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The Pimmit Hills DISPATCH

COURTESY OF THE PIMMIT HILLS CITIZENS ASSOCIATION, INC. 1927 PIMMIT DRIVE, FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA 22043

June 2000



Have a great summer; see you in September!



Don't miss the last meeting of the season!

Pimmit Hills Citizens Association meetings:
Tuesday, June 6, 2000 at 7:30 pm
Pimmit Hills School, 7510 Lisle Avenue, Falls Church



Pimmit Hills
Your Community

The Pimmit Hills Citizens Association and the *Dispatch* will go on a break until September. We hope you have a safe and happy summer and that you enjoy your house, neighbors and this community. This is a great place to live!

☞☞

We finally got some response out of the community! There's not enough room to publish the Letters to the Editor here, but check out our new website for the *Pimmit Hills Dispatch* where you will find all the letters. The website address is: <http://www.suburbanweb.com/PimmitHills>. Letters to the editor must be signed and please include the street you live on. We welcome your opinions. Watch the website as we add features to help you communicate with the Association. ☞

Community Clean-Up Day

It's the annual Pimmit Hills Community Clean-Up Day! Dumpsters will be available up at the Pimmit Hills School from 8:00 am to Noon. Fairfax County is providing the service and will take almost anything, but please use discretion and be respectful of the area by refraining from leaving piles of debris outside the dumpsters. For questions, call Keith or Jackie Allison at 703-356-9632.



Saturday, June 10
8:00 am to Noon

at the Pimmit Hills School on Lisle Avenue



Pimmit Hills Citizens Association

OFFICERS for 2000-2001:

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| President | Joe Baker | 703-448-1394 |
| First Vice President | Linda Rose | 703-442-8375 |
| Second Vice President | Bill Niland | 703-356-8240 |
| Treasurer | Cindy Kwitchoff | 703-734-0402 |
| | Advertisements | |
| | Linda Rose | 703-442-8375 |
| | Membership | |
| Secretary | Jennifer Baker | 703-448-1394 |
| Three Year Director | Martha Duggar | 703-356-6508 |

WHO TO CALL:

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Neighborhood Watch | vacant | |
| Fairfax County Police (non-emergency) | | 703-691-2131 |
| <i>The Dispatch</i> Delivery | Linda Rose | 703-442-8375 |
| <i>The Dispatch</i> Editor | Cindy Kwitchoff | 703-734-0402 |
| | | fax 24 hrs/day: 703-734-0779 |
| | | e-mail: PimmitHills@suburbanweb.com |
| | | mail: 1925 Cherri Drive |

Pimmit Hills Citizens Association, Inc. (PHCA)
1927 Pimmit Drive, Falls Church, VA 22043

Last PHCA meeting until we start up again in September:
Tuesday, June 6 at 7:30 pm at the Pimmit Hills School, Lisle Ave.

Your Community
Your Voice in Fairfax County



Pimmit Hills
Your Community

PIMMIT HILLS CITIZENS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

September 1999 - August 2000

It only takes \$3 per person to join the Pimmit Hills Citizens Association. If you haven't paid for this year, please do so to support and get involved with your community! The more members we have, the stronger our voice is with the government of Fairfax County.

Mail form to:

Pimmit Hills Citizens Association, Inc.
1927 Pimmit Drive
Falls Church, VA 22043

Name (s)

Street Address

Falls Church, VA 22043

Home Phone

E-Mail Address

Amount Enclosed (\$3 per person)

Date



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Sunday 11:30 am to 10:00 pm





Did You Know?

By JENNIFER BAKER, PHCA SECRETARY

Here's what happened at the last Pimmit Hills Citizens Association (PHCA) meeting in May:

June is your last chance until next fall to attend a PHCA meeting. Why would you want to miss out on such a great opportunity to be informed about what's happening in your community? We can't think of one good answer to that question, so mark your calendar now and plan to join us on June 6.

Remember membership is just \$3.00 per person - what a bargain! And, for just a small investment of time each month, you can find out news you need to know, like...

The Directories are here - Really! Come to the June meeting to get your very own copy.

While walking in the neighborhood, two people have been bitten by dogs. Paula Castri, the Assistant Principal of the Pimmit School, reported that two students were bitten in recent weeks by neighborhood dogs. In one case, a dog lunged over the fence at the student who was walking by, and in the other the student asked if

she could pet a dog that she met while on a walk. The dog was on a leash and the owner said it would be ok, but in the process of petting the dog, it bit the student. This serves as a good reminder to us all to be careful around dogs we do not know. It is also a good reminder to dog owners to be sure to keep dogs on leash while out for walks and to post warning signs if dogs are aggressive.

