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The Pimmit Hills Citizen Association  
1927 Pimmit Drive  
Falls Church, VA 22043  
PimmitHills.org

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## How to Advertise in the Pimmit Hills Dispatch and reach 1,636 Pimmit Hills homes

- Display ads: \$30 for ¼ page per month; \$55 for ½ page per month; \$80 for entire page per month. Your ad designed for free.
- Classified ads: 40 words maximum; \$10 per month
- Write check to: PHCA (Pimmit Hills Citizens Association)
- Mail check to: Editor, Pimmit Hills Dispatch, 1925 Cherri Drive, Falls Church, VA 22043
- Send news items, articles, ad copy, classified ads, etc to the *Dispatch* Editor via:
  - email—dispatch@pimmithills.org
  - fax—703-734-0779
  - mail—above address

### April issue deadline: March 14

### Pimmit Hills Citizens Association Meeting Dates:

March 4, 2003

April 1, 2003

May 6, 2003

June 3, 2003

No July or  
August  
meetings

PHCA community meetings are at 7:30 pm the first Tuesday of every month at the Pimmit Hills School, 7510 Lisle Avenue. *ALL Pimmit Hills homeowners and renters are welcome and encouraged to attend!*

March  
2003

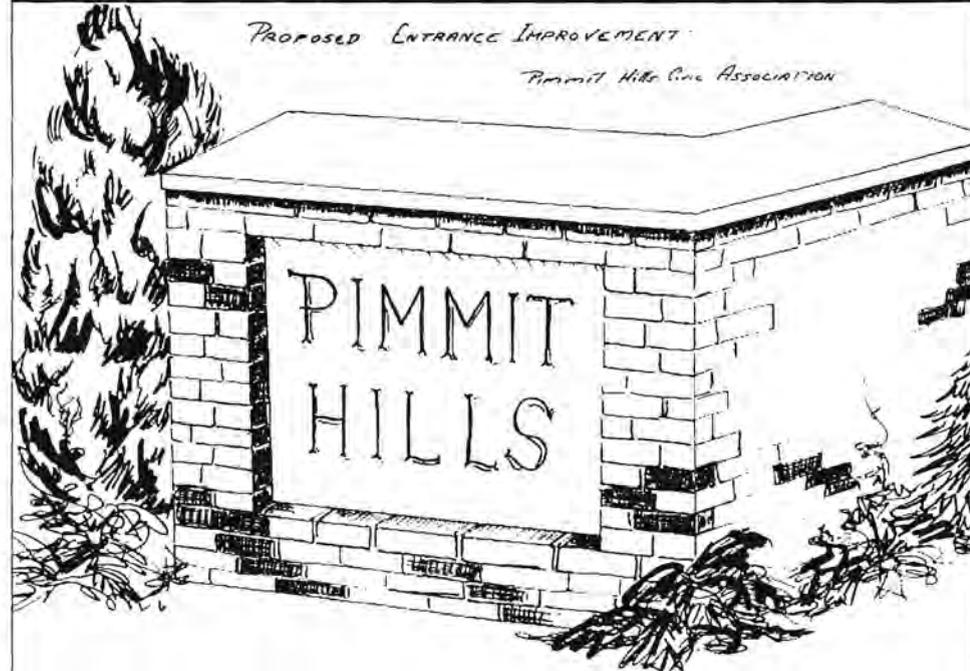
# The Pimmit Hills Dispatch

Our Neighborhood,  
Our Home

## PimmitHills.org

Published since 1952  
Courtesy of the Pimmit Hills  
Citizens Association

PIMMIT HILLS, VIRGINIA ■ ESTABLISHED IN MAY 1950



Original drawing from the 1950's or 1960's of a sign project we have been wanting to do for that long!  
We're closer than ever to actual implementation of the project but we need your skills and/or material to build it.

See page six for more information.

# PIMMIT HILLS NEWS

This issue may arrive at your homes a bit later than normal because of computer problems and the snowstorm.



Speaking of the incredible amount of snow we had, many called wishing to thank their fellow neighbors for shoveling their sidewalks and driveways. Elderly residents in particular were grateful for the kind assistance from neighbors in clearing away the knee-high snow that blocked doors, walkways and covered cars. So **thank you** to all those who not only shoveled out their own houses but those of their neighbors!



The *Dispatch* received word that long-time Pimmit Hills resident **Floyd "Digger" O'Dell** of Cherri Drive passed away. He had been an active part of the Citizen's Association and served as the editor of the *Dispatch* during the 1960's. Digger was the local beekeeper and many neighbors were recipients of jars of "homemade" honey. He was always willing to help out a neighbor in need and we will miss him. Our condolences to his family.



