

Pimmit Hills Dispatch

Pimmit Hills Citizens Association (PHCA)

Published Since June 1952

www.PimmitHills.org



Wolf Trap Master Gardener to Speak at PHCA Meeting

The special speaker at the next Pimmit Hills Citizens Association (PHCA) community meeting will be Phil Goetkin, a horticulturist and native plant specialist who works at the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts in Vienna.

The PHCA meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 1 starting at 7:30 pm at the Pimmit Hills School on Lisle Avenue.

Goetkin will be speaking about topics such as: when is the best

time to plant grass, what can grow under the shade of the large trees in Pimmit Hills, why native plants are important and what he recommends, the importance of composting and mulching, what to do with a bare front lawn and more.

PHCA will be giving away door prizes at the end of the meeting. We have two rain barrels and native seedling plants that you could win. ■

Pimmit Hills in the 1950s



Matthew and Muriel Monahan's Pimmit Hills house in the 1950s

By David L. Meyers

Meyers, who grew up in Pimmit Hills, is serving his second term on the City Council of the City of Fairfax Virginia. He is also a co-author of, "Fairfax, Virginia: A City Traveling Through Time."

Get Rid of Your House and Yard Junk at PHCA Dumpster Day on Saturday May 12

The next PHCA Dumpster Day (former known as Clean-Up Day) will be held rain or shine on Saturday, May 12, 2012 from 8:00 am to Noon (sharp!) at the Pimmit Hills Center parking lot off of Griffith Road and Lisle Avenue.

This event has been held in Pimmit Hills since the 1960s and it is when Fairfax County brings large-item dumpster trucks to haul away our junk—it's an amazing thing to watch these trucks "eat" an entire couch.

The Pimmit Hills Citizens As-



sociation with the help of Cheri Drive resident Meredith Stewart has arranged for this special event for only Pimmit Hills citizens.

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 someone there collecting yearly dues or you can pay your dues via our website, PimmitHills.org.

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 CANNOT bring: Normal household refuse, brush (including tree branches and logs), yard waste, rocks, brick, concrete, stone, dirt, motor oil, car batteries, paint, roofing shingles, drywall, asbestos, glass, hazardous chemicals and pesticides, toxic waste, animal waste and explosives.

Pimmit Hills resident Linda Wheeler has offered to help those in need of a truck to transport items to the Pimmit Hills Center. Call her at 703-475-5347 or 703-734-1683 to schedule a pick-up.

We need volunteers to help out that day. Come early, wear old clothes and bring work gloves. ■

Community Yard Sale Set For May 5

This year's Pimmit Hills Community Yard Sale will be held Saturday, May 5 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on the lawn of the PHCA House, 1927 Pimmit Drive. The rain date is Sunday, May 6 from 10:00 am to Noon.

Spaces to sell your stuff there are available for \$5. Bring your own table and show up.

Or, you can drop off your stuff as a donation for PHCA to sell to raise money for the Association and its community activities.

If you're planning on having a Yard Sale at your own house, let PHCA know and we'll add your address to a flyer. Send an email to PHCA@PimmitHills.org. ■

My parents purchased their first home in Pimmit Hills in 1950. The house was located at the-then address of 1932 Hileman Road. The house numbers were changed slightly in the 1960s to bring consistency to all homes in the neighborhoods.

The phone service that first year was a phone mounted on a pole at the intersection of Pimmit Drive and Griffith Road.

This was soon followed in 1951 with party lines, where 4 houses or more would share a line. If you picked up the phone and heard someone's voice, you waited your turn. Initially, the first homes built ended three houses east of what is

continued on page 4

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PHCA President

Pimmit Hills Citizens Association

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Ex-Officio: Carol Martz, Marie Davis

Pimmit Hills Dispatch & Website: Cindy Kwitchoff, Dispatch@PimmitHills.org

It's that time of year again. The PHCA needs to nominate and elect new neighborhood leaders to continue the great work of the PHCA!

Do you have a knack for organizing events at the office or at your house? Are you interested in making a voice for Pimmit Hills?

Or do you just love knowing that you are making an impact in your community?

If you said yes to any of these questions, then you should really consider running for a position on the PHCA Board.

Over the past year, the current board has had a great time meeting community members at meetings and events sponsored by the PHCA.

Personally, I have loved the opportunity to meet many of you for the first time and hear your stories. You can be a part of this too if you get involved with the association.