Ms. Castri also reported that the safety day sponsored by the school was a success. They learned a lot and will definitely plan on doing the event again next year.

The landscaping of the baseball field adjacent to the school for use by Babe Ruth teams for practice is moving forward. Mike Wheat from Wheat's Landscaping was on hand to share further details of the project. He explained that many of the local baseball fields have been converted to soccer fields, so space is tight. He also clarified that the field would be used for practice only by 12-13 year olds. In fact, he thought that the County has actually agreed that the field would only be sched-

Continued on page 6

DAYCARE - Licensed care provider with 15 years of experience. Takes care of newborn and up. CPR certified. Loving parent. Teaching children to develop social skills. Reasonable rates. Lives close to 495, Route 7 and 66. For more information, call 703-356-3837.

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CHILD CARE - In my Pimmit Hills home for infants and toddlers. Close to 495, Rt. 7 & 66. Experienced and great references. Reasonable rates which include lunch and snacks. Call Edna at 703-821-8366.

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WANTED PIMMIT HILLS HOUSE - Any condition. Quick settlement. Call Tom at 703-356-8805.

CLASSIFIED ADS - Reach 1,585 Pimmit Hills homes. Flat rate for all classified ads: \$5 per issue; 40 words max. Contact *Dispatch* editor to place ad, PimmitHills@suburbanweb.com.

DUE DATE for all ads for the September 2000 *Dispatch* issue: August 10!

News, Articles, Ads, Etc.

Send news items, articles, ads, responses to issues, etc for *The Pimmit Hills Dispatch* to Cindy, the editor:
EMAIL: PimmitHills@suburbanweb.com
PHONE: 703-734-0402; FAX: 703-734-0779
or drop it off at her house, 1925 Cherri Drive
Falls Church, VA 22043.

Your input is important!

The *Dispatch* is now online:
<http://www.suburbanweb.com/PimmitHills>



THE PIMMIT HILLS DISPATCH

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

MOVING SALE/YARD SALE

June 10th, 9 am to Noon, 7443 Fisher Drive. Furniture includes desk, bookcases, couch plus other misc. items. Everything must be sold! Hope to see you there! Questions, contact Tracy at 301-571-5875.

☎

HELP WANTED - cashier/photo clerk. Please apply to Tom Turner at Rite Aid, 1312 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, VA, 703-356-5824.

☎

AVON - Call Maggie, your Avon Representative, 703-356-6058. Leave name and number.

☎

FOR SALE - Stereo system; beta-max VCR and tapes; 400 feet of chainlink fencing with gate, posts, hardware attachments; tires. Best offer. Call 703-356-8240.

☎

ARTISAN CARPENTER and Handyman (40 yrs). All types carpentry, tile, drywall, sink & toilet leaks, repair or replace small roofing and gutter repair and clean out. Siding, fascia & soffet repairs. Simple basic building plans. Call 703-893-8190 between 9 am-5 pm; leave message.

☎

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machine woven cane, splint, fiber rush, and shaker tape. Free estimates. Please call Esther Kilburne at 703-893-6912.

☎

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Continued from page 4

uled for use by youth teams, and no teen or adult leagues would be allowed to use the field. He noted that his company will be moving home plate back and installing a full overhanging, and doing some general cleanup and beautification work. Previously, there was a concern raised about the impact on both the school and the houses near the field, but apparently those have been addressed with school representatives and people with lots closest to the field.

Another Community Clean-up Day is scheduled for June 10, 2000. Dumpsters will be available up at the school from 8:00 am to Noon. The County is providing the service and will take almost anything, but please use discretion and be respectful of the area by refraining from leaving piles of debris outside the dumpsters.

The slate of officers for 2000-2001 was presented to the membership by Linda Rose, First Vice President and Chair of the Nominating Committee. Since everyone was running unopposed, a motion was made to accept the slate unanimously. The vote passed without opposition and the new officers were officially elected to their positions. Thanks to each person who

has consented to serve: Joe Baker as President, Jennifer Baker as Secretary, Linda Rose as First Vice President, Bill Niland as Second Vice President, Martha Duggar as the 3 year Director, and Cindy Kwitchoff as Dispatch Editor. Linda and Cindy will share the duties of Treasurer.