Esther Kilburne of Ware Drive has many varieties of hostas and day-lilies that she would be willing to trade for irises or any other type of perennials. If anyone is interested in a **plant trading club**, we only need a list of potential traders. Many perennials multiply so fast

they need regular thinning, so it's either trade away, give away, or throw away.

Also, Esther is willing to help a new gardener who wants some freebies. Please contact her at 703-893-6912 if you would like to join a list of community plant traders.



Our annual **Pimmit Hills Community Yard Sale** will take place on Saturday, April 26th at the PHCA house at 1927 Pimmit Drive. All Pimmit Hills residents are invited to sell their stuff at this combined sale. Mark your calendars!



The PHCA officer positions of **President** and **First Vice President** are up for election. If you are interested in serving in one of these positions, please contact the PHCA.



**Upcoming PHCA Meeting Date:**

## March 4, 2003

We will be discussing and voting on the amendments to the PHCA Bylaws that were read at the last meeting. You can read the amendments at [www.pimmithills.org](http://www.pimmithills.org). The meeting begins at 7:30 pm at the Pimmit Hills School on Lisle Ave. All **homeowners and renters** are encouraged and most welcome to attend meetings to meet your neighbors, learn more about your community, voice your concerns, and participate in votes.



**Pimmit Hills**  
Our Neighborhood  
Our Home



# Pimmit Hills Citizens Association

## Pimmit Hills Citizens Association

1927 Pimmit Drive, Falls Church, VA 22043

EMAIL: PHCA@pimmithills.org, WEBSITE: PimmitHills.org

### OFFICERS for September 2002 to June 2003:

<b>President</b>	Joe Baker	703-448-1394 president@pimmithills.org
<b>First Vice President</b>	Bill Niland	703-356-8240 firstveep@pimmithills.org
<b>Second Vice President</b>	Lee Rock	703-760-7181 secondveep@pimmithills.org
<b>Treasurer</b>	Kim Rollen	703-761-7391 treasurer@pimmithills.org
<b>Secretary</b>	Sarah Rock	703-760-7181 secretary@pimmithills.org
<b>Three Year Director</b>	Martha Duggar	703-356-6508 director@pimmithills.org

### WHO TO CALL:

PHCA Chairman for Volunteers	<i>vacant</i>	
Neighborhood Watch	Bill Niland	703-356-8240
Fairfax County Police (non-emergency)		703-691-2131

**The Dispatch Editor** Cindy Kwitchoff 703-734-0402

**Contact Information for Ads/Articles** fax: 703-734-0779  
email: [dispatch@pimmithills.org](mailto:dispatch@pimmithills.org)  
mail: 1925 Cherri Drive



<b>Display Ad Rates:</b>	<b>Classified Ad Rates:</b>
\$30 for 1/4 page per month	\$10 per month; 40 words max
\$55 for 1/2 page per month	
\$80 for entire page per month	
<i>Ads designed for free, send copy via email, fax or mail</i>	

## PH Citizen Contact Information

**Supervisor Stu Mendelsohn**  
McLean Governmental Center  
1437 Balls Hill Road  
McLean, VA 22101

PHONE: 703-356-0551; FAX: 703-821-4275  
EMAIL: stuart.mendelsohn@co.fairfax.va.us

**Delegate Jim Scott, 53rd House Dist.**  
P.O. Box 359  
Merrifield, VA 22116-0359

PHONE: 703-560-8338  
EMAIL: DelJScott@aol.com

**State Senator Janet D. Howell**  
P.O. Box 2608  
Reston, VA 20195-0608  
PHONE: 703-709-8283  
EMAIL: SenHowell@aol.com

**Congressman James P. Moran**  
5115 Franconia Road, Suite B  
Alexandria, VA 22310-1903  
PHONE: 703-971-4700  
WEBSITE: www.house.gov/moran

**Jane K. Strauss, School Board**  
10700 Page Avenue  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
PHONE: 703-246-4780  
EMAIL: jane.strauss@fcps.edu

**Pimmit Hills School**  
7510 Lisle Avenue  
FRONT OFFICE PHONE: 703-506-2344  
FAX: 703-506-2397  
To report safety, parking or behavioral concerns: 703-506-2318  
Beverly R. Wilson, Principal  
PHONE: 703-506-2315  
EMAIL: beverly.wilson@fcps.edu

### Most Requested Numbers

Area Agency on Aging, 703-324-5411  
Athletic Service, 703-324-5533  
Animal Control, 703-830-3680  
Audit Hotline, 703-876-0526  
Cox Cable, 703-378-8422  
Clerk-Board of Supr, 703-324-3151  
Consumer Affairs, 703-222-8435  
Dept of Health, 703-246-2411  
Dept of Motor Vehicles, 703-761-8435  
Disabilities Svc Board, 703-324-5421  
Dept of Public Works  
Environmental Svcs, 703-324-5033  
Site Inspections, 703-324-1950  
Electoral Board, 703-222-0776  
Fairfax County Public Schools,  
703-246-2502  
Gas Leaks, 888-223-9452  
Human Services, 703-222-0880  
Office for Children, 703-324-8100  
Office for Women, 703-324-5730  
Park Authority, 703-324-8700  
Pimmit Senior Center, 703-734-3238  
Planning Commission, 703-324-2865  
Police (non-emerg) 703-691-2131  
Tax Administration, 703-324-8234  
Trash Collection/Recycling,  
703-324-5040  
VDOT Maintenance, 703-383-VDOT  
Virginia Power, 888-667-3000

