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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
- 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

November issue deadline: Oct 4

Pimmit Hills Citizens Association Meeting Dates:

Oct 1, 2002	Feb 4, 2003
Nov 5, 2002	Mar 4, 2003
Dec 3, 2002	Apr 1, 2003
Jan 7, 2003	May 6, 2003
	Jun 3, 2003

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!*

October 2002



The Pimmit Hills

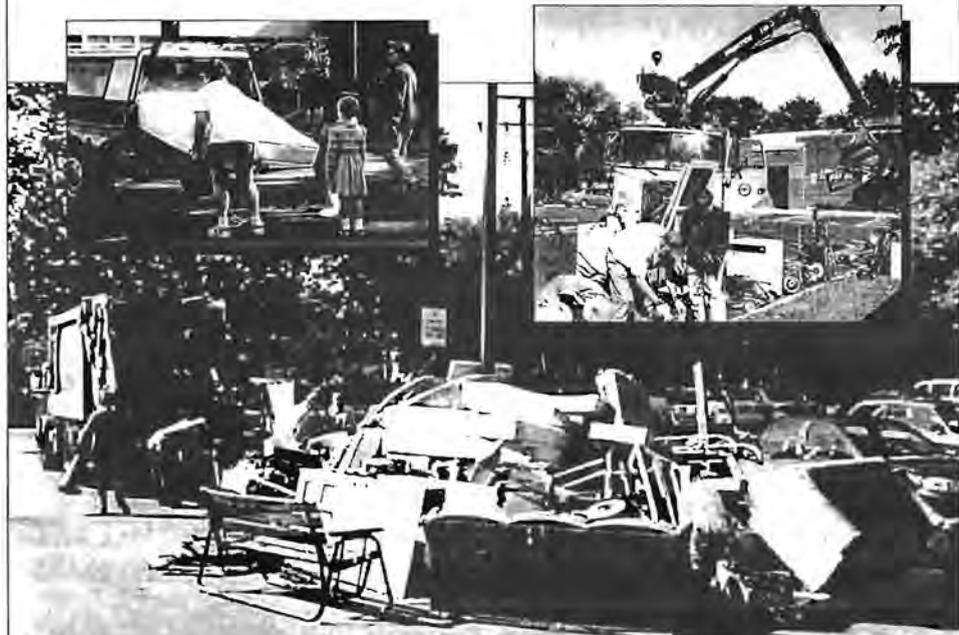
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Courtesy of the Pimmit Hills
Citizens Association

Dispatch

Our Neighborhood,
Our Home

PimmitHills.org

PIMMIT HILLS, VIRGINIA ■ ESTABLISHED IN MAY 1950



Clean-Up Day

Saturday, October 19, 8 am to Noon

PIMMIT HILLS NEWS

Clean-Up Day

The fall PHCA Clean-Up Day will be held rain or shine on Saturday, October 19 from 8:00 am to Noon at the Pimmit Hills School on Lisle Avenue. The Pimmit Hills Citizens Association with the help of Cherri Drive resident Meredith Stewart has arranged for this special day for Fairfax County refuse trucks to come take our junk away.

This is a great time to get rid of the big pieces of old junk you have in your house or your yard. What **can** you bring that day? Big appliances like ovens, washers; furniture like couches, chairs, mattresses; lamps, stereos, computers, bicycles, tables, doors, bed frames, cabinets, shelving, carpets, etc, etc.

What you **can't** bring is anything toxic like batteries, paint, gasoline, and yard waste like tree branches are not accepted.

Bring the junk you want to get rid of to the Pimmit Hills School parking lot beginning at 8 am and ending at Noon on October 19. In order to drop the stuff off, you must be a member of the Pimmit Hills Citizens Association. If you haven't sent in your dues yet, PHCA will have a table there taking dues (\$12 per person).

If you've never taken advantage of Clean-Up Day, it's an amazing thing to watch the Fairfax County garbage trucks "eat" an entire couch. They also use a truck with a

big crane which picks up all the large metal pieces. The day is also a great time to help out, meet fellow PH'ers and even spot a treasure that someone else is throwing away. Last year, many pieces of "junk" ended up not in the garbage truck but in someone else's car as they took it home to refurbish it.

If you can help PHCA out that day by helping people get the stuff out of their cars, please contact PHCA@PimmitHills.org or one of the officers (numbers are on the last page). Be sure to wear old clothes and bring work gloves.

More photos of last year's Clean-Up Day are on our website, PimmitHills.org.

