

Notes, Wednesday January 18th, 2023.

Halfway through January and free of snow at the moment. Mud all over. Really? Is this the Twenty First Century version of January thaw? Looks more like the first weekend in March or April doesn't it? Feels like it too. Utterly ridiculous! Mother Earth needs a blanket. Hopefully there will be one soon!

Just a quick reminder that we're still collecting coats here at Harper and we'll continue with the effort through January 31st. If you're cleaning your closets out, we're happy to take your older stuff and forward it along to someone who needs it. I think we have met our traditional goal of 100 for the year, the final count isn't in yet. Stay tuned.

Everyone has a birthday, once upon a time we celebrated those at the monthly Friendship Club meeting. The club disbanded a decade ago and we've decided to revive some of their traditions just to see what will happen. We had talked about a successor to that Club awhile ago, Covid intervened and now that we can pretty much gather safely again, we'll start small. So-we're having a celebration for everyone who has a January birthday on Friday the 27th.. If you are celebrating a birthday this month, please tell us that we may celebrate with you! We'd like to do something like this regularly, maybe not every month, at least quarterly. This will be the first event and we'll be looking for feedback from people on future formats.

The memory enhancement classes have filled up for the first round and we're starting a waiting list for the second series, which will be scheduled later this year. The first session was held yesterday afternoon and I think it went alright. Looking for information about this program? Call us, 413-458-8250.

The mobile vaccine clinic from CHP will be at the Store at 5 Corners from 10:00 -12:00 tomorrow, Thursday, January 19th and following that, at Town Hall at 1:30 -3:00 to offer flu and covid vaccines. \$25 gift cards to Big Y will be given to those receiving Covid vax at town hall. We have been told there may be \$20 gift cards for those receiving the Covid vax at the Store at 5 Corners. Check with the vaccine folks

Now, here's the news lots of people have called about. Taxes. You still have to pay them. And the tax season has arrived. The process this year will be similar to last year. Appointments will be available for Tuesday evening and Saturday mornings. The first session is slated for Tuesday Feb. 7th and the final date is April 18th. As usual, all sessions are one hour appointments. Reservations are required, walk-in arrivals will not be processed.

To reserve your slot there are two methods:

Call the Harper Center M-F MORNINGS between 9-12:00 at (413) 458-8250 Or, you can call (413) 749-2020 M-F AFTERNOONS between 1-4

If you have access to a computer, there will be a link to register yourself. We'll post it soon.

After your appointment is made, you'll have to pop in and grab a copy of the AARP intake booklet to fill out. I think they had this last year as well, you'll need to bring it with you to your session.

As usual with this program, you'll need to bring all paperwork pertinent to filing your 2022 tax returns. I think that last year a few folks didn't believe me when I said ALL paperwork. And they had to make second appointments to finish the job. Anything that you think just might be relevant, bring it, the Tax Aides will know what's needed.

You'll need to bring a copy of last year's tax returns, those would be the ones from 2021 as well.

The good news is that they're planning on being back for the 2023 season. The bad news is that we're not accepting reservations until the week of January 30th. The Tax Aide volunteers need to recertify first...

If you prefer, you can call the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) at BCAC. They are currently accepting appointments. The number for their North Adams office is 413-663-3014. Their season runs from January 31st to April 15th this year.

Well...it's supposed to snow here Thursday. We'll see. In the meanwhile, keep your umbrellas handy.

Brian