

Notes, December 13th, 2023

Well, here we are in the final month of 2023 and tilting toward winter and whatever that may bring. In case you weren't paying attention with all these recent plus 40 temperature days, winter officially begins next Thursday. Before we get there and all that the next three months can throw at us weatherwise, let's review the basic and time-tested policies for winter weather.

If it snows and the school cancels, so do we and there will be no activity on those days. It just seems convenient to use them as a weather gauge, right? Program cancellations do not necessarily mean that we are totally closed, the Harper Center might be open and COA staff here working so feel free to call us as usual. We also have to capacity to work remotely in a snow emergency so we'll see your email and phone messages even if we aren't physically in the building.

The van is an entirely different story. That big machine does not like slippery roads and if there is a serious storm, we may cancel all or part of any day. We will let you know that it's off the road and hopefully, if we cancel, the weather should make it obvious... Questions? Feel free to ask.

As we approach January, we can hear the Tax Man out there sniffing around. Yup, winter brings that too...our AARP Tax Aide friends will be here again to help complete and file your state and federal taxes. We'll likely begin accepting appointments the middle next month, as soon as our tax volumizer gives us the green light the information and links to begin. More information will follow in a future update. In the meanwhile, they're looking for a few good volunteers to help out. If you're not afraid of numbers or computers and are interested in volunteering to help other people, this might be an option for you. You'll get all the training and support that you need, the program is short lived-it runs from February until tax D-day in April. Interested? Call us here at Harper, 413-458-8250 and we'll connect you with the program coordinators.

Jaime Elder from WES will be here this Thursday at 10 with her fifth-grade class crafting holiday cards. All are welcome to take part in this intergenerational activity. Please join in the fun and share your stories of holidays past.

Opportunities to share some holiday cheer are plentiful! As a reminder, beginning with tomorrow at 1:00 when Sandra King accompanied by Paul DiLegio on piano will lead a seasonal sing-a-long. Light refreshments will be available. Monday the 18th, Karyn O'Toole and Sandra King with youngsters from St. Pat's will be here at 3:30 to carol and offer really feel-good music for the holiday, this is their second appearance, maybe an annual thing eh? We welcome the second-grade class from WES at 11:20 on Wednesday the 20th to perform a selection of three melodies.

Just a reminder that rides on the BRTA are free for the month of December so, if you have to get somewhere and don't want to drive, leave the driving to them!

And-another reminder about the holiday gathering at the Williamstown Police Station this Saturday from 4:00 to 6:00, cocoa, games, activities, pizza...bring yourselves and anyone else interested in a good holiday party! Everyone is welcome!

Have a great week!