A concerned resident has asked that the Association address the issue of people renovating and adding onto their property without the proper permits. It seems there are many people in the neighborhood who are building without regard to local safety codes and, as a result, are taking a great risk because their efforts are likely to result in a tragedy down the road. Roofs that are not properly secured can collapse and faulty wiring can cause a fire, just to name a few of the hazards. In addition, inferior workmanship can cause huge headaches down the road for new owners.

The Association officers will try to have a speaker from the County Zoning Department come and share with us the process for obtaining the appropriate permits. In the meantime, if you are build-

Continued on page 8

**Next PHCA Meeting:
Tuesday, June 6 at 7:30 pm**

Church Celebrates Christmas in April

Twenty-two members of St. Luke's United Methodist Church, the Pimmit Hill's community and Eastern Application team descended on a home on Oswald Place and left it much approved. It was truly Christmas in April for homeowner Mary Asp.

The team was able to accomplish the following projects: painting the kitchen, kitchen cabinets, living room, dining room, hallway, master bedroom and bathroom. They repaired a bathroom including the retiling of a wall and replacing the floor. Gutters were cleaned, they did some roof repair, and finally, they did yard work.

Mrs. Asp was particularly pleased with the new look of her home from the painting and improvement to the bathroom.

At the end of the day, the team was tired, but they felt good to see how much a difference can be made in a short time with so many people helping.

The members of the team who participated included Nancy Atlee, Bill Bolinger, Teresa Campbell, Pat Czakra, Linda Gleason, Jeanne Ingle, Patsy Lawton, St. Luke's Pastor Gretchen Miller, C. Beth Mills, Janice Myers-Coleman, Karl Ritchey, Connie Shrader, Kenny Shrader, Phyllis Shrader, Tom Kallio, Ted Tieff, Jessica Urquiola, Cathy Wise, Joan Wise, Jose Marquina, Joaquin Torres-Campos, and Antonio Marquina.

St. Luke's United Methodist Church is located on Route 7 near the Pimmit Hills Library. ☪

More Community News.....

There is a new manager at the Commons Rite Aid. Come on by and meet Mike Cueto and his assistant manager Don Abare.

☪

New Second Vice President Bill Niland wants to remind senior citizens that they can get a discount on their trash pick-up service. He also suggested residents may wish to have only once-a-week trash pick-up instead of twice-a-week to save money. Call him at 703-356-8240 for more information.

☪

If you have news this summer, send it to the editor and she will add it to the new *Pimmit Hills Dispatch* website.

Forge'. Easier to find are some of the related trees that are being planted as elm substitutes, such as the Lacebark Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*) and Japanese Zelkova (*Zelkova serrata*). Both of these guys create fine-leafed canopies, deep roots and little fuss or muss.

Oaks are always a favorite...at least among neighborhood squirrels. To avoid the mess of acorn deluges every fall and late season leaf-drop, plant the aptly named Willow Oak (*Quercus phellos*). Its narrow, un-oaklike leaves disappear into the lawn and the acorns are the size of large peas...well, maybe really large peas, but definitely small by oak standards. One of the prettiest trees come Fall is our Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*). This Dogwood relative (though you'd never know it by looking at it) turns its leaves a brilliant red just about the time the colors peak in October.

I avoid recommending Maples as shade trees because their dense canopy and greedy surface roots make it difficult, if not impossible, to grow other plants, including grass, under mature trees. They also seed profusely and require regular maid service to keep tidy. But set back away from pavement, gutters, and lawn areas, the named Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) and the Norway Maple (*A. platanoides*) selections offer some of the best Fall colors around.

Choose a narrow, upright evergreen for year-round visual screening. There are lots of evergreens out there, but most get too big around the middle as they mature. (See? People and plants do have something in common!) You also want fairly fast coverage without having to spend a lot of cash. The Leyland Cypress (*x Cupressocyparis leylandii*) takes the title here: dark green, narrow at only 1/5 to 1/8 its height in spread, hybrid-fast in growth and out-distancing the ol' arborvitae in drought tolerance by a mile.

For something a little less common, try a couple of hybrid Hollies, the fine-leafed Foster's Holly (*Ilex x attenuata 'Fosteri'*) or the beefier Nellie Stevens Holly (*I. x Nellie R. Stevens*). Both are beautiful berry-bearing bushes, beloved of both Bostonians and Baltimoreans. Believe me! Look for the Arizona Cypress called 'Blue Ice' at the nursery. You can't miss its powder blue plume-like foliage and, despite its Southwestern origin, it's quite happy screening my neighbor's garage. And for something really different, try a screen of the dwarf Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) called 'Little Gem'. A line of these will make a dense, low evergreen screen or hedge, complete with small white flowers over most of the growing season.

