

☀ MARCH CALENDAR UPDATE ☀

President's Corner

The COVID-19 Outbreak and ERCV



This is my first time posting a "President's Corner" section in ERCV's midmonth *Calendar Update*, but these are unusual times. In recent days, Mayor Muriel Bowser has declared the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) a public health emergency in the District of Columbia and President Trump in turn has declared a state of national emergency. DC schools and libraries will be closed for the remainder of the month.

The health and safety of our community is always our highest priority. Out of an abundance of caution, especially because our members are older and at higher risk, our Board has decided that East Rock Creek Village will not hold any in-person social programs in March. We are exploring the use of technology (phone and web) as alternative ways to exercise and socialize together. Please stay tuned for more information. We are calling to check on our service members and identifying ways for ERCV volunteers to safely continue to be of assistance. We are also in discussions with community allies to address any growing needs in our neighborhoods.

The ERCV Board and volunteers will monitor the situation and keep you informed about future programming. In the meantime, we encourage you to stay home, avoid crowds or anyone showing symptoms (fever, cough, sore throat), and to remember to wash your hands often for at least 20 seconds (two rounds of *Happy Birthday*) per wash.

Together we can help slow the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and prevent our hospitals and health care workers from becoming overwhelmed. We will find creative new ways to be there for each other and protect the health and well-being of our community.

For information about the COVID-19 virus, please visit the [Center for Disease Control & Prevention \(CDC\)](#) website and the resources on the [DC Coronavirus](#) website.

-- David Mackoff

Meanwhile, we want to share the following information with you:

Tired of staying home? Try visiting this [website](#), which offers virtual tours of famous museums worldwide! (Thanks to Shelley Moskowitz for this great resource.)

2020 CENSUS: In mid-March 2020, homes across the country will begin receiving invitations to complete the 2020 Census. Once the invitation arrives, you should respond for your home in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail. [Here](#) is a link to an official Census Bureau video with step-by-step instructions on how to complete the 2020 Decennial Census online. We are advised, however, to wait until we receive instructions by mail before completing the online form. For more information, please click [here](#). The ERCV office and local libraries will offer assistance with completing the census online. **Please note:** The census will not ask for Social Security numbers or bank account information. **And please participate in the census:** an undercount of our seniors in DC would have significant impact on Federal funding and planning and budgeting priorities across the city.

SCAM ALERT: The DC Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking (DISB) cautions DC consumers to be wary of mailers containing official-looking forms requesting personal information, purporting to be from the DC government. These mailers may be a deceptive method of selling funeral insurance policies. If you complete and return the mailer, your information may be used by, or sold to, insurance companies. DISB offers the following tips for consumers receiving mailers about funeral insurance or related benefits:

- Be wary of any mailer offering free services or information; they often are designed to obtain your personal contact information.
- Never respond to a mailing or provide your personal information unless you know who is requesting it and why.
- By responding to a mailing, you may be unwittingly giving a telemarketer or sales agent approval to contact you.
- Research the business identified in the mailer and its owners before paying them money.

If you believe you have been a victim of a financial scam or have questions about a solicitation or company, contact DISB's Enforcement and Consumer Protection Division at 202-727-8000.



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