### Zoning Enforcement Complaints, 703-324-1300

**Joan Dubois**  
Fairfax County Planning Commission  
12000 Govt Center Pkwy, Suite 330  
Fairfax, VA 22035  
PHONE: 703-324-2865  
FAX: 703-324-3948  
E-MAIL: plancom@co.fairfax.va.us



## Pimmit Hills 2002-03 Membership Drive

The annual Pimmit Hills Citizens Association (PHCA) Membership Drive begins September 2002 and ends June 2003. Dues are only \$12 per person. Please show your support of your community by becoming a member!

### Your membership dues go towards:

- Printing and delivery of the *Pimmit Hills Dispatch* (which costs about \$2 per house *per month*--10 month schedule equals \$20)
- PHCA Telephone Directory
- PHCA representing the community to Fairfax County and its officials
- Special community events like clean-up day, annual yard sale, holiday socials, picnics, holiday decorating contests, etc
- Projects like building *Welcome to Pimmit Hills* signs at the entrances to PH
- Sunshine fund--cheering up neighbors who are ill or who've lost loved ones
- Running monthly meetings where community business is conducted that affects you; having special speakers come to our meetings like our elected leaders, transportation and development topics
- Participating in the McLean Citizens Association which helps give us an even stronger voice in the County
- Helping PH citizens with problems and complaints; working with Fairfax County on serious property concerns
- And more!

Please send in your dues or bring them to the next PHCA meeting and show how much you care about your community!

**Mail this Membership Form with your YEARLY dues to:**  
**Pimmit Hills Citizens Association**  
**1927 Pimmit Drive, Falls Church, VA 22043**

Name(s) of PHCA Members in Household:

Street Address:

Falls Church, VA 22043

Home Phone:

E-Mail Address:

Dues Enclosed:  
**\$12 per person**

I'd like to volunteer for PHCA activities  
 yes  no



# Pimmit Hills Citizens Association Meeting NOTES

By Sarah Rock, PHCA Secretary

**H**ello neighbors! Tax season is just around the corner. Second Vice President Lee Rock shared some good tax news at the February meeting. Did you know that Fairfax County provides real estate and **personal property tax relief** to senior citizens and citizens with disabilities? In addition to real estate tax relief, Fairfax County provides grants to senior citizens and citizens with disabilities who rent their residences in order to relieve them of the indirect burden of county taxes passed on by their landlords. Applications for tax relief and grants are due April 1, 2003. For more information or to obtain an application, call 703-222-8234 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta).

The **sign committee** has been hard at work for the past few months. Kathy, Joan and John gave an update on their research and shared drawings and photos as the February meeting. One thing the committee learned was that signs are not cheap. Estimates from several sign companies ranged from \$6,000 to \$9,000! Some of the sample design drawings and photos are seen on page 6.

If you have any sign suggestions, or would like to help the neighborhood signs project, please join us at

the March meeting. On a historical note, President Baker shared an old, yellowed drawing for a neighborhood sign found in the PHCA house. It seems that signs have been a neighborhood goal for quite some time. Hopefully we will be able to realize this goal within the year.

Fifty proposed **updates to the Bylaws** were reviewed at the February meeting. Thanks to past Secretary Jennifer Baker and other Board members for their work on these revisions. As you can imagine, reading this many updates took quite a bit of time, leaving no time for discussion. We'll discuss the proposed revisions at the March meeting. If you missed the meeting, the proposed updates and current Bylaws are posted on the PHCA website ([PimmitHills.org](http://PimmitHills.org)).

Another PHCA position will be open in June; First Vice President Bill Niland has decided to step down from that position at the end of the year. Did you know that Bill was one of the founders of Pimmit Hills Citizens Association, Inc.? Thank you Bill!

If you are interested in helping shape the future of Pimmit Hills, join us at the March meeting. Hope to see you there.

[secretary@pimmithills.org](mailto:secretary@pimmithills.org)

cial \$30 (with gutter screens extra). Power washing fences, decks, siding. Call Steve at 703-475-9026 or via his pager, 703-393-3272. Free estimates. 24-hr emergency roof repairs.

