

METROPOLIS

FLASHES & DISPATCHES



PERSON:
BOB COLAVITA,
69

PLACE:
COLAVITA
CHRISTMAS
TREE FARM,
YARDLEY

THING:
TREE TAGGING

What does the red tag mean? If you come in and want to reserve a tree, we tag it. We also spray-paint the trunks, to make sure no one takes that tree. I hate to say it, but people out there will pull the tag off and cut the tree themselves. **People steal other people's trees?** They may pay for it, but sometimes you get a person who doesn't respect the tag. If you respect the tag, the system works. Otherwise, it's chaos. **So what type of tree is this?** It's a Norway spruce. **How many kinds do you have?** Thirty, but we just tell people we have spruces, firs and pines. If you like softer trees, go with a pine or a fir. If you have heavier ornaments, go with a spruce. People also like spruces because cats and dogs won't go near them. **What keeps you busy during the year?** The farm. You plant trees, you gotta fertilize them, shear them, shape them, check them for bugs and fungus, cut the grass. You're always fine-tuning and moving stuff around. Come April, we're planting a couple thousand trees. —ANNIE MONJAR