 413-296-4536 ext.11

Brown Bag

The Brown Bag program provides a bag of groceries for low-income adults who are age 55+ (or younger with a documented disability). Brown Bags are distributed on the 2nd Thursday of the month at the Community Center at 1pm. To apply, call the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts at 1-800-247-9632 or you can contact the COA for help with the application.

Transportation

Hilltown Easy Ride Van services for seniors over 60 residing in Chesterfield and other hilltowns. Regularly scheduled shopping trips to Northampton, rides to medical appointments. Interested riders must be pre-approved for eligibility. More information, including an application for services can be found at: <https://www.hilltowncdc.org/transportation> or call 413-296-4232

Hilltown Food Pantry

Located in Goshen, the Pantry is a program of the [Northampton Survival Center](#), and serves eligible residents of Chesterfield and other hilltowns. For more information, including eligibility requirements, visit the [Northampton Survival Center's website](#) or call the Hilltown Food Pantry at 413-268-7578 (Wednesdays between 1 – 3) or the Northampton Survival Center at 413-586-6564.

Fuel Assistance

(aka Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program)

Community Action of Pioneer Valley is the designated processing center of Home Energy Assistance Program applications for Hampshire County. This free service help to pay for a portion of winter heating costs by making payments to your fuel or electricity provider. CAVP also provides emergency assistance for heating system failures for participants.

To apply, contact: Community Action Pioneer Valley
Phone: 413-774-2310 or 800-370-0940
Email: fuelassistance@communityaction.us

Veterans' Support Services

Veterans' Service Officer: Daniel Nye
Phone 413-587-1298 email: vetadmin@northamptonma.gov
Office hours: Chesterfield Town Offices 3rd Wednesday of the month from 1:15pm to 2:45pm. No need to wait for office hours - Dan is just a phone call or email away!

SHINE: Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone. The SHINE Program provides free health insurance information, counseling, and assistance to people who are eligible for Medicare.. For info contact Caroline Solan at Highland Valley Elder Services 413-586-2000 ext 999 (option2) or by email csolan@lifepathma.org

TRIAD Medical Equipment - This program provides used medical equipment pick-up and delivery free of charge to seniors in Chesterfield. Call 413-582-7787

Hilltown CDC's Housing Rehabilitation Program provides eligible low- and moderate-income homeowners in eligible towns with deferred payment loans. These no-cost loans are meant to address code violations and improve living conditions for homeowners. For more information and an application to the program, contact Ashley Neveu, Housing Rehab Administrative Assistant at (413) 296-4536 ext. 112 or ashleyn@hilltowncdc.org

Hilltown Elder Network (HEN) Program provides eligible seniors with in-home services, such as home chores or transportation assistance. Seniors must be at least 62 years old, meet household income criteria, and are ineligible for other forms of assistance. For more information, please contact Helen Pelletier at 413-238-4418

Mass 211: 2-1-1 get critical health and human services information

Elder Fraud hotline: 1-833-372-8311

LGBTQ & Elder Hotline: 1-877-360-5428

Senior Legal Hotline: 1-800-342-5297

Hilltown CDC Announces Availability of Housing Rehabilitation Funds and Begins Work on FY26 Community Development Block Grant Application

Hilltown Community Development Corporation (Hilltown CDC), on behalf of the Town of Chesterfield, is moving forward with the expenditure of existing Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds while also preparing a new FY26 grant application to bring additional resources into the region.

At this time, income-eligible single-family homeowners in Chesterfield may apply for assistance through the Housing Rehabilitation Program. Eligible rehabilitation work includes septic system repairs, well replacement, heating system upgrades, lead paint remediation, siding, and the correction of building and state sanitary code violations.

Hilltown CDC has also been contracted to prepare the FY26 Chesterfield CDBG application, which will include continued Housing Rehabilitation funding. As part of this process, the organization is seeking community input on additional social service programming that could benefit residents of the communities listed above.

Community members, local partners, and service providers are invited to share ideas or request more information by contacting:

Faith Williams, Associate Director, Hilltown CDC

Phone: 413-296-4536 ext. 123

Email: faithw@hilltowncdc.org

CARDS CREATED AT THE GREETING CARD WORKSHOP DECEMBER 2025



**The Chesterfield Council on Aging benefits from your support
for our programs for Chesterfield seniors!**

I would like to contribute to the Chesterfield COA. My contribution of \$_____ is attached.