Thanks again to Pimmit Hills resident Meredith Stewart for helping to arrange this event; she is already planning another Clean-Up Day in the spring.

Upcoming PHCA Meeting Date:

Oct 1, 2002

Our meetings are at 7:30 pm on the first Tuesday of every month 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:

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

WHO TO CALL:

PHCA Chairman for Volunteers *vacant*

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

mail: 1925 Cherri Drive



Display Ad Rates:

\$30 for 1/4 page per month
\$55 for 1/2 page per month
\$80 for whole page per month
Ads designed for free

Classified Ad Rates:

\$10 per month; 40 words max

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-emer) 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 <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no



Pimmit Hills Citizens Association Meeting NOTES

By Sarah Rock, PHCA Secretary

Hello Neighbors! We had a great September meeting filled with plenty of Association business and member concerns.

Some residents voiced concerns about **parking of multiple cars** in front of a house or in the backyard. There was a great article about parking in the June issue of the *Dispatch*. A new Fairfax County Board Zoning limits the portion of a home's front yard that can be paved for the purpose of parking cars and prohibits residents from parking vehicles on the grass for extended periods more than 48 hours. If you have further questions the Fairfax County Zoning Department has extensive information on their website [http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/gov/ocp/homepage.htm] or you can call them using the number listed at the back of the *Dispatch*.

Another issue of concern was **sidewalks**. Some sidewalks in our community have become so covered with undergrowth that they are impassable and dangerous, particularly during twilight and after dark. As you rake leaves and cleanup for the fall, take a look at your sidewalk and see if it needs a little trimming. If you don't have the right tools, ask your neighbors. All the Pimmit Hills neighbors I've

met have been more than willing to lend tools or a helping hand.

Speaking of fall, Halloween is just around the corner. Larry Marling of Storm Drive has an idea for a **community event on Halloween**. At the September meeting he shared with us that the 1900 block of Storm Drive receives an unusual amount of trick-or-treaters due to the festively decorated homes on the block. On the other hand many other Pimmit Hills blocks and homes receive a handful of costumed kiddies. For the past two years I know we had less than five. Instead Larry would like to invite Pimmit Hills residents to Storm Drive. If the streets could be blocked off, the entire block could be turned into a safe and traffic free Halloween party. Come to the October meeting to talk with Larry if you are interested in this idea. If you missed the meeting, e-mail me and I will put you in contact with Larry.

Another annual fall event is the **Election Day Bake Sale**. Do you love to bake? Is your pantry overflowing with goodies? Join other residents and help raise money for the Association on November's Election Day at the Pimmit Hills

Continued on page 6



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

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PHCA

Send checks to:
1925 Cherri Drive

Send ad copy to:
email: Dispatch@PimmitHills.org
fax: 703-734-0779
mail: 1925 Cherri Drive



healthy looking skin. Call Jeff and Jane Stoltzfus, Independent Reliv Distributors, 703-848-0742.

SPYDRIVE—See the secret side of Washington, DC (the Spy Capital of the World!) with retired FBI, CIA, DOD and KGB intelligence officers. 2½ hour bus tour; \$55 per person. Call Ticketmaster at 703-573-7328 or go online at SpyDrive.com for more information.

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
are due
October 4

Dispatch@PimmitHills.org

Go to
PimmitHills.org
for an easy way
to send in your
classified ad!

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.

DAYCARE—Home daycare with permit. Loving mom, experienced, will care for children 2 months to 13 years every day in my Pimmit Hills

home. Please call Fariba at 703-448-1384.

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 special \$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.

MARY KAY—When was the last time you played with colors? Why not try a new shade and a new look? Call Martha, your Pimmit Hills Mary Kay Beauty Representative, 703-442-8014 or MLR1130@aol.com. Se habla espanol.

SKINCARE FOR ALL AGES See 30% reduction in fine lines, 29% decrease in dryness, 21% increase in firmness per clinical research. Fast, easy to use formula. Have clear,

9th Annual Octoberfest

Sponsored by the Tysons Corner Lions Club

Saturday, October 19, 2002

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Colshire and Anderson, Safeway parking lot

Flea Market! Free rides for kids!

Hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks sold by Lions Club

\$10 for your spot to sell your stuff at the Flea Market.

Tables are available for rent for \$5 each. Please call 703-356-4537 to reserve your space. Baked goods permitted.

All proceeds go to community projects.

We need vendors!

