

APRIL 2019

East Rock Creek Village — 202-656-7322
info@eastrockcreekvillage.org—www.eastrockcreekvillage.org



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

A Time to Bloom



Spring is in the air! Cherry blossoms circling the Tidal Basin are in their full glory, and soon our neighborhoods will be adorned with the spectacular colors of spring. It's a wonderful time to get outside and enjoy the sights with your ERCV neighbors. If you are able, I hope you will join our new Wednesday afternoon walks to see what's blooming.

Springtime is all about new and renewed growth. This can be true for people as well as plants. We at ERCV believe that, rather than simply "aging in place," we can continue to grow as people throughout our lives. There's always something new to learn or to teach, something new to try or to share. I hope this spring as you grow and thrive you will think about how you might help ERCV do the same. Volunteer to assist our service members. Share your expertise, interests, or enthusiasms with us. Consider serving on our Board of Directors. Or, think of friends who might like to be part of ERCV and bring them to a lunch, an event or activity, or an Open House. Together let's all stretch, grow, and enjoy this beautiful season.

--David Mackoff



SPOTLIGHT: IT'S SPRING - COME OUT AND HAVE FUN!

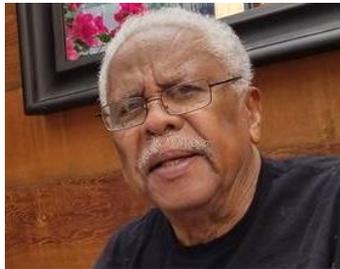
ERCV Walkers: We're on the move on Wednesday afternoons – April 3, 10, 17, & 24. Please join us! We meet at 4:00 at Susan Learmonth's home (1309 Floral St. NW), walk for an hour or so, and then return to Susan's for tea or lemonade. There were six walkers on two recent walks, enjoying the good company while netting about 7000 steps in the neighborhood and the Pine Trail in Rock Creek Park. Future walks will offer a choice of distance and terrain, depending on the wishes of the walkers. **If you respond by email to info@eastrockcreekvillage.org or call or**

text 202-656-7322, we won't leave until you arrive; and we'll send you a reminder each week and be sure to let you know if there's a cancellation.

ERCV Lunch Day: We're planning lunches on the 4th Wednesday of each month. Come along and bring a friend! On April 24 we will enjoy Italian cuisine at Vicino Restaurante Italiano, 959 Sligo Ave., Silver Spring. We will all pay for our own lunches. If we have a group of six or more, we can order a special lunch served family style, with 4 starters (white pizza, sautéed mushrooms, steamed broccoli, Caesar salad), 3 main dishes (chicken with lemon, lasagna, spaghetti), and soft drinks, for \$15/person; or we can order from the regular menu of pizza, subs, and Italian dishes ranging from \$9 to \$16. Directions: north on Georgia Ave. & turn right on Sligo Ave. just after the train track underpass. Vicino is on the left. Park by the restaurant or in the public parking garage down the alley. **Please RSVP** to info@eastrockcreekvillage.org or phone 202-656-7322 so we will know how big a table to request. Do let us know if you need a ride.



ERCV PORTRAITS - Meet Gene Davis



On March 25, 1927, Eugene A. Davis (Gene) was born and became a rare being – a native Washingtonian! Even more unique, both of his parents were born and raised in the District as well.

Gene grew up in Georgetown and attended Phillips-Wormley Elementary School. He graduated from Armstrong High School in 1945. While both schools were segregated, he says he only ever experienced “white water” and “white bathrooms” while visiting Virginia.

While in high school, Gene worked part time as a messenger for the federal government. After graduation, he was drafted into the Navy, where he thrived as an operator of landing craft mechanized (LCMs). After serving on active duty during the Korean Conflict, he returned to DC and rejoined the federal government. Gene was one of the first people to work with computers, as he moved from being an operator of “accounting machines” to computers in the 1950s.

He moved to his current home, in upper northwest (Takoma DC), in 1957, where he was only the second black person to move into the neighborhood. He says what intrigued him most

about the house were a beautiful brass bed in one of the bedrooms and a 1937 two-seater Ford roadster in the garage. He thought those items would be included, and was somewhat disappointed when he didn't see them on move-in day. Fortunately for us, he decided to stay anyway!

Gene was one of the original Neighborhood Watch block captains, and stayed active in that role for 10 years. He and his late wife Flora Esmilla were also the treasurers for Blessed Sacrament School in the Chevy Chase neighborhood. He has five children, and is extremely proud to have put four of them through college. The youngest is still working on it.

Gene still stays busy, despite some challenges with his vision, by participating in water aerobics twice a week at the Takoma pool. Sometimes he even fills in as the instructor. He always spends January-February in Florida, and travels to California and the Philippines regularly to visit with family.

Since he recently gave up driving, Gene has also become something of an expert on all the various modes of transportation available to seniors. He can tell you the easiest and cheapest way to get from point A to point B any time of the day, week, or month!

One of things he laments is that neighbors don't seem to know each other as much as they used to. So if you have the chance to say hello to Gene, please do!

