

MAY 2021

East Rock Creek Village — 202-656-7322

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Emerging in the Month of May



Spring in DC is always a special time. In a normal year, watching trees budding, flowers blooming, and blossoms falling is a lovely experience. This May, though, promises to look and sound very different from most others in the past. After 17 years underground, an enormous brood of cicadas, numbering in the tens of billions, is expected to emerge in our neighborhoods and throughout the city. These imposing-looking but harmless creatures will attract all manner of birds and small animals to feast in our yards. The cicadas that survive will seek mates and then soon pass away. We will be witnesses to a rare and dramatic event. Whether we choose to consider these visitors primarily as noisy and uninvited nuisances or strange and fascinating fellow creatures is, of course, up to us!

At the same time, we ourselves are emerging – slowly – from a year of restrictions imposed by a global pandemic. Effective vaccines and good habits of behavior are making this possible. As of now, ERCV volunteers will begin again to offer rides to “non-urgent” (though no doubt important) destinations, such as barber and beauty shops, banks and post offices, and the like. Volunteers now will also be able to provide services inside members’ homes, instead of stopping at their doorway’s edge. Details of these changes are described in the Spotlight section below.

We do hope that additional volunteer drivers – new or returning – will come forward to help us help our members and address their pent-up demand. Offering even one ride per month would make a difference. We are also looking for volunteers to help members with technology. Could you help a member set up a phone or learn to log into a Zoom meeting? Volunteers are trained and vetted, set their own schedule, and choose their assignments through the ERCV website. If

you are fully vaccinated and are interested in learning more about volunteering, please contact our office at info@eastrockcreekvillage.org or 202-656-7322.

After more than a year of social distancing, ERCV's Volunteer Committee plans to offer a series of small-group outdoor in-person gatherings. We had hoped to begin in April, but unseasonably cool and blustery weather caused us to cancel. We again plan to start with a backyard pizza party, this time on Thursday, May 6th (details in the Calendar section). Seating will be limited to 15 people, so please let our office know if you're interested. Also let us know if you'd like to host future outdoor gatherings or if you have other ideas.

Understanding that not everyone has been vaccinated, and not everyone is able to get out and about, we will continue to offer our health classes (Otago fall prevention and chair yoga), Open Houses, and Armchair Travel Series via Zoom. In addition to these, I'm pleased to announce that we are launching our **first online book group**! Volunteer leader Doris Spruell will host a discussion of Isabel Wilkerson's book *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* on Saturday, May 22nd (details in the Calendar section). I hope to see you at one or more of these events.

--David Mackoff



SPOTLIGHT: ERCV Board Updated COVID-19 Policies

As of May 1, 2021:

- ERCV will relax its rules on providing rides to members and resume transportation to hair appointments, shopping, and other non-medical destinations if both driver and passenger are fully vaccinated and wearing masks.
- ERCV will resume in-home services if all parties are fully vaccinated, use masks, and maintain social distancing.
- ERCV will resume in-person gatherings with masks and distancing, provided they take place outdoors and have a limit on the number of participants.

ERCV will continue to offer technology assistance to use Zoom or set up vaccine and other online appointments, transportation to medical appointments, grocery shopping and delivery, and friendly check-in calls and visits. ERCV also contracts with a case manager who can provide assistance accessing local and federal programs and support.

(Note: As this newsletter goes to print, the CDC has updated its recommendations, allowing fully vaccinated people to NOT wear masks when outside with others who have been fully vaccinated, in small groups. The ERCV Board will consider further updates to the organization's COVID-19 policies and announce them in future mailings.)

Useful information . . .

Important updates on Dept. of Motor Vehicles procedures: At the end of this newsletter you will find detailed information, compiled by ERCV volunteer office manager Susan Davis, about the resumption of DMV parking and other regulations, with helpful links to find the details you will need.

COVID-19 updates - new options for vaccinations: ERCV can assist you or your neighbor in getting a vaccine appointment through DC Health or CVS and can provide a ride to your appointment. Call us at 202-656-7322 or email info@eastrockcreekvillage.org. (ERCV membership is open to residents of Ward 4 living east of Rock Creek Park and north of Kennedy St. who are 50 or older. There is no cost for membership during the pandemic.)