**HOME IMPROVEMENT AND REPAIR**—Carpentry, drywall, interior/exterior painting, minor electrical and plumbing, siding, gutters cleaned/installed, yardwork, hauling, miscellaneous odd jobs. For free estimate, call Yemane at 703-760-0915. Please leave a message. Have built two additions to my Pimmit Hills home.

**KNITTING**—Learn to knit or receive help on current projects. Individual or small group lessons available. \$30/hr private lessons, your home. For appointment call Lynne or Kristin at Neat Knots, Inc., 703-239-0114. You can be a skillful knitting fiend.

**LOOKING FOR A WAY** to feel better? Patented soy-based products—complete nutrition, perfectly balanced ingredients and bioavailable—all in one shake. Simple, safe and it works. Call Jeff and Jane Stoltzfus, Independent Reliv Distributors, 703-848-0742.

**MARY KAY**—When was the last time you played with colors? Why not try a new shade a new look? Call Martha, your Pimmit Hills Mary Kay Beauty Representative at 703-442-8014 or [MLR1130@aol.com](mailto:MLR1130@aol.com).

**YOUR AD HERE**—Only \$10 per month with a 40 word maximum.

Easy way to get the word out to 1,636 Pimmit Hills homes!

## Ads and Articles due March 14

[Dispatch@PimmitHills.org](mailto:Dispatch@PimmitHills.org)

## Classified Ads \$10 per month

Go to [PimmitHills.org](http://PimmitHills.org) website for an easy way to send in your classified ad!



## ADVERTISING in the Dispatch

**CLASSIFIEDS:**

\$10 per month; 40 words max

**DISPLAY:**

1/4 page = \$30 per month

1/2 page = \$55 per month

1 page = \$80 per month

Ad designed for free

**Write checks to:**

PHCA

**Send checks to:**

1925 Cherri Drive

**Send ad copy to:**

email: [Dispatch@PimmitHills.org](mailto:Dispatch@PimmitHills.org)

fax: 703-734-0779

THE PIMMIT HILLS DISPATCH  
**CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING**



**ARCHITECT**—Quick, affordable computer design. I have already designed 25 additions in Pimmit Hills. Come and see my house with 2500 sq ft addition. I'll give you ideas and client reference list. Call Peter Boric at 703-790-8396 or 301-770-8595 ext. 206.

**AVON**—Independent Sales Representative Margaret "Maggie" McConchie, 703-356-6058. Request brochure, place order(s), leave message any time.

**CARPET CLEANING**—5 rooms only \$65. 7 rooms only \$88. Furniture cleaning experts. Nationally certified. Quality service since 1975. Pet problems and carpet protection treatments. Carpet stretching. Call Mike or Bill at 703-978-2270 or 703-847-9741.

**DAYCARE**—Loving mom will care for infants and toddlers in my Pimmit Hills home. Experienced, with good references and licensed by the state. Near 495, 7 and 66. Call Malee for more information, 703-848-2371.

**FIRST CLASS TRAVEL**—Exclusive travel agent in McLean offers a 7-night/8-day vacation to Waikiki Beach, Hawaii May 7-14, 2003. Package includes airfare, transfers and beachfront hotel. Out-

rigger reef on the beach. All ground transportation and taxes included. Cost per person \$1,368 double, \$100 deposit required per person. Tour escort provided. Call 703-356-4537 or 703-827-5400

**FOR SALE**—Pimmit Hills neighbor has '73 Winnebago for sale. Good condition. 440 Chrysler rebuilt trans, good tires, VA inspection. Stove, bath, shower, sleeps four. \$3,500. Call Mac at 703-905-9707.

**FOR SALE**—Weight Bench and Weights. Marcy Power Authority bench and Legacy weights (15" and 72" bars with 18 weights). VG condition. All for \$110. Call 703-893-1590.

**FREE** wood chip mulch delivered. Also free unsplit firewood. Call Mark at 703-790-0651.

**HANDYMAN**—Kenny's Handyman Service: Kitchen, bathroom remodeling, painting, tile, drywall repair, decks power washed and repaired, minor plumbing. No job too small. Call Kenny Shrader at 703-506-4532 for free estimate. Long-time Pimmit Hills resident.

**HANDYMAN**—Roof and gutter repairs, hauling and general home maintenance. Gutter cleaning spe-

★ Announcing! ★



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**Creative Career Design & Consulting can help you:**

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Suzanne Colgan, President

25 years experience ★ A Pimmit Hills resident

*"It's never too late to be what you might have been."*



## Chair Repair

Don't throw away that chair just because its seat is gone. Have it repaired right here in Pimmit Hills. Esther repairs several kinds of woven seats, including Cane, Ash splint, Shaker tape, and Danish cord.

