

AUGUST 2020

East Rock Creek Village — 202-656-7322
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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Treats for the Dog Days



DC's summer heat and humidity can get to us all at times. Normally, we might get out of town, but that's harder to do in a time of widespread pandemic. Since the dangers remain worrisome and few countries welcome our passports right now, I will remain grateful for air conditioning and the comradery of our Village as I look forward to the fall.

I am pleased to announce that, due to the ongoing public health emergency, East Rock Creek Village will continue to offer complimentary memberships and will not be asking for membership renewals for the balance of 2020. Donations, of course, certainly are welcome and appreciated, but, for right now, we are simply here to help each other get through this challenging year. And, of course, please let us know if you or any of your neighbors are having trouble coping with the pandemic. We're here to help.

As we look forward to the fall, I encourage you to stay engaged in our community. Have you ever considered volunteering to be an ERCV Board member? Think about what skills you have that we need and ways you might help us serve and grow. If you're interested, I'd love to talk with you.

Staying engaged in our community also means following the news, asking questions of local candidates when possible, and voting responsibly. **Janeese Lewis George**, who won the June Democratic primary for DC's Ward 4 Council seat, will be the special guest at our next Open House on August 13th (see below for details). She is on a pre-election listening tour in our neighborhoods and wants to hear what interests and concerns you.

Our Armchair Travel Series continues to charm! In July, Ralph Blessing kicked off his Latin America Sampler with beautiful photographs from his Peace Corps life and travels in Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, and Peru. We are bringing him back on August 20th for Part Two, which will take us to Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Guatemala, and Mexico. It's the next best thing to being there, so don't miss it.

Remember, you can always join us for early morning walks on Mondays, late-in-the-day strolls on Wednesdays, and chair yoga via Zoom on Fridays. In the meantime, please stay hydrated and take it easy in the heat. Here's to making the rest of the summer enjoyable – together.

--David Mackoff



SPOTLIGHT: Department of Motor Vehicles during the Pandemic

Is your DC Driver's License about to expire? What about your car registration, residential parking permit, and emissions inspection sticker? Do you need a Disability Parking Placard? Don't you have to get a REAL ID very soon?

The most important thing to know is that your driver's license, parking permit, and registration ARE STILL VALID. They are NOT going to expire until after the COVID-19 emergency declaration is lifted and the Department of Motor Vehicles is operating at full capacity again, likely sometime in 2021. The deadline to obtain a REAL ID has been extended until October 2021. **When travelling to other states/jurisdictions, it is recommended that you print and carry with you the memo available at coronavirus.dc.gov/DMV.** Scroll to the bottom of the page, where you will find a link to the document. Open the document and you can print it out.

The following summary will assist you if you WANT to renew your credentials during the pandemic while the DMV is not operating at full capacity and visits to most DMV offices are only by appointment. We will include links to useful sites and printable documents. If you don't have a printer, please email info@eastrockcreekvillage.org or call 202-656-7322 any day between 8am and 8pm and we will be glad to print out forms for you and get them to you, as well as review the process for you. You can also get assistance with all these issues by calling 311 and being patient.

Vehicle Registrations: You can renew your vehicle registration and residential parking permit online or by mail if your address has not changed. You may get a US Mail or email notice 60 days before your registration expires, which will help you get started. Click here for how to renew your registration online or by mail: [Vehicle Registration Renewals](#)

Inspections: The inspection station at 1001 Half St. SW is doing inspections on a first come, first served basis during August from 6am to 2pm Tuesdays through Saturday. (Hours change to 7am to 3pm the first Tuesday in September.) Senior citizens should request expedited services when they arrive in order to go to the head of the line. More information is at [inspection station](#). You can also go to the “self-serve” inspection kiosk at 300 Van Buren St NW which is entered from southbound 3rd Street. Despite the name, there has been a DMV employee on site to facilitate your inspection. The payment for inspection is included in your registration fee.

Disabled Parking Placard: You can apply for or renew a Disabled Parking Permit Placard by mail or online. You will need to have a doctor’s note stating that you have mobility difficulties. Here is where you can print out the application form including the doctor’s note: [Disability Parking Placard Application](#). More information for completing the form, including a place to apply online by scanning in a completed paper application, begins at [Disability Parking Application Process](#).