- **Senior Walk-Ups at Lamond Recreation Center:** Lamond Recreation Center (20 Tuckerman St. NE) is now accepting walk-ups for seniors (65+) on Wednesdays through Saturdays from 9am to 1pm. Eligibility will likely expand to younger DC residents soon.
- **DC residents who cannot leave their home independently can now be vaccinated at home.** All you need to do to is call **1-855-363-0333** from 8am to 7pm on weekdays or 8am to 4pm on weekends and request an appointment. Make sure you tell the call taker that you need to receive the vaccine at home.
- **All DC residents 16 and older are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in DC.** To ensure that DC is able to get the vaccine out as efficiently as possible, the Mayor is calling on all DC residents to pre-register with DC Health for a vaccination appointment by going to vaccinate.dc.gov or calling 1-855-363-0333. Within a week after you register you will be invited by email or phone to choose a vaccine appointment from a list of sites. You will know which vaccine you will be getting.
- **Appointments available at CVS:** You can also reserve vaccine appointments in DC or Maryland directly with [CVS Pharmacies](#). There now seem to be plenty of appointments available.
- **At-home COVID test kits available:** These kits are available at public libraries, including Shepherd Park. For details, click [here](#).

WMATA is retiring "first generation" SMARTRIP metro cards. To determine if you need to replace your card, check the serial number on the back. All newer cards start with the serial number 0167. Any others will need to be replaced. WMATA has provided [this help page](#) explaining all the ways to exchange your card for a new one. If you mail your old card in with [this form](#) they will even place an extra \$5 balance on your card.

DC Public Libraries to expand hours and services: DC Public Libraries are continuing to relax restrictions, with careful attention to maintaining all guidelines put out by the CDC and DC's Department of Health. Starting Monday, May 3, libraries (including Shepherd Park and

Petworth in our area) will be open on Saturdays from 10am - 6pm. Additionally, they will no longer close from 2pm-3pm each day. Click [here](#) to see more details of which libraries are open as well as a complete list of library services that will be available.

Safe at Home Program for Village members: Safe at Home is a program offered by Home Care Partners, funded by DC's Dept. of Aging and Community Living, providing a comprehensive "fall risk" assessment by occupational therapists and recommendations to mitigate risks, including professional referrals and home modifications. During the spring of 2021, Safe at Home has 2 occupational therapy interns trained to offer the assessment over the phone. We welcome **all DC Village members** to partake in a free over-the-phone "fall risk" assessment conducted by the interns. They will complete a standardized assessment and ask questions about medical history, home environment, and concerns about falling and/or remaining in the home. The interns will be able to provide a "level of risk" based upon the scoring, and suggestions for follow-up. They are supervised by the Safe at Home occupational therapists who will review each call with their staff. Click this [link](#) for details about the program. If interested, please send an email to Tori Goldhammer, Clinical Manager Safe at Home, at tgoldhammer@homecarepartners.org.



ERCV PORTRAITS: Meet Pati Griffith



ERCV Board member Pati Griffith was born in Fort Worth, Texas, and lived all over the state, due to her father's civil service job. While a journalist at the Fort Worth *Star Telegram*, she met her future husband Bill. He went to Europe to study, and she stayed in Texas to attend college. The underlying racism in that time and place were in complete opposition to her values. As editor of the Baylor University student paper, she once ran a cartoon showing the school floating on a cloud of racism. This earned her a severe public tongue-lashing in front of the Texas press corps and an accusation of "bringing Baylor to Moscow" in the *Dallas News*. Upon graduation, Pati immediately headed to New York City and never looked back.

Pati's first job in the city was at a public relations company specializing in show business. She lived in Greenwich Village, next door to Chumley's, a writers' bar that was so famous it didn't

even need a sign. Later, she worked for the ACLU and says that she learned more from that experience than from any other in her professional career.