If time is a concern for you, then I would also suggest becoming a part of the association by joining one of our committees or volunteering mainly for events.

The association will never turn someone away that would like to get involved no matter how much time you are able to give.

I hope that you will take this into great consideration and I hope to see you at the May 1st meeting where we will nominate our next board.

Thank you all for a great year and it has been a real honor representing Pimmit Hills. ■

PHCA Volunteer Opportunities

Looking for a way to meet more of your neighbors in Pimmit Hills and help out your community?

Consider being a volunteer for PHCA events and activities that you would be interested in.

Contact Sarah Rock, Director@PimmitHills.org if you can help out with:

- Community Yard Sale, May 5
- Annual Dumpster Day, May 12. Help residents unload their big pieces of junk for the County to haul away. Their trash may be your treasure.
- National Night Out in August to join the fight against crime. Help plan Pimmit Hill's biggest block party.
- Neighborhood Watch Coordinator or member
- Pimmit Hills Environment and Parks Committee
- Pimmit Hills Day in September. This is like a big family reunion at Olney Park with food, games, prizes, etc where neighbors can meet each other and have fun. Help plan this to be the best Pimmit Hills Day ever.
- Being a PHCA Board member for one year
- Other ideas for a new event or committee

- Keep up with the latest news at PimmitHills.org
- Sign up for our e-mailing list
- We're on Facebook too: Facebook.com/PimmitHills.org



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PHCA Town Meetings

- Tuesday, May 1, 2012
- Tuesday, June 5, 2012

Meetings start at 7:30 pm at the Pimmit Hills Center, 7510 Lisle Avenue. All homeowners and renters are welcome!

PHCA Events

- Community Yard Sale, May 5
- Dumpster Day, May 12
- PHCA Board Elections, June 5

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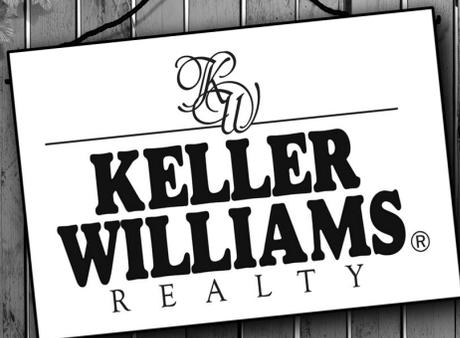
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Pimmit Hills in the 1950s

Continued from page 1

now Friden. This wooded area became the second phase of homes built in the central area of Pimmit Hills.

In 1950, school-age children attended Dunn Loring Elementary until Pimmit Hills Elementary was constructed. Many students, my sister included, attended three different elementary schools without ever having moved their residence (Dunn Loring; Pimmit Hills; and Lemon Road).

In 1955 or 1956, the Pimmit Shopping Center opened next to the Hemsley's peach orchard on Leesburg Pike (the orchard became Peach Tree Apartments).

The opening festivities included a local Northern Virginia country/bluegrass singer by the name of Jimmy Dean and his back-up players. They performed in the parking lot on the back of a flat-bed farm truck.

In addition to a grocery store, which was easily accessible from the rear by using Paxton Road, there was a small bank, a High's ice cream store (5 cents a scoop), the Pimmit Grill (only place to have a beer), and the Pimmit Drug store. The fountain area offered a hot dog and a soda for 25 cents.

There was a nice lady who was a teller in the bank who al-

ways had a ample supply of U.S. silver dollars.

My friends and I would collect Coke, Nehi, and Pepsi bottles and redeem them for 2 cents each. After I redeemed 50 bottles, I would take my coins and exchange them for an interesting, large heavy silver dollar coin.

A formal Little League organization came to PHs around 1955. Games were played first at the new Pimmit Hills School, and later additional space was created at Lemon Road School. Games were also played behind George Mason High School in Falls Church, as well as fields off Lewinsville Road and at Dunn Loring School.

The first and closest church located in the Pimmit Hills community was St. Luke's Methodist Church, founded in 1955. The church was founded by what was then the Alexandria District of the Methodist Church in Virginia.

A number of the first charter members were young families that had attended churches in Alexandria (Fairlington) and Arlington. Charter members included Charles and June Allred, Lavon and Pauline Meyer, David and Thelma Diest, and Jim and Betty Wright.

The first minister was the Rev.

William Jeryl Fink. The church first met in Freedom Hill School, until the first portion of the church building was completed in early 1957.