**Call Today at 703-893-6912**

REMOVAL ♦ FEEDING ♦ TOPPING  
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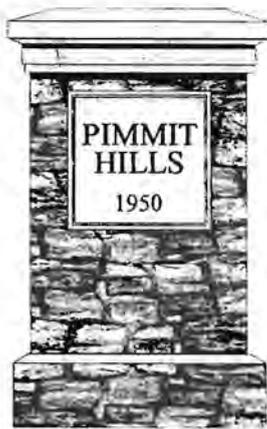
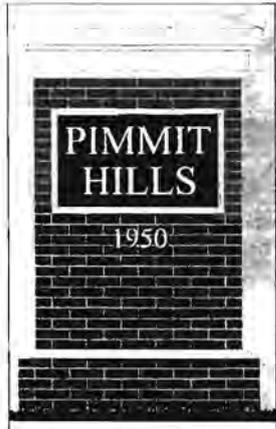
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# Pimmit Hills Neighborhood Entrance Sign Project



## HOW CAN I HELP?

**TIME**—We need volunteers of all ages and size, especially those in construction, masonry and bricklayers.

**MATERIALS**—We need cinderblock, brick, stone, mortar cement, rebarb and related building materials and tools to complete the job.

**DONATIONS**—Join the Pimmit Hills Citizens Association for only \$12 or make a specific donation for this project.

We're counting on your help and support for this neighborhood-wide effort. Pimmit Hills was established in 1950 and yet there have never been signs at our main entrances to show the pride we have in our community of 1,636 homes. This great investment in the future can only happen with *your* assistance and skills put to good use for this special place where you live.

If you can donate time or materials for the Pimmit Hills Entrance Sign Project or if you know people or companies who could donate the above materials to our community, please contact Joan Naleppa at 703-893-7866 or devine.ed@cox.net.

# Visit a Place of Worship

**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 9:15 am and 11:00 am;  
Sunday school for children and  
Adult Education classes at 9:15 and  
11:00 am

☎

**Our Lady of Good Counsel**  
**Catholic Parish**  
8601 Wolftrap Rd, Vienna  
703-938-2828; www.olgcva.org  
Mass: Mon-Fri 8:00am & 12 noon;  
Saturday 8:00 am, Vigil 5:00 pm;  
Sunday 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 am  
and 12:30 pm. 6:00 pm service is in  
Spanish

☎

**Redeemer Lutheran Church**  
1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean  
703-356-3346  
Pastor George Evans  
Asst. Pastor Jeffrey Wilson  
Sunday school 9:45 am  
Sunday services 8:30 am, 11:00 am

☎

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

☎

**The Baha'i Faith**  
703-556-3400  
Embraces the Oneness of God,  
Religion and Humanity as the  
foundation of the truth of all  
religions. The Bahai's of McLean  
and Falls Church hold gatherings,  
called "firesides," open to all at 8  
pm every Friday.

☎

## Excerpt from President George Washington's prayer for the United States:

*"Almighty God, we make our earnest prayer that you will keep the United States in your holy protection, that you will incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large."*

Continued from page 20

out, "somewhere else." Like your neighborhood.

Even though West Group wants to triple its square footage in Tysons, the rezoning would add residential units without road or school infrastructure already in place, as smart growth requires. We're to believe that nobody moving into these luxury condos will have cars or kids.

Finally, Hughes points out that local communities only heard about this development a little over a month ago. Instead of a charette, neighbors got a charade.

West Group owns much of Tysons Corner, which is a fitting monument to the developer's not-so-smart, i.e. dumb planning. But Fairfax supervisors are even dumber if they think anything's changed. ■

*(See page 26 for addresses of local politicians to write to about this issue.)*



## Second Annual Pimmit Hills Community Yard Sale

**Saturday, April 27**

Time to clean out your attic, closets, garage and make some money! No need to spend time advertising or posting signs—join forces with us and sell your stuff at this community-wide (we have 1,636 homes here!) yard sale for only \$5 a space. Don't have a lot to sell? Donate your items to the PHCA table. Money goes towards the Pimmit Hills Entrance Signs Project.

**Pimmit Hills Citizen's Association House**  
**Location: 1927 Pimmit Drive**



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Your neighborhood computer support center

Open Saturdays 10 am to 4:30 pm  
Weekdays 8:00 am to 6:30 pm  
For help with any of your computing problems, give us a call!

**Rx Pc, inc., 2190 Pimmit Drive, #212, Falls Church, VA**  
**703-893-0034 or email rxpc@itoas.net**  
**Serving Falls Church and Pimmit Hills since 1992**

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Get **UNLIMITED** funds **WITHOUT A LOAN!**  
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resident for over  
30 years

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# Curb Appeal

By Cynthia Bennat,  
Anderson Road

Hello Neighbors! Well, with the winter we've had, creating curb appeal in Pimmit Hills pretty much has been limited to shoveling snow in the past few months! Now that spring's on its way, it's time to take advantage of those first few warmer days that start showing up in

March. After all, April and May typically are peak months for real estate sales, which makes curb appeal all the more important, even if you're not selling. Our neighborhood is just beautiful in the spring—and buyers love it! Paying attention to the details and creating great curb appeal throughout the neighborhood will not only help your neighbors that are selling, it will boost your home's equity too! Plus, it just makes Pimmit even better for all of us!