Driver’s License/REAL ID: In order to renew your driver’s license and obtain a REAL ID, you need to visit a DMV office in person. At the Georgetown facility there is a pay parking garage. At the 95 M St. SW facility there is a free parking lot. At the facility you will submit your REAL ID documents to be copied and you will take an eye test. (If you wear glasses and your mask causes them to cloud up when you’re taking the test, you can request to remove your mask.) These visits are by appointment only, with October being the earliest appointment time available now. To make an appointment online click here [DMV Appointments](#) or you can call 311. To prepare for your appointment you will need to print out and complete this application form: [Driver's License Application Form](#). If you are 70 or older you will need to have a doctor complete the doctor’s statement on the application AND also have a medical doctor and an optician/ophthalmologist complete a separate medical/eye form which you can find here: [DMV Medical Requirements](#). To have the eye form completed you will probably have to go in person for an eye exam. At the DMV you will need to present specific documents to get your REAL ID card, including a valid passport or birth certificate plus marriage certificate, your social security card, and 2 proofs of address (such as utility bills). There is a useful online questionnaire on the DMV site which can assist you in determining which documents you will need. You will find this by scrolling down to the middle of this page: [Document Verification Guide](#). There is lots more information on the REAL ID documents on the DMV site. You will want to double-check all your documents before going to the DMV so you won’t have to make a second visit.

ERCV Can Help: Please feel free to email or call ERCV for assistance in dealing with the DMV (or any other government agency). We are glad to print out forms and to help you find website locations. Our office email address is info@eastrockcreekvillage.org and the phone is 202-656-7322. The above article is also available on the ERCV website; click [here](#) for access.

--Our thanks to ERCV Office Manager Susan Davis for gathering all this information.



USEFUL INFORMATION

November General Election: The DC Board of Elections has announced they are mailing every qualified registered voter a ballot for the November General Election. What you can do:

- Update your registration so they know where to send yours: click [here](#).
- If you aren't a registered voter, there is still time to register: click [here](#).

Beware of Medicare scams: Have you gotten robocalls, text messages, or emails offering free face masks? Or maybe you've seen social media posts about free COVID-19 testing kits, "cures," or protective equipment? Unfortunately scammers are using the COVID-19 pandemic to try to steal your Medicare number and personal information. **If anyone reaches out to get your Medicare number or personal information in exchange for something, you can bet it's a scam.** Stop scams before they happen. Click [here](#) for tips on preventing Medicare scams and fraud. **If you suspect fraud, call 1-800-MEDICARE to report it.**

Do you qualify for low-cost internet and computer? One of our ERCV Board members did some research and discovered that if you have qualified for Medicaid, SNAP, or other public benefits, you can get internet service for just \$9.95/month and a re-built computer for \$149. To find out more, go to <https://connect.dc.gov/affordable-internet> or call 202-266-6328.



A note from ERCV:

ERCV portraits are taking a break in August and will return in September. **And please note** there will be no Calendar Update in mid-August, so our next publication will be the September newsletter. See you then!



PLEASE JOIN US FOR AUGUST EVENTS -

Mondays, August 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31: 8:00 am

ERCV MORNING WALKERS

- We will meet at the track behind Shepherd School; use the entrance gate on Kalmia Rd. (the Jonquil St. entrance may be locked due to construction).
- We will walk the track for about 40 minutes; stair-climbing is optional. Please wear a mask; social distancing will be observed.

- Email info@eastrockcreekvillage.org or call 202-656-7322 if you would like email or phone reminder/cancellation notification on Sunday afternoons and Monday mornings, or if you have questions. Calls or texts to 202-656-7322 are welcome Monday mornings after 7:30 am.

Wednesdays, August 5, 12, 19, & 26: 6:00 pm (Please note the new summer time.)

ERCV AFTERNOON WALKERS

- We will meet at the Learmonth's' (1309 Floral St.) and will walk from the neighborhood into Rock Creek Park for about 3 miles, staying on roadways to facilitate social distancing. Please wear a mask. Plan to bring your own water, as we will not gather afterwards for beverages for the time being.
- Email info@eastrockcreekvillage.org if you would like reminder/cancellation emails on Tuesday afternoons and Wednesday mornings, or if you have questions.

Fridays, August 7, 14, 21, & 28: 3:00-4:00 pm

ZOOM CHAIR YOGA WITH ANTONIA

- Our long-running class is now online each Friday afternoon. Gentle yoga involves centering, stretching, and balancing poses done sitting in a chair or standing next to it. Wear loose clothing. You just need a chair and a device connected to the internet — the bigger the screen, the better.
- Email info@eastrockcreekvillage.org or phone or text 202-656-7322 to register. We will send you the unique Zoom link each Thursday. Assistance in using Zoom, which is free, is available from our office.