Horticulturalist Deanne Eversmeyer lives on Leonard Road.



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ing or thinking of building, don't take unnecessary chances, do it right and get whatever permissions you need to undertake the job.

Fill out your Census Form! Please be sure to take the time to complete and return your census form. And, if for some reason a representative from the Census Bureau should come knocking on

your door, please treat them kindly. An accurate census can benefit us all by ensuring that our representatives have the information they need to correctly allocate resources.

See what you miss out on when you don't come? We look forward to seeing more friends and neighbors at the June Meeting! ☞

Illegal Construction in Pimmit Hills

By Tim Kramer

At the May meeting of the Pimmit Hills Citizens Association, I brought up the subject of the illegal construction that is going on in the Hills. I think that with a neighborhood that is as quiet and pleasant as the Hills are, everyone who has a neighbor that is building without a permit needs to talk to that neighbor and let them know what problems they and future owners of the house will face.

When a homeowner decides to do construction on their home, they are not only building for themselves but for everyone in the Hills. Not only are they making their home better, but they are increasing the value of their property, which benefits everyone. When a construction project is



Your addition is not complete unless you have a valid construction permit from Fairfax County.

completed with a valid building permit, Fairfax County has made sure that the construction was completed per construction codes. This also means if you put your house on the market, the home is current on the county tax rate.

Continued on page 10

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The Pimmit Hills Gardener

By Deanne Eversmeyer

There's been some talk lately about the trees. Now I don't usually go 'round hugging trees, but the other day I did go out and run a string around one of the two giant Tulip Poplars (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) in my back yard. Using a formula remembered from high school math (Yea! Statesmen!), I figured this tree to be about seven feet in diameter just above the base! Pretty amazing... both the tree and that I remember anything from high school math class!

Some folks are afraid of their Tulip Poplars and I guess they do have a reputation for dropping limbs and occasionally entire trees without notice, but I love my twin giants. They shade most of my backyard from the afternoon sun and, with their deep, fleshy roots (as opposed to shallow and fibrous), they do not compete with the shade loving shrubs and perennials I've planted beneath. Try growing prized Japanese Maples and fancy-leaf Hostas under a Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) and you'll see what I mean.

We live in Pimmit Hills, and you

can't control what your neighbors do with a chainsaw. Nor can you control nature. Even if your neighbor's tree shades your patio now, it may not be there next summer or even next week. And their pine may hide their shed now, but you never know when the next plague of insects might show up for dinner. So, if you want shade, plant yourself a shade tree-- there are plenty to choose from.

Years ago, before Dutch elm disease arrived, the umbrella canopy of the American Elm (*Ulmus americana*) shaded many streets. A few still survive, and nurserymen are introducing resistant varieties, such as 'New Harmony', 'Princeton' and 'Valley



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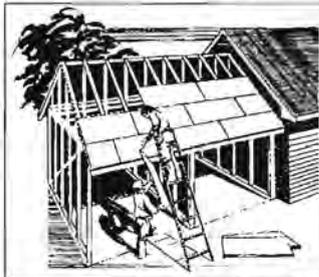
Continued from page 8

When some Pimmit Hills residents request a permit for an addition, they find out that the previous additions on their house were done without the County's knowledge. This, in turn, makes them responsible for unexpected additional tax dollars!

I ask all residents to keep an eye open for homeowners who are building without a construction permit to call the County of Fairfax Building Enforcement Office at

703-324-1937. If you give them the address, they will be able to tell you if the homeowner has a valid permit. You don't have to provide your name, so there will be no retaliation from your neighbor.

I have lived in Pimmit Hills for almost 15 years and I have seen this neighborhood blossom into a great place to live. It is wonderful that so many people are remodeling, renovating and adding on to



their homes which makes our neighborhood a pleasant place to live. Please abide by the code of Fairfax County whenever you decide to do the above.

Homeowners who have filed for a permit are required to display

the red permit in their front window so that all will know the construction project is being conducted legally.

When I see construction on a home that does not appear to have a valid permit,

I regularly call the County to see if a permit is on file. I do this not for my benefit, but for all of Pimmit Hills. I am not against any construction project, but I am against any illegal construction projects in the neighborhood.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have questions, please contact me, Tim Kramer, at 703-893-9278.

Tim lives on Anderson Road.