When Bill returned to the US, he went to Yale for his PhD, and Pati and he married in 1962. They settled in DC, where Pati was a professor at George Washington University, teaching creative writing, playwriting, and contemporary drama. She was an active writer herself and produced four novels, several short stories, and three plays over the years, in addition to serving as chairperson of the board of the PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction.

In 1972, after Pati and Bill's daughter was born, the family came to live on Geranium Street. While working and raising a young child, Pati didn't get involved in community initiatives, other than the Orange Hat Brigade (a citizens' crime prevention initiative). Pati and Bill moved to a house on 13th Street when stairs became a challenge. Her daughter and granddaughter now live in Clarksburg, MD, and Pati spends time with them whenever possible.

After losing Bill in 2014 and retiring in 2017, Pati was delighted to join ERCV and Shepherd Park Citizens Association. Pati has had a life-long fascination with how communities form outside of religious environments. It's even a recurring theme in her books! This makes her especially happy to be part of ERCV. Indeed, since 2019 Pati has graciously allowed ERCV to use her home's basement apartment as its office and a primary space for meetings and parties.

Pati is glad to see that ERCV is thriving, and notes that one "silver lining" of the pandemic has been the possibility for us to connect with more people than might otherwise have been the case.

-- Our thanks to ERCV Board member Brenda Mejia for this interview



PLEASE JOIN US FOR MAY EVENTS -



Mondays, May 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31: 10:00-11:00 am

ERCV MORNING WALKERS

- We will walk in Rock Creek Park. Meet where Juniper St. runs into the Park. We will walk at a leisurely pace on the wide, flat path for about 30 minutes, masked and distanced. There is street parking in the area.
- Reservations are not necessary, but if you email info@eastrockcreekvillage.org by 9:00 am Monday or call/text 202-656-7322, we can add you to the Sunday evening email reminder list or send a Monday morning phone or text reminder; AND we will wait for you at the trailhead before we set out if you let us know you will be coming.

Mondays, May 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31: 5:30-6:30 pm

ERCV AFTERNOON WALKERS

- We meet at the Learmonths' at 1309 Floral St. and walk on the very wide track in old Walter Reed, finishing before 6:30 pm.
- Reservations are not necessary, but email info@eastrockcreekvillage.org or call 202-656-7322 if you would like reminder/cancellation emails.

Tuesdays, May 4, 11, 18, & 25: 10:00-11:00 am

ZOOM OTAGO EXERCISE WITH ANTONIA

- Antonia, our yoga instructor, is leading an Otago exercise practice designed for those who have Otago experience or experience with other Strength and Balance Classes. These exercises are proven to prevent falls when practiced regularly.
- Email info@eastrockcreekvillage.org or call 202-656-7322 for more information on Otago and to receive the Zoom link.

Thursday, May 6: 1:00-2:30 pm

RESCHEDULED BACKYARD PIZZA PARTY!

- This was our trial in-person event that had to be canceled in April because it was too cold & blustery. We're going to try it again, hoping the weather (and the cicadas) will cooperate. Seating is limited to 15 people who are fully vaccinated (2 weeks post-final shot).
- We will meet in Margie Odle and Carl Bergman's beautiful backyard, and ERCV will provide Ledo pizza.
- Please **RSVP** to our office at info@eastrockcreekvillage.org or 202-656-7322, and stay tuned for more opportunities to get together soon. Also, let us know if you need a ride to attend.



Thursday, May 6: 3:00-4:30 pm



ONLINE OPEN HOUSE — MOTHER'S DAY EDITION

- Let's celebrate Mother's Day together! Share sweet and fun memories of your own mom or of your life as a mom. Who are your favorite moms in history, literature, or film? If you send photos to info@eastrockcreekvillage.org, we will display them while we talk.
- Here's the [Zoom link](#) for the Open House:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83778076927?pwd=QXdzTTFtb3lhenRTcXErQXhIM0l4dz09>; or join by telephone for a conversation without pictures: Dial 301 715 8592 and when prompted enter Meeting ID: 837 7807 6927 Passcode: 871985.