Thursday, August 13: 3:00-4:30 pm

ERCV OPEN HOUSE VIA ZOOM: A CONVERSATION WITH JANESE LEWIS GEORGE

- Everyone is invited to join us *via* laptop, tablet, or smart phone. **Ward 4 Council candidate Janeese Lewis George** will be our special guest. She will listen to participants' thoughts and concerns and answer questions.
- Let us know if you plan to attend so we can send you an invitation with the link to join (ERCV members and volunteers will receive the link automatically). Your RSVP can be by [email](mailto:info@eastrockcreekvillage.org) or by phone or text to 202-656-7322; or you can register on our [website](http://www.eastrockcreekvillage.org).
- If you have never used Zoom before, plan to log in a little early to get oriented, or you can even call or email our office to set up a Zoom introductory meeting at another time. It's easy and fun to use Zoom, which is free!



Thursday, August 20: 3:00-4:30 pm

ERCV ARMCHAIR TRAVEL SERIES VIA ZOOM: LATIN AMERICA SAMPLER PART 2



- Join us online as ERCV volunteer & Shepherd Park resident Ralph Blessing shares more photos, like the colorful one above, from his extensive experiences in Latin America – first in the Peace Corps and later administering Fulbright Scholar programs in Latin America for many years. Those who attended Part I will be excited to hear and see more of Ralph’s experiences. If you missed it, be sure to join us anyway for Part 2, when we will visit Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Guatemala and Mexico.
- **Let us know if you plan to attend** so we can send you an invitation with the link to join in (ERCV members and volunteers will receive the link automatically). Your **RSVP** can be by [email](#) or by phone or text to 202-656-7322; or you can register on our [website](#).



. . . and some other interesting events . . .

~ Virtual Author talk: *Chocolate City*, with Chris Myers Asch: Thursday, August 6, 5:00-6:30 pm – Join Rock Creek Park, Rock Creek Conservancy, LINK Strategic Partners, and the Friends of Peirce Mill for a virtual discussion about the history of race in Washington, DC, with *Chocolate City* co-author Chris Myers Asch. Tracing D.C.’s massive transformations — from a sparsely inhabited plantation society into a diverse metropolis, from a center of the slave trade to the nation’s first black-majority city, from “Chocolate City” to “Latte City”— Asch will offer an engaging narrative peppered with unforgettable characters, a history of deep racial division but also one of hope, resilience, and interracial cooperation. The interview will be followed by small-group facilitated discussions of how our experiences today have been shaped by the past. This event is part of a series of programs that will help to explore the topic of race and create a space for sustained dialogue in which we can wrestle with the legacy of Rock Creek Park as a dividing line between communities in our city. Reading the book is encouraged but not

required. A link to the virtual meeting space will be sent to all registered participants before the event. Register [here](#).

~ ***“Fake News & Real Journalism: Why It’s So Complicated”***: Wednesday, August 19, 5:30 pm –

Offered online by Georgetown Village, free and open to the public. Bill Plante, former CBS News journalist, noted for his coverage of the civil rights efforts of the 1960s and several tours on the Vietnam War, will share his thoughts on how journalism in the US is in the process of changing, and on the crisis situations in which the US and journalism find ourselves. **To register**, call the Georgetown Village Office at 202-999-8988 or email lynn@georgetown-village.org.

~ ***Mellow Flow Chair Yoga by Zoom: Every Thursday at 4:00 pm*** – Please join Capitol Hill

Village for “Mellow Flow Chair Yoga,” led by member Robin Blum. Below is the link to join the virtual event via Zoom. All you need is an armless straight back chair and the desire to strengthen your body and relax your mind. Hope you can join us! Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87661493930?pwd=c01tLzF3T1AzaHJqd3Z0WkdaMUt2dz09>

Meeting ID: 876 6149 3930; Password: CHV

~ ***National Gallery reopening provides relief for art lovers — from the pandemic and from the heat*** –

“It is normalizing to be here,” one visitor says, despite the limited access and safety precautions. In keeping with guidelines, the museum restricts the number of visitors to about 100 per hour from 11am to 4pm, and visitors are required to wear masks. Timed passes are required for entry and [are distributed on the gallery’s website](#) every Monday at 10 a.m. for the following Monday through Sunday. Details about visiting are available on the website. The exhibit “Degas at the Opera” now continues through Oct. 12, and “True to Nature: Open-Air Painting in Europe, 1780-1870” runs through Nov. 29. The museum’s Sculpture Garden is open, and passes aren’t required. The museum’s cafe is selling prepackaged food and beverages, and its shop is open with limited inventory. Purchases must be made by credit card.

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We will be most appreciative!