

December 1957

The Pimmit Hills Newsletter

Official Publication of the Pimmit Hills Citizens Association

Officers PHCA 1957-58:

John P. Shacochis, President
Robert Printzenhoff, V. President

Mrs. Quentin T. Wahl, Secretary
Gerald G. Thompson, Treasurer
Mark P. Enger, Sgt.-At-Arms

The next general meeting of the Pimmit Hills Citizens Association will be held at 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 3, in the Pimmit Hills School. It is hoped that if you can find your way clear that you will attend this short meeting, whether or not you are a member. Following the meeting, there will be a "get-acquainted" social.

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Somewhere in Pimmit Hills is someone who knows something about coaching a basketball team. If this should apply to you, and you are interested in coaching the Teen Club basketball team, how about giving Quentin Wahl a call on TW 3-8594.

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If you've been looking for a place for the youngsters to go—and know where they are at the same time—how about letting them go to see a feature movie of their hero "Jungle Jim" at the State Theatre in Falls Church? The movie will start at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, December 14. And the price is reasonable—canned food or a toy equivalent in price to twenty-five cents. Actually, it's for a very cause. The canned food and toys will be used to make up baskets on Christmas for the needy in the Falls Church-Fairfax area. The whole thing is being sponsored by the Junior Women's Club of Falls Church.

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While we're on the subject of Christmas, you can start dusting off those Yuletide decorations. Once again the Green Thumb Garden Club will be out around Christmas to award Pimmit Hills residents prizes for (1) best decorated door, (2) best decorated window, (3) best decorations overall. You may pick up all applications to enter this contest at the General Meeting, Tuesday.

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Sometimes it takes the youngsters to lead the way. It seems as though the Teen Club in Pimmit Hills is gathering canned food to help out those who need things more than we. If you'd like to help them out in their Christmas venture, how about bringing along some canned foods to the meeting Tuesday night. The amount you want to donate is up to you. Just remember the good feeling you get when you sit down to a Christmas dinner and realize that you've helped someone else out.

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See you at the meeting Tuesday night at eight in the Pimmit Hills School.

FAIRFAX COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN

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FACT SHEET

WHAT IS THE FCARC?

It is an organization of parents and friends joined together to further the interests of retarded children by attempting to provide better facilities for their care, training, education and welfare. It is a non-profit group, affiliated with the Virginia Association for Retarded Children and is one of 500 units of the National Association for Retarded Children.

WHAT IS MENTAL RETARDATION?

It is a condition of impaired or incomplete mental development. There are many degrees of mental retardation.

OBJECTIVES OF THE FCARC

1. To promote the general welfare of mentally retarded children of all ages.
2. To further the training and education of personnel for work in the field of mental retardation.
3. To further the enactment and implementation of legislation in behalf of the mentally retarded.
4. To acquaint the public with the needs of the mentally retarded.
5. To contribute to programs dedicated to research on the problem of the mentally retarded.
6. To solicit and receive funds for the accomplishment of the above purposes.

THE SIZE OF THE PROBLEM

Three children out of every 100 born are destined to be mentally retarded. EVERY parent is vulnerable, regardless of economic status, race, color or religion. Intellectually, retardates range from the totally helpless to the many more who are very little differ-

ent from the "normal." A comparison of permanent afflictions, based on each 100,000 population follows:

	Per 100,000 Population
Mental retardation.....	3,000
Rheumatic heart.....	700
Cerebral Palsy.....	350
Polio (permanent, pre-Salk).....	300
Blindness	200

THE PROBLEM IN VIRGINIA AND FAIRFAX COUNTY

1. Lynchburg Training School and Hospital, our state-supported institution for the mentally retarded of all ages, has 2,600 patients in space planned for 1,900. Several hundred more are on the waiting list. Parents pay the State \$65 per month per child for care at Lynchburg. It is estimated that there are over 15,000 individuals between the ages of six and thirty who are mentally retarded in the State of Virginia who are not in institutions.
2. Exact figures are not available on the number of retarded in Fairfax County. However, based on the national average (3%) and the number of children in the Fairfax County School system (43,000—1957 pop.) it is estimated that the number exceeds 1,000 retardates of school age.

WHAT DOES FAIRFAX COUNTY PROVIDE?

Fortunately, Fairfax County has recognized the problem and during the past few years, through the efforts of the County Officials and the FCARC, additional classes have been added until in 1957-58 a total of 19 classes are available. These 19 classes serve approximately 250 children. One additional class has been added during the 1957-58

school year. Training is available until about 16 years of age. Children, who for one reason or another, do not fit into the public school classes must be cared for at home, placed in an institution, or sent to private schools at a cost of \$65 to \$400 per month to the parents.

WHERE DO FUNDS GO?

15% goes to the Virginia Association for Retarded Children; 15% goes to the National Association for Retarded Children; 70% is retained by the local association to meet its objectives.

FCARC PROGRAMS

1. Continuance and expansion of the summer recreation program.
2. Establishment of special nursery classes for children under six.
3. Working toward increasing the number of special education classes.
4. The initiation of vocational training and sheltered workshops.
5. Provision for scholarships—to encourage more teachers to enter the field of special education.
6. The support of social training, such as Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brownies, Campfire Girls, etc.

WHY WE ARE NOT A MEMBER OF UGF

We need to tell the public directly about the problems of retardation in order to try to make everyone realize that these children have a right to be happy and enjoy the same privileges as the normal child, so that they, too, may develop their full potentialities. It is necessary to have a full scale program with specific budget requirements already in existence, to qualify for UGF. This program is still in the planning stage.

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO FCARC ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

For further information, write:

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