



Pimmit Hills Dispatch

Pimmit Hills Citizens Association (PHCA)

Published Since June 1952

www.PimmitHills.org

Calling all Residents, Alumni, Businesses, Organizations:

Pimmit Hills Day in Olney Park is on September 22

Come celebrate our community's 62 year anniversary at our annual Pimmit Hills Day for all residents, alumni of the Hills as well as local businesses and organizations. This year's event should be bigger than ever—and you won't want to miss it.

Pimmit Hills Day will take place from **11:00 am to 3:00 pm** at **Olney Park** (at the end of Olney Road) in Pimmit Hills on **Saturday, September 22**. Parking is very limited so we recommend walking to the Park.

This year we're having a Moon Bounce for the kids in addition to other fun and games, like Bingo, a kids table and the ever-popular Cake Walk game where winners get a homemade cake.

The Tysons Lions Club will be selling sodas and their well-known delicious hamburgers and hot dogs and their Leo the Lion will be strolling around greeting people and helping out with the games.

By popular demand from their National Night Out appearance, Captain Cookie and Tasty Soft Ice Cream will have their trucks selling milk & cookies as well as soft cones, sundaes and fruit drinks.

Local businesses, organizations, clubs, arts-n-crafters and hobbyists are invited to bring a table and let your neighbors know about your products and services. Send an email to PHCA@PimmitHills.org to let us know you'll have a booth so we can let everyone know. Already confirmed, in addition to Captain Cookie, Tasty Soft Ice Cream and the Lions Club (and of course the Pimmit Hills Citizens Association), are the Tysons-Pimmit Library, St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Pampered Chef and McGruff the Crime Dog who is coming with our local Fairfax County Police.

Pimmit Hills Day is way of celebrating our favorite neighborhood,



meeting other neighbors or reconnecting. There is a large Pimmit Hills Alumni Facebook group of people who lived and grew up in the Hills since the 1950s and those nearby alumni are invited to attend as well as drive around their old neighborhood and reminisce.

Like PH alum Carol Sanford who recently came across our PimmitHills.org website and said: "What a joy to find out my old neighborhood still exists and is doing so well. I lived there from '51-'56 on Anderson Road. It was pure Heaven for a kid. We had the best hill in the hood for sledding in the winter.

"I still can't believe my mother, and all the Moms, would stand at the foot of the hill stopping traffic until we made it to the bottom.

"There was a creek behind the homes at the bottom and we would go ice skating when it froze over. We weren't supposed to and always got in trouble when one of us would break through the ice and get our boots wet.

"The woods were a great place to build forts. Before the new section was completed there were HUGE ditches which we spent hours running through. We all played outside all summer long with tents made from old sheets and blankets, broken dishes and of course, our dolls.

"Our black and white TV provided one movie per week and they ran it every day! We were easily amused back then. I'm in Atlanta now but still have flashbacks to a simpler, sweeter time."

Lots of volunteers are needed to make Pimmit Hills Day happen. You really get to meet your neighbors by getting involved rather than just attending. If you can help out for an hour, send an email to Director@PimmitHills.org. See you at our celebration! ■

Oct PHCA Meeting

The October PHCA meeting on Tuesday, October 2 will feature Bill Hard and other representatives of LCOR who will be presenting their proposed redevelopment plans for the McLean Commons into a high density property that includes a 23-story building. The Commons property is the closest to the new Tysons East Metro Station. The PHCA meeting starts at 7:30 pm at the Pimmit Hills School/Center, 7510 Lisle Avenue. ■

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Pimmit Hills Dispatch & Website: Cindy Kwitchoff, Dispatch@PimmitHills.org
Environment & Parks Committee: Elizabeth Hall
PHCA Rep to McLean Citizens Association: Lise Visser

The PHCA Board has been busy over the summer undertaking a range of tasks and efforts to further improve the Pimmit Hills community.

Our first board meeting, held in July, gave us an opportunity to get to know one another and set out the near future agenda for board and association activities.

The initial discussion centered around individual thoughts on the PHCA as a whole. Based on the feedback received during this session I think it is important to clarify the nature of the Pimmit Hills Citizens Association.

First of all, it must be made clear that the PHCA is not a government body. The PHCA is an incorporated private non-profit beholden to, and operating under, corporate laws.

The PHCA is not a public body, such as Fairfax County or other local government, nor is the PHCA a home owners association (HOA).

This distinction means that the PHCA itself determines how the PHCA operates, how officers are elected and limits corporation liability.

The PHCA is an advocacy group responsible for providing communication channels between residents, residents and public authorities, and residents and Pimmit Hills related private groups.

While the PHCA views itself as an avenue for discourse on infrastructure concerns, the PHCA is not responsible for public infrastructure upkeep.

For example, in the case of downed wires or damaged paths in the neighborhood, the PHCA is responsible for providing an avenue for information on contacting the correct public channels but the PHCA is not responsible for the repairs themselves.

Further the PHCA is a member organization run by the members for the members.

If anyone has a great idea for neighborhood improvement not only should you bring that idea to the Association but you should also consider getting involved in the effort itself. Formation of action committees is undertaken by the PHCA board on the request and justification of members.

Several ideas were discussed at the July meeting including organization of more activities and events which bring the community together. The previous board did a fantastic job in this area and we hope to continue their efforts.

One particular idea that caught my attention involved the formation of a contractor recommendation database to recommend service purveyors. Many of us have stories of dealing with good and bad contractors and a web based discussion board for local businesses would certainly assist us all in finding good service.

The PHCA continues to monitor the county level activity surrounding redevelopment of the Pimmit Barn. The Pimmit Barn Group will be presenting their preservation efforts at the September member meeting and will field questions from the members present.

