

News and notes, Thursday May 18th, 2023

The United States Postal Service has announced that the price for first-class mail rates will increase on July 9th. So, what does this mean? Postage for a 1 oz first class letter will increase by 3 cents to 66 cents, a domestic postcard will jump to 51 cents, etc. If you have a supply of forever stamps, you're good until they run out, but if not, here's your heads up, it's gonna cost more to mail after July 9th.

Our Tango class with Dave Gorson had to be postponed due to unforeseen circumstances but fear not, it's been rescheduled to happen on June 22nd at 1:00. Come and join us for Argentine Tango lessons! I've been told that if you can walk, you can do this dance. Dave Gorson, our teacher, has been dancing for more than 15 years This will be a fun 45-minute class followed by a 45-minute practice session. No partner necessary. Soft soled shoes or socks recommended. There will be refreshments available. If there's enough interest, we see about making it a regular occurrence.

Sandy Ward, a volunteer with the nonprofit Funeral Consumers Alliance of Western Mass, will be in the house again on Tuesday May 23rd. Sandy came to visit us and presented a while ago, before COVID. I guess we could characterize this session as one for those of us who will talk about death but aren't actually planning on going. So, you think you know what's needed when that hour arrives? She'll dispel common myths, describe current options, and share new information about trends in death care. You have the RIGHT to CHOOSE meaningful and affordable final arrangements. Learn how to decline unwanted services. She also has price-comparison charts including Berkshire County funeral homes yes there is such a thing.... Pizza for lunch. Let us know if you're coming by, 413-458-8250.

So...the conversation about furniture and other enhancements for Harper continues. Last month we were the recipients of funding from ARPA cash awarded to the Town. We have opted to replace some of the awful furniture in this building among other targets. If you're a member of the Yoga or any of our exercise classes you're familiar with the demonstration models we purchased as a trial run and the discussions which are continuing around this topic. Egad!

Anyway, one thing we did agree on is the need for an upgraded broadband access and new machines for the public computers. And...they're here. We have a few brand-new, high-speed computers and a new router which should enable better access for users of the public machines, and for folks who bring their own devices in. Good stuff, eh? We also purchased a much larger wall mounted TV for the main hall. Our plan is to offer educational opportunities, classes and-as we have a motion picture license-movies now and then. If you're part of the zoom yoga class, you already know how much better this is. We'll be able to host speakers on topics of interest from out of town as well.

Our series with the members of the Nursing School at McCann has begun and next week, May 25th, the topic will be a discussion about better breathing and COPD. Lunch will be spaghetti, meatballs and garlic bread at 12:30 with the conversation happening at 1:00.

See you around,

Brian