Please make your check payable to "Town of Chesterfield" and write "COA programs" in the memo line; mail to Eileen Theroux, Director, Chesterfield COA, PO Box 7, Chesterfield, MA 01012

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

email _____

Scam Alert!



If someone knocks on your door saying they have “leftover asphalt” and they offer to pave, repair, or seal your driveway today, it’s a scam!

- Resist the pressure to act quickly even if it sounds like a good deal.
- Get a written contract even for small repair projects.
- Never pay for the entire project up front.
- Get at least 3 written estimates before hiring someone to do work at your home.
- Report suspicious paving crews to police.

If you have a consumer problem or question, contact the

**Northwestern
District
Attorney’s
Consumer
Protection Unit**

**Greenfield
(413) 774-3186
Northampton
(413) 586-9225**

**Working in cooperation
with the Office of the MA
Attorney General**





Regional News

SENIORS AWARE OF FIRE EDUCATION

Winter is here and many people will be out in the cold and on or near very cold water. They will be skating, ice fishing, and driving snowmobiles on lakes, ponds and rivers.



Accidents do happen. A lot of people experience cold emergencies resulting in HYPOTHERMIA — the extreme loss of body heat. If your core body temperature gets below 95 degrees, it can be fatal if untreated. Hypothermia caused by cold water draws away body heat 20-30 times faster than cold air. So here are a few things to help avoid or deal with cold related emergencies:

- Dress properly for cold weather activities. Wool insulates better when dry or wet than man-made fabrics. Keep your head covered. You lose your body heat 50% faster through your head. Keep your feet warm and dry by wearing snow boots and heavy-duty socks.
- If someone falls through ice or into cold water: Call 911 immediately. Many of our fire departments are trained for and have special equipment for cold water rescues. Our ambulances are equipped to care for hypothermic patients.
- Do NOT go out on the ice. You do not want to chance being a victim. REACH...THROW...or ROW. Try to REACH with a stick. Try to THROW a rope, life jacket or any thing that can float. Use an available boat to ROW to bring the victim to shore.
- Send someone to the nearest access point to guide emergency responders to the victim.

We do have a multitude of lakes, ponds and rivers in our hilltowns. Moving water can change the thickness of ice without you seeing it. The only really safe place to skate is at a skating rink. Be SAFE out on the cold water!

--Worth Noyes, SAFE Educator,
Williamsburg & Cummington Fire Departments

The Senior SAFE program is sponsored by many of your fire departments and the MA Dept. of Fire Services.

YOU MAY NOT PASS...

We want to say this to all who are trying to mess us up and steal our identity or hard-earned cash. With our increased dependence on computers of all sizes and types, we have learned that we need a good password system. Unfortunately, the common choice many are still using as a password is "12345678", or "Password", or a favorite pet's name after said pet has become famous on our social media.

So what are the current guidelines to tell a thief "Do Not Pass Go?"

1. Use twelve or more characters, including mixes of upper and lower case, numbers, and symbols. An alternate is to use even more characters, perhaps 4 words linked together with a hyphen, e.g., spoon-picnic-ants-cooler. I like this pattern with words that I can remember. When the site asks you for a mix, just add something in the middle.
2. Strategically place special characters or symbols to avoid patterns rather than grouping them at the end. Using "Password!@#" still doesn't cut it.
3. Use different passwords on each of your online accounts and don't repeat a password. A pain, you say? Yes, yes it is. Keep reading, tho.
4. Add another layer of protection, if available, such as getting a text with a security number, or answering security questions. Use multi-factor authentication any time it is offered.
5. Keep software updates current, including any antivirus protection service you have.

To reduce password pain, here are two suggestions. One, consider a password sentence. For example, "I will tell you that my Totally Favorite candy is *hocolate-*overed cashews" would be written as "lwtytmTFcic-cc". Yes, that is something like what I might use.

(cont.)