For more information, call

**Tysons Corner
 Lions Club**



Continued from page 4

School. There will be a sign up sheet at the October meeting or if you miss the meeting, drop me an e-mail.

Last, but certainly not least, don't forget **Community Cleanup Day** is in October. Clean out your attic or garage and join us October 19 at the Pimmit Hills School.

Hope to see you at the October meeting! ■

Sarah Rock
secretary@pimmithills.org

PHCA Meetings

7:30 pm, Pimmit Hills School

Oct 1, 2002

Nov 5, 2002

Dec 3, 2002

Jan 7, 2003

Feb 4, 2003

Mar 4, 2003

Apr 1, 2003

May 6, 2003

Jun 3, 2003



PimmitHills.org



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\$55 per month for 1/2 page

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Your ad designed for free!

Classified Advertising

\$10 per month; 40 words maximum

Dispatch Deadline Dates

for all advertising and article submissions:

Oct 4 for the Nov 2002 issue

Nov 8 for the Dec 2002 issue

Dec 6 for the Jan 2003 issue

Jan 10 for the Feb 2003 issue

Feb 7 for the March 2003 issue

March 7 for the April 2003 issue

April 4 for the May 2003 issue

May 9 for the June 2003 issue

July and August: Not published

Checks made out to:

The Pimmit Hills Citizens Association

Mailed to:

Editor, Pimmit Hills Dispatch

1925 Cherri Drive

Falls Church, VA 22043

Email: Dispatch@PimmitHills.org ■ Website: PimmitHills.org

Phone: 703-734-0402 ■ Fax: 703-734-0779

Pimmit Hills Notes

Our thanks to Fay Place resident **Grace Zultowski** who has been bringing wonderful desserts to the PHCA meetings. You should come just for the quick coffee breaks at our meetings to have a taste!

■ ■

At the last meeting, people complained about their neighbors parking cars in the backyard or too many cars in the front yard. Some of these cars could be considered "abandoned" if they haven't been moved for a while and don't have proper registration. Call the police to have the cars towed away or call Fairfax Zoning at 703-324-1300 if you have property complaints.

We in Pimmit Hills live in a "property owner rights" neighborhood meaning we generally can do what we want with our property. Except for Fairfax County regulations, this 50 year old community has none. The problem is, some take advantage of this and then others probably sort of wish we had a little more say over what people can do with their property so that our neighborhood keeps looking nice.

There was also a complaint about some sidewalks being impassable due to untrimmed bushes and branches. People who enjoy walking in Pimmit Hills are forced to unsafely walk on the streets.

And then there are the Christmas lights up all year, people operating a car repair service in their backyard (illegal), the oft-mentioned Quonset hut, last year's Christmas

tree still hanging around, and that semi-abandoned house on Pimmit Drive that still has the unbelievable overgrowth of brush in the backyard that has climbed over the house, etc, etc.

Nearly every meeting, it's been asked that the *Dispatch* mention these items starting with the cars, but we guess that if you are considerate of keeping your place presentable, you are probably reading this. Those who don't care and will never trim their sidewalks or move their cars most likely are not reading this. What to do?

■ ■

It's not your imagination, this issue is smaller than before. The deadline for articles and ads for the next issue is October 4 which is right around the corner!

Would you be interested in writing articles for the *Dispatch*? The topics should relate to our homes, yards, Pimmit Hills people or other community issues. We need your articles and news!

■ ■

Pimmit Hills resident Gary Sample spoke up at the last meeting about friends he knows who took advantage of the high prices of PH homes, sold and moved away. All of them found they really missed our community, the great location, the land we have, the trees, etc. This same story is told by others. We are lucky to live in such a great place! Let's take care of it.

■ ■



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**Call Doug Morris, Pimmit Hills resident since 1985,
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2136-C Gallows Road, Dunn Loring, VA 22076

703-573-4300

The Pimmit Hills Gardener

By Deanne Eversmeyer,
Horticulturalist

A hhhh, Autumn! I love summer and I'm usually not too keen on seeing summer end, but, this year, I'll make an exception. We survived the kind of summer that makes the ornamental grasses look really good. When it's so hot and dry that even the Black-eyed Susans look beat up,



it's refreshing to have clumps of Fountain Grass or Feather Reed Grass looking so ... so ... refreshed. And this is the time of year that these grasses are at their finest.

Grasses add softness to the landscape like no other group of plants. Their fine texture and gentle movement in the breeze create a wonderful contrast with courser, bolder plants. Their odd flower heads (yes, those are flowers, just without petals) more often arrive in the middle of summer when the garden most needs a good pick-me-up. And ornamental grasses can serve as a great seasonal screen, a drought tolerant groundcover or an exciting focal point.