The first library services in Pimmit Hills were provided by "Bookmobiles." These were city bus-sized vehicles that had two side doors, one at the front on the right side and one door at the rear of the right side.

The Bookmobile had a set schedule and would park at various locations in Pimmit Hills for several hours once a week. For example, it would park at on Griffith Road for 4 hours, and Pimmit Hills patrons would walk (mostly), drive, or ride bicycles to the Bookmobile.

There was a small selection of general interest reading for adults and children. The Fairfax County Library system provided the Bookmobiles in lieu of brick and mortar structures for newly emerging neighborhoods. The librarian would register parents and distribute library cards as well as drive the vehicles.

The only local radio show in the Pimmit Hills area was an AM station, WEAM in Falls Church, with about 5,000 watts (reduced to 500 watts at night). The local

broadcaster was named Jack Alex ("JA the DJ") and in the evenings he would broadcast from a small portable trailer parked in the parking lot of Tops Drive-in (corner of West Broad Street and Shreve Road) in Falls Church. He introduced Elvis, Buddy Holly, and Bill Haley to many teens and pre-teens living in Pimmit Hills.

Pimmit Hills was what we would now call kids-centric. Life was simpler, but for everything lost, something is gained.

Pimmit Hills is very diverse now, as opposed to the world of southern segregation that was gasping its last breath in those years.

There was no hospital in Fairfax County, so it was a long trip to the Emergency Room of Arlington Hospital to get stitches or a cast on a broken arm or have a new baby born.

What was then the western outpost of suburbia bumping up against Mr. Hileman's dairy farm off Magarity Road is now some of the most expensive real estate in the United States.

Those early years provided an opportunity for veterans of a terrible war to celebrate life by having children and raising them in a safe environment which was this new experiment called suburban living. ■

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Ads from the 1950s in the Pimmit Hills Dispatch

Billy Webb

Pimmit Hills has lost a long-time resident. William Albert Webb (Billy), 51, of 7409 Bethune Street, died on March 23, 2012 of a massive heart attack.

He was born in Washington, DC on July 19, 1960. The Webb family has been living in Pimmit Hills since the 1950s when his parents were the first owners of the house on the corner of Bethune and Burfoot. William went to Marshall High School.

He is survived by his fiancé, Pamela Bennett and his 13 year old son William Albert Webb, Jr. Sisters Patricia Ann Perry, Diane Haynes (David), Judy Latrell (Ken), Predeceased by Donna L. Henry (Champ), Susie M. Chambers (Billy) and Brother Jimmy Webb (Melody), and many nieces, nephew, and cousins.

Neighbors, friends and family have been helping the family during this difficult time. ■



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Pimmit Hills Gardener

By Deanne M. Eversmeyer, Horticulturist, lives on Leonard Road

It's only April (as I write this), and the sprinklers have already had a work-out! And with everything popping out ahead of schedule, a drought this early is worrisome.

When watering, be sure to water less frequently and more deeply. How much to apply? The standard is an inch of water a week for established plants, more for newbies.

How to know how much you've applied? Set a straight-sided pan under the sprinkler to measure. And invest in a water timer – saves the noggin from I-forgot-to-turn-the-water-off head-slaps!

Another worthy investment: mulch. Organic mulch, whether it's shredded bark,

wood chips, composted leaves, or just about anything that was once alive, will make a huge difference to your plants.

A two- to three-inch covering will keep the soil cooler and moister, plus it will add organic matter to the soil without any additional effort on your part.

Just be careful to keep the mulch thin around the base of the plant, so as not to invite rot! (Following the sound of a chainsaw in the Hills can net you fresh wood chips; just be sure to spread them thinly as green wood generates heat as it decomposes.)



For 15 years the leaves from a couple of very large tulip poplars and various other neighboring trees have blanketed my back yard every fall – free mulch, no effort – and the soil is darker and richer and much more capable of holding on to moisture during

droughty periods.

If you're looking for a smaller ornamental tree for your landscape, take a look at the redbud

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(*Cercis canadensis*).

Even if you don't know it by name, you know it by its bright pinky-purple blossoms in early spring. Its flowers also come in reddish-pink and white.

And its foliage, normally green, also comes in burgundy, dusted with white, and chartreuse (not all on the same tree)! Oh, and there's a weeping form, too! Great tree, easy to grow and native, to boot!