(Continued from previous page)

Second, there are online “safes” that will hold passwords for you. You make passwords up just once and put them in the safe. You’ll need one good password to access all of these. Over the next month or two, I am going to try some. If any of you are using a safe, please tell me which one and how you like it.

As always, stay safe!

Jean O’Neil

TRIAD Committee member

jeanoneilmass@gmail.com; 413-268-2228

Your Community Connector

Jennifer O’Connell is working for the Hilltown COAs as the Community Connector. She is available to help Hilltown residents that are experiencing challenges, hardship and/or need assistance. Jennifer can help you meet a variety of your needs to make life easier.

Some examples are:

- Obtaining benefits such as Fuel Assistance, SNAP, Social Security, etc.
- Getting help so you can continue living independently at home
- Arranging for repairs
- Connecting to local groups / activities to prevent isolation and have fun with other community members
- Transportation assistance
- Being unsure of what you need or where to turn

Any and all inquiries are welcome. Call Jennifer at 413-296-4536 ext.110 or email communityconnectjo@gmail.com

GOOD NEWS FOR DECEMBER 2025

By Deb Hollingworth

At the risk of repeating myself.....I’m going to talk about how to handle buyer’s remorse.... again.

Many of you may have made health insurance decisions, during Open Enrollment to change your coverage. Some of you may have made changes because you got a “termination letter” saying your BlueCross PPO Advantage plan ended December 31st 2025.....or perhaps your Medicare Advantage plan’s network of providers “shrank” as was the case with United Health Care, and your doctors are no longer in network for United Health Care.

And many of us may have changed our Rx coverage, and signed up for a different Medicare D plan for next year. Whatever the reason, you may have changed your health insurance coverage. So the question is....what if it turns out you don’t like your new plan? Are you stuck with your new choice?

1. The answer is “no” you’re not stuck if you have a Medicare Advantage plan because Congress ‘adjusted’ the regulations governing Advantage plans and we now have from January 1st to March 31st to bail out of our Medicare Advantage plans and choose another, or revert to “original Medicare” and pick a Medicare D plan.

2. The answer is “no you’re not stuck if you have been approved for the Medicare Savings Plan....which automatically gave you Extra Help which subsidizes your Rx costs. (Remember the purple letter from social security?) Extra Help lets you change your Medicare D plan quarterly, so you can choose another D plan that you think might work better for you.

3. The answer is “no” you’re not stuck with your new plan if an error was made during your Open Enrollment sign up. That requires help from Medicare to confirm....but it may be possible to switch plans if an error during sign up occurred.

If you have questions....you can call your senior center to see if a SHINE appointment is needed. Sometimes a simple call to your health insurer provider can “fix” a problem. Always start by first calling the 800 number on the back of your card.

On the Road Again...

TRIPS IN 2026



Contact Francine Frenier to reserve your seat BEFORE mailing payments.

For more info call 413-296-4291

Email: francine.frenier@gmail.com

Mail: 11 Stage Rd. Williamsburg, MA 01096

Multi Day Trip April 17-21, Washington DC 5 days, 4 nights Admission to the George Washington Mount Vernon Estate, Garden & Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, Smithsonian Institution, Capitol Building, World War II Memorial and more. Price \$790. Take a \$25 discount if paid in full by January 26, 2026. Make the check payable to Diamond Tours and mail to the address above. **No money is due until early January.**

Day Trip May 3, 2026, Sunday A Grand Night for Singing at the Seven Angels Theater in Waterbury, CT. Pre-show lunch at San Marino's Restaurant. Price \$132. Make check payable to Landmark Tours and mail to the address above by March 6, 2026

Day Trip June 17, 2026 Isle of Shoals Cruise and Lobster Lunch Enjoy at 2.5-hour cruise from Portsmouth, NH to the Isles of Shoals. Before the cruise, enjoy lunch at Fosters in York Maine. Price \$160. Make a check payable to Landmark Tours and mail to the address above by April 6, 2026.

Day Trip June TBD, Million Dollar Quartet play. In the planning stages. Theater is in New London, NH. Includes luncheon. Price \$TBD. Make a check payable to Landmark Tours and mail to the address above by April 6, 2026.