The most alluring grass that

I've grown is the Mexican Feather Grass (*Stipa tenuissima*). It begs you to run your fingers through its tresses. This evergreen clumper, when crew-cut back in early spring, soon becomes a green fiber-optics sculpture, then blooms out to a soft, upright ponytail of

golden green about two feet tall by early June, and finally a lax, sun-bleached mop by midsummer. Though native to Mexico and the arid Southwest, Mexican Feather Grass is happy in our Virginia clay with a sunny exposure. For great color from late summer through fall the Japanese Blood Grass (*Imperata cylindrica* 'Red Baron') can't be beat. This mild-mannered colonizer grows to about a foot tall and rarely, if ever, blooms. By the end of July the upright blades have taken on a lovely ruby-red color that really shines when back lit.

At the other end of the spectrum is the Variegated Giant Reed Grass (*Arundo donax* 'Variegata').

continued on page 10

MY CLIENTS WANT TO BUY YOUR HOME!

*Hello Neighbor! My name is Cynthia Bernat,
and I'm a realtor with Long & Foster Realtors.
I'm also a Pimmit Hills resident!*

Do you realize how HOT the real estate market is in our neighborhood? There are more qualified buyers than there are houses available for them to buy! What does that mean for you as a seller? Well, when supply is low and demand is high, prices go UP. You just might be amazed to know how much your little rambler is worth. Even the smallest Pimmit Hills homes are selling for *over* \$200K, and at a breathtaking pace—usually in just a few days!

Our neighbor's homes are not only selling fast, they're selling *above* list price. There are so many buyers that there are often multiple offers on the same home—and often, the buyers will offer more than list price in the hopes of "winning" the contract and having a home to call their own. But of course, only one buyer will "win"—the others are still looking for a home to buy! Have you considered selling your home?

*Please give me a call,
I would love the opportunity to answer your questions.*

THE BUYERS ARE WAITING!



Cynthia Bernat

OFFICE: 703-437-3800 ext.3065

CELL: 703-598-0399

EMAIL: cynthia@longandfoster.com

WEB: www.2hdb.com/cynthiabernat



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 Monday-Friday 6:30 am,
8:00 am and 12:00 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."

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☺ ☺ ☺

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Falls Church, VA 22043
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Sat-Sun: Closed



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703-442-8777

(Fax) 703-442-9469

continued from page 8

This flashy grass looks like a refined corn plant, topping out at six or seven feet tall. The leaves are heavily striped in white, creating the effect of



(*Helictotrichon sempervirens* 'Sapphire'). The icy-blue mounds of foliage contrast wonderfully with the burgundy foliage of 'Crimson

a tall fountain when planted against a dark backdrop. Also in the spectacularly-tall-department is Pampas Grass (*Cortaderia selloana*), with its creamy-white plumes topping out in the ten-foot range. According to the books, both of these giants are rated at only zone 8 winter hardy (we're a colder zone 7), but grasses don't read and they are managing quite well in local gardens.

For manners and good-looks, the Feather Reed Grass (*Calamagrostis acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster') can't be beat. Low grassy clumps erupt in early summer with tall (four feet or so), erect spikes of gold, a decidedly upright element in the landscape, reminding one of sheaths of wheat. A related species, Korean Feather Reed Grass (*Calamagrostis arundinacea* var. *brachytricha*) is a bit more relaxed in form and produces fatter, airier plumes that start with a rosy-purplish tint and mature to a silvery white.

If you've ever tried to grow those lovely blue clumps of Sheep's Fescue (*Festuca ovina* var. *glauca*) and found that they melt like ice by mid-summer, try Blue Oat Grass

Pygmy' Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) and 'Matrona' Sedum. Also in the blue foliage category is a variety of our native Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) called 'The Blues' (3'). This slender, upright grass performs best in soils that are on the drier, leaner side, getting a bit floppy by late summer if treated too good. The soft blue color gives way to rich russet hues in fall. For a bit of blue foliage in a more high-rise form, try one of the selections of our native Switch Grass (*Panicum virgatum*), such as 'Cloud Nine', 'Heavy Metal' or 'Prairie Sky' (about 7', 4' and 3' tall respectively); airy, open panicles float above upright clumps of bluish foliage.