There are several quick projects for a sunny afternoon that will give you a head start on your springtime curb appeal. Winter weather is sure to have left broken twigs and branches in your yard—it won't take long to gather them into a bun-

dle and dispose of them. It might seem like a small detail, but the overall effect of tidiness can only enhance the appearance of your yard. Another good "housekeeping" project for a warm day is to remove foliage from plants that have died back, so your flower beds will be

ready once the tulips and daffodils start coming up. Trimming back trees and shrubs that you didn't get to in the fall is another idea.

The early days of spring are also a great time to get a head start on weed control. Stop weeds before they start growing

again! There are a number of weed-control products available—if you're not sure what you need or where to start, head over to the local garden center. The one in Merrifield has tons of free information—all you have to do is ask for it!

While you're outside enjoying the weather, don't forget to take a look at your home! Has winter taken its toll? Look for small projects that you can take care of in an



*Continued on page 10*

## DREAM LAWNs, LLC

- Mulching and bed edging
- Spring clean-up
- Landscaping (Design & Build)
- Patios and walkways
- Retaining walls
- Irrigation
- Beautiful fish ponds and waterfalls

**Weekly Mowing for Pimmit Hills Lawns  
\$30.00**

(Larger lots and corner lots \$5.00 more,  
Bagging of grass clippings extra)

**Yearly contracts consisting of  
mowing, leaf removal in the fall, snow  
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**\$160.00 per month for 12 months  
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Dream Lawns and its employees are fully insured. We are a local company and have been in business in Northern Virginia for four years. Our mission is to provide you with the highest quality of service and professional experience.

**DreamLawnsInc.com**

**MyLawn@DreamLawnsInc.com**

**703-506-8319**

# Dumb and Dumber

*This Op-Ed appeared in the Fairfax Journal newspaper.*

THE PENDING REQUEST by West Group Properties for rezoning of its 13.5 acres in Tysons Corner from commercial to residential/mixed use is a perfect example of the way developers use the term "smart growth" to mean anything but.

The commercial office market is tanking, but residential real estate is still going strong. Guess who will benefit the most from high-density residential development in a place that can't handle even its commercial traffic?

Last year, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors reversed itself, making changes to the county's long-range plan to allow higher density around Metro stations.

But the supervisors also turned down a plan for an upscale urban village proposed by Andres Duany, whose vision of a 577-unit garden-style apartment complex looks practically Lilliputian by comparison.

Paul Hughes, head of the Fairfax Coalition for Smarter Growth, gives the West Group proposal "a failing

grade." It deserves to flunk.

West Group acknowledges that the site is too far from a transit stop, Hughes says, but plans to provide a shuttle service for just five years. After that, residents are on their own.

And not only is there no Metro station in Tysons, but the federal government has already indicated it will not pay for the \$3.5 billion project the supervisors adopted as the "locally preferred option."

"Applicant does not appear to acknowledge any significant traffic impacts from the 1,354 dwelling units and their associated commerce," Hughes points out.

The current proffer does not even include a grocery store, but does include a \$50,000 "contribution" to Providence Supervisor Gerry Conolly's pet Providence Trail Fund.

Thousands of new residents can use it to hike to a grocery store in McLean.

The West Group's solution to the county's mounting crisis of affordable housing is not to offer any (the proffer contains eight units) but to contribute \$1 million for a homeless shelter to be built, as Hughes points

# OP ED

*Continued on page 22*



## Craig's Lawn Care, Inc.

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*Continued from page 8*

hour or two, or break a bigger project down into smaller ones. The effects of heavy snow may have your gutters sagging—it's best to get them cleaned out and reattached properly before the spring rains begin! Now is a good time for screen repair too—bring them inside to work on them, and then they'll be ready when you are. And take a look at the caulking around your windows and doors—are there any places where it could use a bit of caulk to seal it up tight and prevent rainwater from seeping in?

Pick one small detail of your house and spruce it up. Repaint or replace your mailbox and house numbers. What does the light by

your front door look like? Is it time for a new one? Maybe your front door needs a facelift. A fresh coat of paint and new hardware (such as a brass door knocker or new door-knob and lock) will make a world of difference. Give your door an updated look and help prevent scuff-marks by putting a brass kickplate at the bottom.

