

Notes, Monday September 25, 2023

In the words of the great Yogi Berra who said, apparently, "It ain't over til it's over". The major pandemic may be over but COVID-19 is still mutating and lurking out there. I'm sure you've heard the stories about it... there was a while when you could have free home tests sent to your mailbox. It seems like a long time ago but it really wasn't. Actually, home tests are a good idea, as is getting an updated vaccination. Guess what? You can order Covid home tests once more for delivery to your mailbox

As of September 25, 2023, residential households in the U.S. can order one set of 4 free at-home tests from USPS.com again. Here's a link with all you need to know about this offer;

<https://special.usps.com/confirmation>

Orders will ship free starting the week of October 2, 2023

BTW, Yogi is reported to have uttered that phrase during the 1973 NL pennant race, which his team, the New York Mets, ultimately won. There is no official record of him saying it, he never denied it, but he did say "I really didn't say everything I said". Go figure...

Speaking of shots, this is the last warning from me to register for vaccines during the Wellness Fair here on Thursday September 28th. Here's the link;

<https://home.color.com/vaccine/register/berkshire?site=092823-harpers-center-williamstown-coa1>

This coming Friday, September 29th, we're having an important conversation here at Harper. I bet that you're all aware that we've been looking at the Town Charter, a set of codes guiding how Williamstown works, to see if there are any areas which need to change or be updated. A good example of this would be from Town Meeting last May when we voted to strike the provision requiring the Town Manager to reside in Williamstown. I can't actually tell you when this document was revised last, I know that it wasn't recently but we're looking at it now.

On Friday at 1:00 Selectors Jeff Johnson and Randy Fippinger will be in the house to talk with everyone about the process and look for your thoughts. They'll have materials to share, actually I have attached links to two pertinent links to the email, some slides with charts you may have seen at National Nite Out and the interim report on the process so far. There will be a limited number of paper copies available on the day. We'll provide refreshments. All are invited. We'll also have a few Chromebooks available for individuals who might like to do the Charter survey while they're here, just in case you're interested.

Some folks out there have collided with scheduling at the Registry of Motor Vehicles. The RMV say they provide appointments at (most) Service Center Locations during any available time Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. dedicated to customers over the age of 65 and people with disabilities. An appointment is required to visit to conduct License or ID related transactions.

There are registration-related transactions can be performed at an RMV Service Center without an appointment. Examples of Registration transactions include registering a vehicle; transferring vehicle to surviving spouse; amending a registration; reinstating a registration; and confirming identity for a registration renewal.

Customers who are at least 65 years of age or have a disability can call the RMV's dedicated appointment line at 857-368-8005 to schedule a license or ID appointment. The RMV's Senior License Renewal Appointment Line warns customers that they will not be served if do not meet the above qualifications. Email the RMV for assistance at MassDOTRMVSeniors@dot.state.ma.us.

Finally, a bit of advanced notification for an event we're hosting here at Harper next Tuesday, October 3rd.

Yes, October. How about that?

Anyway, you may have heard or seen that the Town of Williamstown is updating the Comprehensive Plan (last updated in 2002) and has spent the last year and a half surveying the community, examining existing conditions, and creating a new plan called "Envisioning Williamstown 2035". The comprehensive plan examines the town and provides insight into a wide variety of topics like town services, housing, transportation, governance, open spaces, land uses, and parks. So, on Tuesday, October 3, from 1-2 PM folks working on this plan, including Berkshire Regional Planning, will provide an opportunity for folks to provide feedback. We'll have refreshments.

Our Tech Tutors have returned, we had our first session last Friday and we're ready to host new people who would like some assistance figuring out how to use their cell phones, Chromebooks, I-pads, Kindle devices, whatever! Session time remains 4:00-5:00 and yes, reservations are required. We aren't sure what will happen in October, we don't know when Mountain Day will be so we're waiting on that before we schedule for October. We'll keep you posted.

Brian