-- Our thanks to ERCV volunteer Brenda Mejia for this interview



PLEASE JOIN US FOR APRIL EVENTS --

Wednesdays, April 3, 10, 17, & 24, 4:00 pm

ERCV WALKERS – See details in “Spotlight” above

- Meet at the home of Susan Learmonth, 1309 Floral St. NW, and walk for an hour, followed by lemonade or tea.
- Email info@eastrockcreekvillage.org, or call or text 202-656-7322 to let us know you are coming, so we won't leave without you!

Fridays, April 5, 12, 19, & 26, 3:00-4:00 pm

CHAIR YOGA FOR SENIORS

- **Location:** Juanita Thornton/Shepherd Park Library, Conference Rm. 2 upstairs. There is an elevator to the second floor. Limited parking at the library – 7420 Georgia Ave. NW –

and metered street parking on Georgia Ave. as well as free 2-hour parking on the side streets.

- A gentle movement class that can be enjoyed by anyone; no experience is needed. Wear comfortable clothes. All are welcome! Reservations are not required, but if you contact us (info@eastrockcreekvillage.org or 202-656-7322) we will schedule you for email or text reminders & notice of cancellations in case of bad weather.

Sunday, April 14, 3:00-5:00 pm

ERCV OPEN HOUSE – ALL ARE WELCOME!

- At the ERCV Office, 7707 13th St. NW; the entrance is in the rear, off the alley beside the house. You'll see our sign on the door.
- Join us for conversation and light refreshments, and learn more about how to enhance your quality of life, or that of your loved one or neighbor. All are welcome – come and bring your neighbor! Or **let us know of potential members you would like us to invite!**
- For more information, contact ERCV at 202-656-7322 or info@eastrockcreekvillage.org.

Wednesday, April 24, 12:00 noon

ERCV LUNCH DAY – See details in “Spotlight” above

- This month's lunch is at Vicino Restaurante Italiano, 959 Sligo Ave., Silver Spring.
- **Let us know you are coming** so we can reserve space (info@eastrockcreekvillage.org or 202-656-7322) and let us know if you need a ride.

Sunday, April 28, 2:00-4:00 pm

ERCV VOLUNTEER TRAINING SESSION

- A training session for those interested in volunteering for ERCV as drivers, office support, or board or committee members.
- Pictures will be taken for identification badges and information for a background check. Please bring your driver's license and copy of your car insurance policy if you intend to volunteer as a driver.
- **Location:** Sunrise Senior Living, 2201 Colston Dr., Silver Spring. Refreshments will be served.
- Please **email us by April 22** at info@eastrockcreekvillage.org if you would like to attend, or if you have questions.



COMMUNITY EVENTS OF INTEREST

- **Wed., April 3, 10, 17, & 24, 1:00-2:00 pm: Tai Chi Class** – St. Paul's Center, Rock Creek Church Rd. & Webster St. NW. Free; beginners welcome. Improve flexibility & balance,

reduce stress, improve leg strength, enhance sense of well-being. For more information call 202-726-2080.

- **Fri., Apr. 5, 7:00 pm; Sat., Apr. 6, 6:00 & 8:00 pm: Bethesda Film Fest** – Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. Five short documentaries by local filmmakers; Q & A with filmmakers. View film titles or purchase \$10 tickets online [here](#). Questions? Call 301-215-6660.
- **Sat., Apr. 6, 8:30 pm: Exploring the Sky** – Rock Creek Park near the Nature Center, in the field south of Military & Glover Rds. NW. Parking lot next to the field. Free; hosted by the National Park Service & National Capital Astronomers. Beginners & experienced stargazers welcome. For more information: 202-895-6070 or click [here](#) for details.
- **Sun., Apr. 7, 12:00-5:00 pm: Community Day at National Museum of Women in the Arts** – 1250 New York Ave., NW. The first Sunday of each month, NMWA offers **free** admission for visitors to explore the permanent collection & current exhibits. For further information: 202-783-5000 or media@nmwa.org.
- **Tues., Apr. 9, 1:00-3:45 pm: Suburban Hospital Cancer Program** -- Free 10-minute oral, head, & neck cancer screening at Johns Hopkins Health Care & Surgery Center, 6420 Rockledge Dr., Suite 4940, Bethesda. **Registration is required:** click [here](#). Call 301-896-3939 for more information.
- **Wed., Apr. 10, 6:00 pm: Staying Safe at Home: Emergency Response Systems & In-Home Electronics (sponsored by Georgetown Village)** -- St. John's Episcopal Church, 3240 O St. NW (use Potomac St. entrance). Free event. Gerontology experts share information about various in-home emergency response systems and their advantages and disadvantages. Light refreshments. Seating is first-come, first-served. **RSVP by Mon., Apr. 8:** 202-999-8988 or lynn@georgetownvillage.org.
- **Sun., Apr. 14, 2:00-5:00 pm: Shepherd Park History Day: Share Your Neighborhood Story** – Juanita Thornton/Shepherd Park Library, 7420 Georgia Ave. NW. American U. graduate students of Public History will bring their “Humanities Truck” and interview three to six community members, regardless of tenure in the neighborhood. They are also eager to collect SPCA or neighborhood records or archives from anyone who wishes to contribute to memorializing Shepherd Park's History. The Humanities Truck is equipped with state-of-the-art archival equipment, so you can be a part of history in the making!

-- Our thanks to ERCV volunteer Rosalind Palmer for compiling events for the calendar