For the gardener without the plentiful sun to grow these grasses, there are some beautiful, shade-loving grasses and grass-like plants to choose from. For a little height try the oddly named Northern Sea Oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*), a Southeast native, preferring a woodland garden to the oceanside. This three-foot-tall plant, reminiscent of bamboo, tops itself with a

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Pet Fair

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pendulous array of oat-like seed-heads which turn tan in fall. Slightly shorter, the Bottle Brush Grass (*Hystrix patula*) makes a great companion to Hostas and Ferns with its fine, bristly heads. For more show in the shade, plant the spectacular Variegated Hakone Grass (*Hakonechloa macra* 'Aureola'). This slow spreader eventually forms a showy cascade of yellow-green foliage about a foot high -- fabulous with any big-leaf Hosta.

And the variegated forms of clumping Sedges have really caught on in the shade garden in recent years. The Variegated Japanese Sedge (*Carex hachijoensis* 'Evergold', AKA *C. oshimensis* and *C. morrowii aureovariegata*) makes a lovely flow-

ing mound of narrow, cream striped foliage that looks great even at winter's end. The Golden fountain Sedge (*Carex dolichostachya* 'Kaga Nishiki') is similar but for a sunnier yellow striping. And for those who don't mind a perfectly healthy plant that looks dead, there's the Leather Leaf Sedge (*Carex buchanii*) from New Zealand. This sedge makes a one- to two-foot tuft of fine foliage in a most weird and wonderful bronze color -- perhaps the ultimate summer-proof plant. After all, if it looks dead when it's alive, who's to know if it does succumb to August's worst? ■

Horticulturalist Deanne Eversmeyer
lives on Leonard Road


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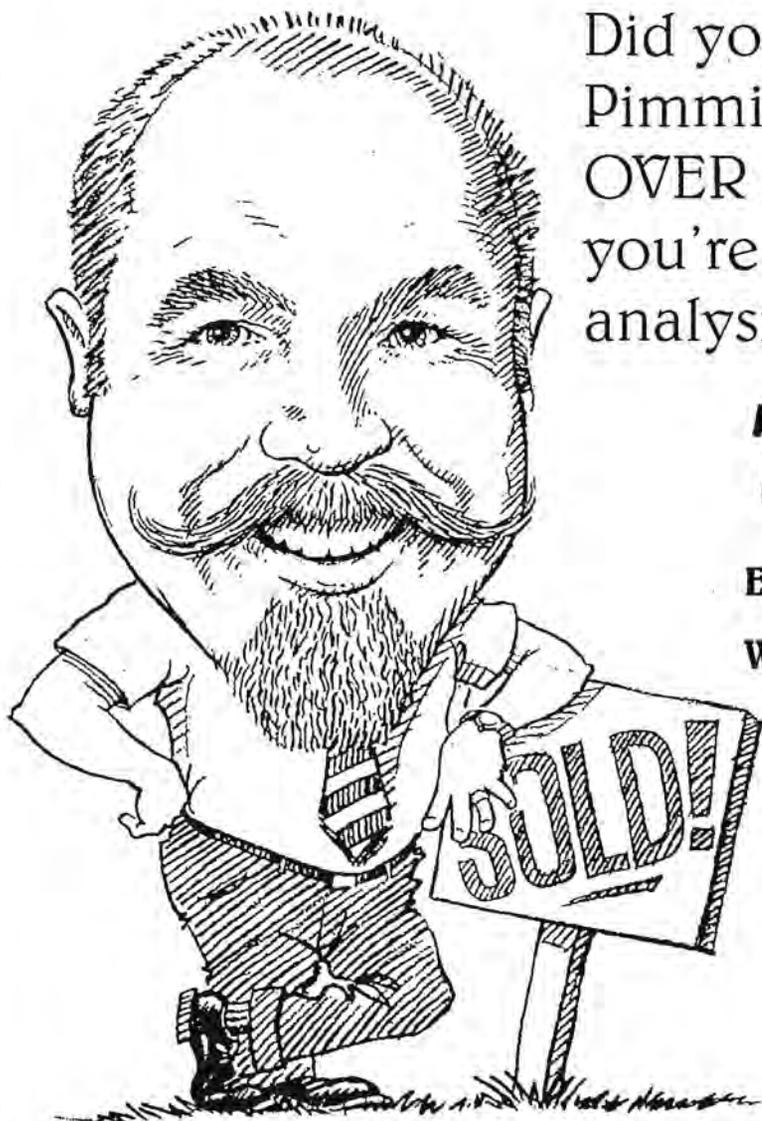
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