

FTC Consumer Alert Steer Clear of “Cash for Clunkers” Scams

Scam artists follow the headlines, so it's no surprise that they're trying to profit from the federal government's new "cash for clunkers" program. Officially known as the Car Allowance Rebate System (CARS), the program helps you buy or lease a new, more fuel efficient vehicle when you trade in a less fuel efficient vehicle. Administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) National Highway Traffic & Safety Administration (NHTSA).

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the nation's consumer protection agency, says that while many websites offer information about the CARS program, there is only one official government site — ***cars.gov***.

The FTC cautions consumers to avoid so-called "cash for clunker" websites that ask for personal information, including your name, address, and Social Security number, so they can "register" you for the program. There is no registration requirement for consumers; only new car dealers need to register to participate. Scam artists often create bogus sites as a trick to get your personal information. Then, they can commit identity theft or other types of fraud.

For More Information To learn more about the CARS program, visit ***cars.gov***. To learn about protecting your personal information, visit ***ftc.gov/idtheft***.

Report Fraud If you suspect fraud related to the CARS program, call the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration (NHTSA), toll-free at 1-866-CAR-7891. Notice from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

New “Doughnut Hole” Calculator Steers Enrollees to Less Expensive Medication.

By the end of this summer, more than one million older Americans will have fallen into the "doughnut hole", a coverage gap in Medicare's Part D prescription drug program. AARP has now developed a new online resource, the AARP Doughnut Hole Calculator, at www.aarp.org/doughnuthole. The Calculator is free, easy to use, and guides consumers to options for reducing their Part D spending by identifying less costly generic or therapeutically similar alternatives to their medications. Users do not need to register their personal information, and their self-entered medication data are not saved, assuring privacy.

FOOD STAMPS

As of 2009 the program is expanding to help those in a higher income bracket, who have high cost of housing and high medical expenses. Assets are no longer considered for those whose income falls within certain guidelines.

FUEL ASSISTANCE

Fuel Assistance is available for some help with your heating bills during the heating season Nov.1, 2009 to April 30, 2010. This includes primary heat – oil, gas (natural and propane), electric, wood, coal, pellets and some landlord-heated apartments.

If you received benefits in 2008 –2009 you should receive a reapplication in the mail. Contact Linda if you need assistance with this or have other questions—565-4150.



Ellen Gold
Coordinator of Volunteers

TREASURES FROM GRANDMA'S ATTIC

The **Adult Center's Annual Sale** will take place on Friday and Saturday, **October 16 and 17, 2009**. We are looking for high quality items – when you are cleaning out your closets, if you have any unwanted gifts, holiday decorations or other suitable items, we would appreciate your donation. We are accepting the following in VERY GOOD and CLEAN condition: household goods, collectibles, baby/children's equipment, appliances in working condition, small furniture, jewelry and women's clothing. We will not accept broken items, footwear, men's or children's clothing, toys, suitcases, exercise equipment, record albums, linens, and fabric pieces. Due to limited space, please call the Center at 565-4150 prior to making a donation. If you are interested in working at the sale for a three-hour shift, please call Ellen at the Center.

WONDERFUL NEW VOLUNTEERS

We have quite a few new volunteers who have joined our ranks in the past several months. The following community minded people will help Longmeadow seniors live full and independent lives. Our new Meals on Wheels drivers include: **James Nodurf, Christine Woods, Nancy Hughes, David Spencer, Denise Wysocki, Mark Wysocki, James Dreikorn, David Arthur and Linda Arthur**. Assisting in the kitchen and dining room are: **Karen Kessler, Mary Daboul,**

Laurie Schwarzenbach and Judy Stewart. New Errand Runners are **Al Kohn, Dietmar Kuhr and Angela Kuhr**. Our deep appreciation goes out to all of you for joining our volunteer program.

911 CELL PHONES

This fall, we will once again be giving out cell phones to seniors. These phones are for emergency use only – they are limited to calling 911. If you don't already have a cell phone, you should take advantage of this opportunity to help keep you safe. Appointments will begin in October, 2009. Special thanks to **Millicent Sacks and Jean McCorry** for coordinating this program. For information or to schedule an appointment, call the Center at 565-4150.

COA BOARD

The Council on Aging Board is the appointed town board that serves as the link between the Adult Center and the Select Board. In addition, the COA Board determines the policies and oversees the programs at the Adult Center. We are fortunate to have dedicated individuals contributing their time and energy to serve on the board. **George Pennington** is the Board Chair, while the remaining board members are: **Ernest Blake, James O'Donnell, Patricia Camerota, Saul Finestone, Elizabeth Rochford, Eleanor Stolar, Anamarie Friberg, Marilyn Hurst, Rose Morace, Diane Nadeau, John Carey, and Margaret Jenkins**. Thanks to all of you for your dedication and support of the Adult Center. You give a voice to the elderly of Longmeadow.