Day Trip July 1st FDR Homestead & Library and Hudson River Cruise. Take a scenic cruise on the Hudson River. Enjoy a boxed lunch of gourmet sandwiches on board. Tour the home of Franklin D. Roosevelt & the first Presidential Library. Price \$140. Make check payable to Landmark Tours and mail to the address above by May 6, 2026. Wait list only.

Day Trip August and September Encore Casino and Big E.

Multi Day Trip September 27- October 3, Mackinac Island, the quaint Michigan island where no vehicles are allowed. Trip is for 7 days, 6 nights. Tour the island by horse & carriage, cruise the Soo Locks, visit Bronner's Christmas Wonderland, Frankenmuth Bavarian Village and much more, not to mention the plentiful fudge shops. Price \$959. Take a \$25 discount if paid in full by June 27, 2026. Make the check payable to Diamond Tours and mail to the address above.

No money is due until next year. This trip has quickly filled up. Please email to be added to the wait list.

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At this time, **income-eligible single-family homeowners** in Chesterfield may apply for assistance through the Housing Rehabilitation Program. Eligible rehabilitation work includes septic system and well replacement, heating system replacement, lead paint remediation, siding, windows, doors, insulation, roof, and the correction of state building and sanitary code violations.

In addition to Chesterfield's available funds, CDBG awards from fiscal years **FY24 and FY25** provide housing rehabilitation funding for homeowners in **Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Plainfield, Peru, Savoy, Westhampton, Williamsburg, and Worthington.**

Hilltown CDC has also been contracted to prepare the **FY26 Chesterfield CDBG application**, which will include continued Housing Rehabilitation funding. As part of this process, the organization is seeking community input on additional **social service programming** that could benefit residents of the communities listed above.

Community members, local partners, and service providers are invited to share ideas or request more information by contacting:

**Faith Williams, Associate Director,
Hilltown CDC**

Phone: 413-296-4536 ext. 123

Email: faithw@hilltowncdc.org

TECHNOLOGY HELP FOR JANUARY



Call 413-296-5080 for any of the TechConnect services. Leave a message and we will return your call.

Tech Support home visits are available by appt.

We can visit your home to troubleshoot home-based tech issues (like printers, networks, desktops, TVs).

Devices for you: Refurbished PC laptops, desktops, Chromebooks, and iPads

If you need a device to connect to the internet or have something so old it is not working effectively, please contact us. We have received a new shipment and have plenty of inventory. Leave a message at 413-296-5080, or use the online request form on our website, www.northernhilltownscoas.org

Drop-in Centers (no appointment needed)

Chesterfield

Chesterfield Community Center 400 Main Rd.

Weekly on all Tuesdays from 11:00 to 2:00

Goshen Library, Drop-In tech support from 12:00 to 2:00, 3rd Thursday, 1/15

Westhampton Library Drop-In tech support, from 2:00 to 4:00, 4th Thursday 1/22

Williamsburg

Meekins Library Drop-In tech support from 10 :30 to 12:30 2nd Tuesday, 1/8

Nash Hill Place Resident Drop-In tech support from 10:00 to Noon, 2nd Tuesday, 1/8

Worthington tech support - contact Eileen Daneri eadaneri@gmail.com.

NOTE: *Plainfield and Cummington Drop-in Centers have been discontinued due to low demand. Residents of these towns should call for an appointment or use the Chesterfield site.*

Internet Hotspots

If you have been given a hotspot from the project, your data plan will be expiring in either December or February. The grant can no longer fund the plan. You can keep the device but you must purchase a SIM card for \$30/month from Mint Mobile or a carrier of your choice. Call us with any questions you have.

SCAM ALERT!



Looking for bargains online? Protect yourself from online shopping scams.

- **Research the seller.** Search online for the name followed by “complaint” or “scam.”
- **Pay by credit card** so you can file a dispute if there’s a problem with your purchase.
- **Keep records.** Save your receipt and shipping information in case something goes wrong.
- **Watch out** for ads with brand-name products at unusually low prices. It could be a scam.

If you have a consumer problem or question, contact the
Northwestern District Attorney’s Consumer Protection Unit

Greenfield
(413) 774-3186
Northampton
(413) 586-9225

Working in cooperation with the Office of the MA Attorney General.