When it comes to maintaining and caring for your home, never underestimate the value of paying attention to the details. Although these projects are small, they'll pay off big in curb appeal! ■

*Cynthia Bernat is a licensed realtor*



## Westgate Elementary School March Activities

### March 3 to 7—Read Across America Week:

Monday, March 3: School-wide Read-In

Tuesday, March 4: Turn off the TV Night; Read-In Night 7-8 pm

Wednesday, March 5: Ronald McDonald Puppet Show K-3

Thursday, March 6: Reading is Fun (RIF)

Friday, March 7: Dr. Seuss Video shown school-wide

**March 4:** SOL 5th Grade Writing Multiple Choice Test

**March 5:** SOL Direct Writing Prompt 5th Grade

**March 11:** PTA Meeting 7 pm

**March 12:** SOL Parent Meeting - Social Studies, 7 pm

**March 24:** PTA McDonald's Night 5:30 - 8:30 pm

**March 27 and 28:** 6th Grade Trip to Hemlock

For more information, please call 703-610-5700

textured structure and will have difficulty climbing a chainlink fence. And how big will it get? That little wooden trellis that comes with a potted vine is just for ease of handling in the nursery; it will soon be quite inadequate. I know of a full grown Silver Maple that is just big enough to house an old Oriental Wisteria vine -- a spectacular sight in early spring. The Carolina Jessamine and a small, lavender flowered Clematis *crispa* are content with their copper tubing and 4x4 post.

So, what kind of trellis for that trio of vines that have eyes for the satellite dish? It's got to be big

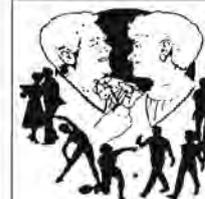
enough and perhaps somewhat cage-like to confine the rambling Rose. And delicate enough for the Clematis to wrap its leaf stems around. And big enough to handle the Wisteria. I'm thinking about three or four copper pipes an inch in diameter and eight or ten feet tall, stuck into the ground and jutting upwards, parallel to each other. Then thin copper tubing is spiraled around these from top to bottom and secured with copper wire. Hmmmm... that might just work! ■

*Horticulturalist Deanne Eversmeyer  
lives on Leonard Road*



# PimmitHills.org

## PIMMIT HILLS CITIZENS ASSOCIATION



*The Center is operated  
by Fairfax County  
Community and  
Recreation Services*

## Pimmit Hills Senior Center

The Pimmit Hills Senior Center is open to everyone 55 years of age or older. It is located at the Pimmit Hills School, 7510 Lisle Avenue, Falls Church, and its hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. 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 703-734-3338.

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cally in fall. Growing up another spiral of copper at the front door is the usual, single-flowered form — anything but usual in full bloom in early April.

The weathered old picket fence keeps another vine, our native Coral Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*), off the ground. Out by the driveway, not far from a mature Red Maple the orange-red 'Blanche Sandeman' Honeysuckle drapes across the fence while the compact, yellow-flowered form, 'John Clayton', smothers a fence in the side yard. By midsummer the end of the deck, and anyone standing too close, is swallowed by the Golden Hops Vine (*Humulus lupulus* 'Aurea'). This herbaceous twiner with chartreuse leaves and interesting green pinecone-like flowerheads, rapidly covers any structure and, as I understand, provides flavoring to beer. A native Wisteria, *Wisteria frutescens* 'Amethyst Falls', shares the deck railing with the Hops Vine. This smaller version of the common Oriental species of Wisteria blooms earlier in life and later in the season (and sporadically through the summer and fall) and is much better behaved.

Then there's the boring board fence that will soon be beautified



by the Climbing Hydrangea (*Hydrangea anomala* ssp. *petiolaris*) and the Japanese Hydrangea-vine (*Schizophragma hydrangeoides*).

Both of these clinging vines are right at home in a semi-shady, moist spot and will

grow up brick walls, wooden fences and tree trunks, anything it can get its little stem roots into. Both produce lovely white lacecap flowerheads in summer and drop their leaves in winter to reveal handsome, cinnamon-colored bark. Another member of the Hydrangea family, the native Wood Vamp (*Decumaria barbara*) is beginning to climb the giant Tulip Poplar out back. Handsome, leathery, dark green leaves trace its journey up the light gray bark.

When partnering a trellis and a vine it's important to know a few things about the vine. Is it a twiner, wrapping its stems or tendrils around the trellis? These need supports that are small enough to get around. Clematis, for example, wrap their leaf stems around objects, so the trellis must be no thicker than a pencil or the vine will sit and sulk on the ground. Or is it a climber, putting out little aerial roots that attach the stem directly to a surface? These guys need a solid,

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# Tysons-Pimmit Library News

By Chris LaMarca  
Associate Branch Manager

It's one of the first things you see when you walk in the Tysons-Pimmit Library's main entrance, and now there is a new one which is better than before. It's the electronic multimedia kiosk — the "CRiS machine" (Community Resident Information System) — an electronic helper that



you can use yourself to find County information, and conduct a variety of interactions with County agencies.