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

ZOOM CHAIR YOGA WITH ANTONIA

- Our long-running class is online each Friday afternoon. Gentle yoga involves centering, stretching, and balancing poses done sitting in a chair or standing next to it. It is recommended for everyone.
- Email info@eastrockcreekvillage.org with questions about Zoom and to receive reminder emails each week. Here is the [Zoom link](#) to join the class.

Saturday, May 22: 2:00-3:30 pm

INFORMAL BOOK DISCUSSION: ISABEL WILKERSON'S *CASTE*

- Join us for an informal discussion of Isabel Wilkerson's *Caste: The Origin of our Discontents*, with ERCV volunteer leader Doris Basquine Spruell as facilitator of our conversation.
- We will explore Pulitzer Prize-winning author Isabel Wilkerson's beautifully written, deeply researched, and eye-opening examination of how America today and throughout its history is shaped by what the author labels as a hidden "caste" system – a rigid hierarchy of human rankings and divisions.
- While everyone may not agree with Wilkerson's bold premise, it is certainly worthy of a discussion among friends and neighbors.
- Please contact ERCV at 202-656-7233 or email info@eastrockcreekvillage.org to register for the [Zoom](#) meeting. **Notice: This book is approximately 400 pages, so please start reading now!!**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85976191765?pwd=M3NMcfhQM2hUaXhBUGIBUVJRujVTdz09>

Thursday, May 27: 3:00-4:30 pm

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL SERIES: A VIRTUAL DOCENT-LED TOUR WITH THE SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN ART MUSEUM (SAAM) – “ON THE MOVE: AMERICAN ARTISTS AND THE LURE OF TRAVEL”

- Are you looking forward to returning to visiting museums in person? Some of the Smithsonian museums, including SAAM, will re-open on May 14. But if you’re not quite ready to plan a trip – or even if you are – we’re offering another virtual tour this month.



- Join Melissa Clark, SAAM docent, for a lively hour of close looking and conversation about selected works from SAAM’s expansive collections. Our theme is “On the Move: American Artists and the Lure of Travel” – a great prelude to satisfying our pent-up desire to take a road trip! Hope you can join us. Photo provided by SAAM: *US Highway 1* by Allan D’Arcangelo.

- To join the tour, use this Zoom link:

<https://smithsonian.zoom.us/j/87351872237?pwd=WXEveDNINVhDOVB3R3RzFMMzhCUT09>

Meeting ID: 873 5187 2237; Passcode: 650794



EVENTS OFFERED BY OUR SISTER VILLAGES
(free & open to all Villages)

Villages in the DC area work closely together, sharing resources and inviting others to participate in larger programs. Following is a sampling of these shared offerings; for more, visit the website DMVVillageEvents.org.

~ DC Strong: Recognizing our Community’s Collective Response to Helping Older Adults

Thrive: Thursday, May 20, 9:45-11:30 am – The 13 DC Senior Villages invite you to join a Zoom celebration of aging in DC. There will be a special pre-program at 9:45 am that includes **photos of ERCV members**. Find out how our city created strong partnerships to support our seniors during the COVID-19 emergency and what to expect in the future. You’ll hear from Mayor Muriel Bowser; Department of Aging and Community Living Director Laura Newland; Councilwoman Anita Bonds; Age-Friendly DC Coordinator Gail Kohn; The Washington Home CEO Phyllis Dillinger; Medium Rare Owner and Philanthropist Mark Bucher; and the DC Villages community of staff, members, and volunteers. This event is a time for learning, remembrance, and reflection on the past year and for being informed as we look ahead to the future — we must remain “DC Strong”! To **register (required)** click [here](#).



... AND SOME COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES ...