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☪

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 Saturday 8:00 am, Vigil 5:00 pm;
 Sunday 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 am
 and 12:30 pm

☪

Garfield Memorial Church
 (Disciples of Christ)
 1731 Great Falls St, McLean
 Pastor Kenneth W. Collins
 703-356-7878
 Church school 9:30 am
 Worship service 10:30 am

McLean Presbyterian Church
 1020 Balls Hill Rd, McLean
 Pastor John Hutchinson
 703-821-0800
 Worship at 9:30 and 11:00 am
 Sunday school for children and
 Adult Education classes at 9:30
 and 11:00 am

☪

St. Luke's United Methodist Church
 7628 Leesburg Pike (Pimmit Hills)
 Rev. Gretchen A. Miller
 703-893-9220
 Sunday school 9:30 am
 Worship service 11:00 am

☪

Idylwood Presbyterian Church
 7617 Idylwood Rd, Falls Church
 Pastor Leonard B. Sirbaugh, Jr.
 703-573-3027
 Worship/Church school K-6 at
 11:00 am; Coffee hour at Noon

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Fox Hunt Realty

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Dunn Loring, VA 22076

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Pimmit Hills Senior Center

Open to everyone 55 years of age or older.

7510 Lisle Avenue
Falls Church, VA

Monday through Friday
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Pimmit Hills Senior Center offers a wide variety of activities such as ceramics, craft classes, exercise classes, guest speakers, blood pressure screenings, weekly shopping trips and various other programs. We also offer a daily hot lunch for a donation based on your monthly income. If you would like to find out more about the Center, please stop by anytime to visit and pick up a copy of the monthly calendar with a complete listing of the daily activities and menu, or call Brenda Riley at 703-734-3338. Listed below are just a few of the programs offered:

Monday, June 12 at 11:00 am

Simply Jazzercise

Friday, June 16 at 11:00 am

Father's Day Celebration

Tuesday, June 20 at 10:30 am

Craft Project: Stenciled Barbecue Aprons (RR), cost \$12.50

Friday, June 23 at 12:00 pm

Annual Summer Cookout (RR)

Thursday, June 29 at 11:00 am

Blood Pressure Screening

Pimmit Hills Senior Center is operated by Fairfax County Community and Recreation Services.



Heard on the Grapevine

By Donnie Dick



A AA Trash Service sent me notice that because yard debris had to be placed in see-through bags or different type of bags, they would have to charge an extra fee for their pick-up. I tossed the letter in the trash because I mulch my leaves and grass clippings. This appeared to me a way of raising their fee schedule without saying so.

I started thinking how the cost of living has risen since the first of the year. It started with the cost of gasoline. Then the *Washington Post* increased their home delivery rates. My real estate appraisal increased (automatic tax increase unless the tax rate is decreased). Well, the County Supervisors said the real estate tax rate will remain the same and *ipso facto* a tax increase.

Fuel prices have led to many price increases in related indus-

tries. Trucking fees, airline fares, even cab fares. Interest rates are increasing in every area except for rates paid by banks to depositors. The stock market is in the pits. What is the average citizen going to do to keep up? The Treasury Secretary says the economic fundamentals are sound and we shouldn't be concerned. His tea leaves are different from mine.

All this concern brought about because environmental services requires see-through bags at the landfill. Couldn't we just have County leaf and mulch pick-up in our sanitary district and have its cost hidden in our County tax bill?

On this high note, I end my last column for this year. Have a nice summer. Hope to see you in the fall. ☞

Donnie Dick lives on Nigh Road.

The Pimmit Hills Dispatch online:
<http://www.suburbanweb.com/PimmitHills>

PH Citizen Contact Information



Supervisor Stu Mendelsohn
 McLean Government Center
 1437 Balls Hill Road
 McLean, VA 22101
 703-356-0551 phone
 703-821-4275 fax

Jane K. Strauss
 School Board
 10700 Page Avenue
 Fairfax, VA 22030
 phone 703-246-4780
 email: board@burkholder.fcps.k12.va.us



Fairfax County Police (non-emergency): 703-691-2131

Internal Affairs (complaints related to service provision): 703-246-2918

Traffic Safety Division: trafsaf@co.fairfax.va.us

McLean District: mclcapt@co.fairfax.va.us

Pimmit Hills School: 703-506-2344

7510 Lisle Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22043

To report safety, parking or behavioral concerns: 703-506-2318

Principal: William Harper, 703-506-2315, wharper@fc.fcps.k12.va.us

Asst. Principal: Paula Castri, EdD, 703-506-2310, pcastri@fc.fcps.k12.va.us

Asst. Principal: Bud Mayo, 703-506-2273, bmayo@fc.fcps.k12.va.us

Fax: 703-506-2397 Web site: www.fcps.k12.va.us/PimmitAltHS/



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