The new kiosk, which is one of many conveniently located in libraries, county buildings, and shopping malls, uses video clips, spoken data, and onscreen text to navigate the many county agency web sites. In addition, CRiS allows you to interact with it using its keyboard or an attached telephone connection.

You can use CRiS to conduct County business such as renewing vehicle registration, scheduling special collections for trash pickup, paying taxes and getting forms or job applications. You can use to find out about free programs and

services for kids, adults and seniors, and you can link to other entities such as Metro, State DMV, Schools, and more. CRiS is also equipped with a high quality laser printer which enables residents to take certain forms, applications, screen information and other documents

with them.

CRiS has touch-activated screens which guide you through this vast array of information and services. It displays frequently asked questions (and answers) and is constantly updated, with new capabilities being planned constantly. Pay it a visit the next time you're at the library. ■

**Tysons Pimmit Regional Library**  
7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church

**HOURS:**

Sunday, Noon to 6:00 pm  
Mon-Thurs, 10:00 am to 9:00 pm  
Friday, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm  
Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

**PHONE:** 703-790-8088

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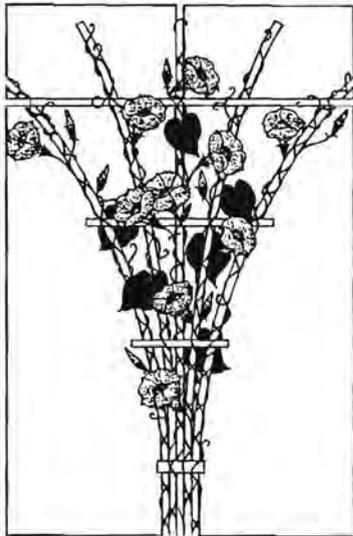
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# The Pimmit Hills Gardener

By Deanne Eversmeyer,  
Horticulturalist

As soon as the weather is decent, I've got to get out there and build a trellis for the climbing Rose, the Clematis and the white-flowered native Wisteria outside the dining room window. It's important to get this done as soon as possible because the Wisteria has started climbing the cable to the satellite dish. Domestic harmony is threatened.

I'm a big fan of climbing plants. Before moving to Pimmit Hills in '97, I sowed seeds of annual vine and grew them in pots on the patio. Now with a yard of my own, I still grow a few annuals, but it's the perennial vines that have taken over. A few years back I started bringing home the trunks of cedar trees (*Juniperus virginiana*) and standing them in the ground just to support vines. The first cedar trunk is now engulfed in Trumpet Creeper Vine (*Campsis radicans*), a clinging, woody vine that produces clusters of large, rich scarlet-orange trumpets and, occasionally,



Rubythroated Hummingbirds in summer. The vine travels up the trunk, then spays out like an umbrella when it reaches the top, creating a small tree. The second trunk is being colonized by another Trumpet Creeper Vine, *C. grandiflora* 'Morning Calm', with larger, soft

peachy-orange trumpets. The third trunk sits, waiting to be erected this spring.

When I opened up the deck to the patio with a set of wide steps, the railing post at the corner was replaced by an eight-foot tall 4x4 which was then strung with a couple a rolls of thin copper tubing from top to bottom, creating a helix trellis. A wonderful double-

flowered form of the native, evergreen vine called Carolina Jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens* 'Pride of Augusta') wraps its coppery brown stems around the tubing and carries clouds of lovely canary-yellow funnel form flowers up the post in early spring and sporad-

*continued on page 18*

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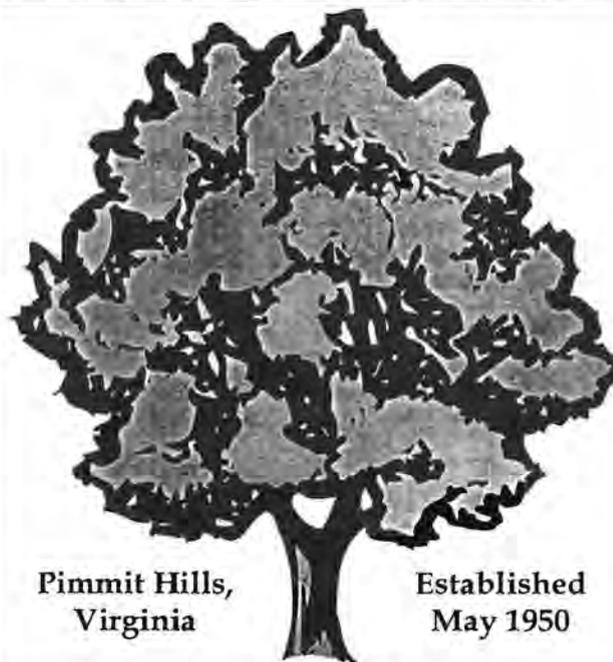


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