~ *Contemporary Voices – Ai Kijima, Master Quilter and Fiber Artist: Tuesday, May 4, 6:00 pm*

– This is one of a series offered by the Georgetown University Museum and Textile Museum. Ai Kijima is a master quilter and full-time professional artist with bachelor's and master's degrees in Fiber and Material Studies from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Ai Kijima is an artist born in Tokyo and currently living in Brooklyn. Her distinctive works are chaotic collages, amalgamations of found material painstakingly stitched into evocative cross-cultural patchworks. In this talk, Kijima will discuss her artistic practice over the last 30 years, as she has developed her expertise in textiles as an immigrant in the United States and as an expat living in Istanbul, Turkey, for more than four years. For details and to **register**, click [here](#).

~ *A Look at Voter Suppression – Virtual Discussion Series: Monday, May 17 (& the 3rd Monday of every month), 7:00 pm*

– This Shepherd Park Library virtual discussion series will be held on the third Monday of each month at 7pm. Conversations will be had about voting as a civil right, vote-by-mail restrictions, and more. Are you politically active or knowledgeable on matters of voting? If so, we would like to invite you to lead a discussion as a guest speaker! If you would like to be a speaker or receive the link to the meeting, email shepherdparklibrary@dc.gov.

-- Our thanks to Shelley Moskowitz, ERCV member and consultant, for compiling events for the calendar.



May 2021

UPDATE — DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES FUNCTIONS

After suspending enforcement of parking regulations and extending the validity of expired drivers' licenses, parking permits, and vehicle registration during the pandemic, the DC Department of Motor Vehicles is beginning to return to normal functioning. This document outlines DMV procedures and the **changes which will occur as of June 1 (registrations and parking permits) and July 1 (driver's licenses)**.

If you need additional information from online sources, copies of any of the applications and forms referred to, assistance with getting your vehicle emissions tested at the self-service kiosk, help getting an in-person appointment at a DMV office, or a ride to the DMV, ERCV can assist. Email info@eastrockcreekvillage.org or call 202-656-7322 any day from 8am to 8pm. (ERCV membership is free during the pandemic.)

Vehicle Registrations and permits must be current beginning June 1, 2021:

- You must renew your vehicle registration and residential parking permit online or by

mail. Do not make an in-person appointment for these services.

- Click here for how to renew your registration online or by mail: [Vehicle Registration Renewals](#)
- Residential Parking Permits can be renewed with your vehicle registration. Any registration renewed with an RPP request on or after June 1 will be subject to new tiered [RPP fees](#).

Inspections:

- The inspection station at 1001 Half St. SW does inspections on a first come, first served basis Tuesdays through Saturdays from 7am to 3pm. After June 1 the hours are 6am to 2pm.
- Senior citizens can 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 St. (Note that the self-serve kiosk will only work if your car has had at least one previous inspection at the Half St. facility.)
- Payment for the inspection is included in your registration fee.
- After June 1, inspection stickers must be current.

Parking Enforcement/Visitor Parking Permits:

- The 2020 Visitor Parking Permit will continue to be valid until a new permit is introduced.
- Residential parking, parking meters, and all other parking regulations will be enforced beginning June 1.

Disabled Parking Placard:

- You must 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:

- Beginning July 1, 2021, your driver’s license will need to be current. To renew your driver’s license and obtain a REAL ID, you must visit a DMV office in person, submit your REAL ID documents to be copied, and complete an eye test. These visits are by appointment only. For those under 70 years of age who already have a Real ID license the process can be completed by mail or online.
- To make an appointment online click here [DMV Appointments](#) and be prepared for

frustration as you search all locations week by week. It is easier to call 311 or 202-737-4404. You will likely be given an appointment within a week, so be sure to have all your forms and doctor notes completed before you call.

- Before you make the 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 optometrist/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 to an optometrist/ophthalmologist in person for an eye exam.
- You will need to collect forms to get your REAL ID, including a valid passport or birth certificate, marriage certificate, Social Security card, and two proofs of address. For more information on the necessary documents go here: [Document Verification Guide](#).
- You will want to double-check all your documents before going to the DMV so you won't have to make a second visit. Feel free to call ERCV at 202-656-7322 for a document review.

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Our thanks to the DC Department of Aging and Community Living (DACL) and The Washington Home for their generous support.



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Thanks!