And if you're looking to out-do your gardening neighbor, keep an eye out for some of the great plant sales at public gardens in our area.

(Green Spring Garden Park has one of the best in May.)

Watch for some really gorgeous Hostas, Heucheras and Coneflowers that tissue culture propagation has made attainable for those of us on a budget.

BTW, you can't call 'em "purple" coneflowers (*Echinacea*) anymore – those crazy plant breeders have created yellow, orange, peach and red ones by tossing the aptly named yellow *Echinacea paradoxa* into the mix. ■

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Pimmit Hills Citizens Association MEMBERSHIP

Show your support for your community by joining the Pimmit Hills Citizens Association (PHCA). Yearly dues are only \$20 for homeowners and renters living in Pimmit Hills; \$25 for non-residents.

Sign up and pay your dues quickly and securely on our PHCA membership website, PimmitHills.org. Or, you can fill out this form, mail us a check. Your dues help fund neighborhood events, activities, projects, the membership website and the printing and mailing of the *Pimmit Hills Dispatch*.

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ADDRESS: _____
Falls Church, VA 22043

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I'm interested in helping out with:

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- Dumpster Day
- National Night Out
- Pimmit Hills Day
- Neighborhood Watch
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- PHCA Board
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Mail this form along with your \$20 (residents) \$25 (non-residents) cash or check to
The Pimmit Hills Citizens Association, 1927 Pimmit Drive, Falls Church, VA 22043

Pimmit Hills Citizens Survey

Late last year, the Pimmit Hills Citizens Association issued a survey of residents on a variety of issues. The survey was available online and also in paper form at the PHCA meetings. Here are some of the findings:

The top three biggest challenges facing our community were 1) Traffic/Speeding); 2) Tysons Redevelopment and 3) Infrastructure (unkept properties and yards, sidewalks, potholes, street lights, parks).

At PHCA meetings, residents wanted to hear about redevelopment, homes/yards, and road construction, and hear from our elected officials, police and developers, as well as have more social events.

What should PHCA do to help make the community a better place to live? There were lots of suggestions for this question, including:

- The Pimmit School on Lisle Avenue should be sold for commercial or residential development.
- Improve run-down properties; having neighbors help neighbors who can't take care of the properties themselves.
- Improve local parks.
- Get homeowners and renters more interested in the community.
- Restrict any rezoning that allows multi-unit dwellings.
- Work on getting a better walking or bike trail/footbridge to West Falls Church metro (lots of people wanted this).
- Many residents also wanted more social events, neighborhood gatherings, kids activities, block

parties, bigger Pimmit Hills Day, summer picnics. "The more we connect with our neighbors, the stronger the community."

- Make Association dues mandatory and use funds to improve neighborhood.

- Work with Fairfax County Zoning to prevent people from parking cars in their yard, leaving trash and debris around their houses, and doing something about run-down, blighted houses.

- Create a reference list of contractors who have experience fixing/remodeling Pimmit Hills homes.

- Mobilize industrious teenagers for babysitting, snow shoveling, light yard work, pet sitting.

- Create community regulations for maintaining the external appearance/upkeep of houses.

- Address speeding problems.
- Demand better service from the county such as collection of leaves and branches.

- Make Pimmit bike friendly.
- Only allow cars to be parked on one side of the road. Too many cars are permanently parked on the street.

- Keep doing what you are doing. PHCA has been trying hard but people aren't getting involved or coming to the meetings. We need more young people involved.

- Form a homeowners association so we can force homeowners to keep their properties clean.

PHCA is not just the five-person board. It is all of you who live here. Don't expect someone else will do everything. Get involved in an area of your interest and make the community better! ■

PHCA MEMBERSHIP REPORT	Dec 2011	Feb 2012	Apr 2012	Change
Paid Resident Memberships	131	156	205	↑49
Paid Non-Resident Memberships	9	9	7	↓2
TOTAL	140	165	212	↑47
Contacts in Database		497	570	↑73
Homes in Pimmit Hills	1,642	1,642	1,642	

Pimmit Hills Membership Website: \$100/month
Mar/Apr 2012 Pimmit Hills Dispatch Printing & Mailing: \$1,508
Mar/Apr 2012 Advertising Income: \$560

Pimmit Hills Dispatch ADVERTISING INFORMATION

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Due Date for Ads, Articles, Events & Info for the July/August 2012 issue:

Friday, June 9, 2012

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