The September PHCA meeting highlight will be a presentation by a resident of the neighborhood who has undertaken an effort to create a minimal emission household which reduces adverse environmental effects. The presentation will discuss energy and water saving measures including rain garden installation, county assistance services and home additions.

On the McLean Citizens Association front, the PHCA recently lost its seat on the MCA Executive Board due miscommunication during the nomination process. Despite this, Lise Visser and I have been keeping tabs on MCA activities. Lise is an active member of

the MCA Budget and Taxation.

The MCA bylaws state that members lose their seat on the MCA executive board after two consecutive unexcused meeting absences, which is a very common occurrence. Lise and I have been vigilantly attending MCA meetings waiting for a member to miss consecutive meetings. When this occurs the PHCA will regain their seat on the executive board and Lise Visser will be PHCA liaison to the MCA.

The board has also nominated the PHCA for seats on the Fairfax County (VA) Federation. Our population guarantees us two voting spots according to the Federation bylaws. The Federation strongly influences local and state level lawmakers to keep the welfare of Fairfax residents at the forefront of political proceedings.

Finally, but perhaps most importantly, the neighborhood and surrounding areas were all badly affected by the 2012 Derecho. Thankfully there were no deaths or serious injuries in our neighborhood, however many residents suffered property damage from falling trees and debris.

Many residents were without power for several which only compounded discomfort. I personally heard several stories of neighbors banding together by assisting in cleanup efforts and sharing pools. The more tightly knit our community becomes the better prepared we will be for adverse events.

It was brought to the Board's attention that the *Pimmit Hills Dispatch* is not being delivered to all residents of Pimmit Hills. This newsletter goes out by bulk mail via the US Postal Service. If you hear stories of undelivered *Dispatch* editions or you do not receive the *Dispatch* then please let us know. Remember also that you can read all the *Dispatch* issues on our website, PimmitHills.org. ■



Tuesday, September 4
PHCA Meeting, 7:30 pm
PH School, 7510 Lisle Ave

Saturday, September 22
Pimmit Hills Day, 11 am - 3 pm
Olney Park

Tuesday, October 2
PHCA Meeting, 7:30 pm
PH School, 7510 Lisle Ave

Saturday, October 13
Fall Clean-Up, 9 am - 11:30 am
Olney Park

Tuesday, November 6
PHCA Membership Drive all day during elections, outside of PH School, 7510 Lisle

Tuesday, December 4
PHCA Meeting, 7:30 pm
PH School, 7510 Lisle Ave

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NNO a Big Success

On August 7, the Pimmit Hills community had its largest National Night Out since the Pimmit Hills Citizens Association began holding the event.

Over 200 people came by with their kids and dogs and enjoyed the evening. There were many activities and lots of cool treats. Area businesses showcased their products and services, Captain Cookie brought his truck selling milk & cookies, Tasty Soft Ice Cream's truck was selling cones and sundaes, local PH resident Bob Shurts brought his WWII jeep and below, Lily Whitesell educated kids on the environment. Three Fairfax County firetrucks showed up as did Supervisor John Foust.

Thank you to all who participated and came out! You can see lots of photos and a video of the event by going to PimmitHills.org as well as our Facebook page. ■



PimmitHills.org

Used Book Sale

The Friends of the Tysons-Pimmit Library are holding a book sale at the library on Saturday, October 6 from 10 am to 4 pm with a clearance sale the next day, October 7 from 1 to 4 pm where books will be sold by the bag. Volunteers wanting to help with the sale are welcome. For more information, contact TysonsLibraryFriends@gmail.com or 703-790-4031. Donate your used books, magazines and DVDs to the Friends to help support our local library. ■

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Grateful for the Help From "The Mayor of Pimmit Hills," John Sitnik

By Mary Ellen Dick, Nigh Road

During the big storm we had this past summer, John Paul (JP) Sitnik helped a lot of people here in Pimmit Hills and we were one of them.

He got a generator for us and filled it with gasoline, and we had light and our air conditioner worked.

I was very sick at this time, but JP brought my spirit right up. He is a fine person and I want him recognized as a fine citizen. We call him "The Mayor of Pimmit

Hills" and the name fits him.

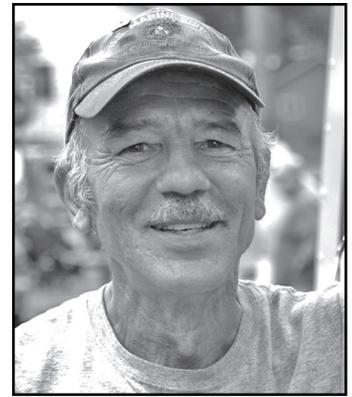
Editors Note: Mary Ellen, along with her husband Donnie, have lived in Pimmit Hills for 56 years and are among the few original owners of their houses.

John Sitnik is a life-long Pimmit Hills resident having grown up in the house at the corner of Cherri and Lisle his parents bought in 1953. He is a great person to talk to regarding the history of our community.

John also runs a popular Facebook page with 765 members

called, "Pimmit Hills Alumni," for those who grew up in Pimmit Hills. Members are scattered around the country, but they still have fond memories of growing up here, going to school at Pimmit Hills Elementary, playing on Little League teams, etc.

He recently wrote on the group's page, "I tell everyone that I never had neighbors growing up in Pimmit Hills, that everyone is an extension of our family." ■



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A 1955 Washington Post ad encouraging veterans to buy homes in Pimmit Hills (this home on Nigh Road had been called the Orchard Crest area, for the former peach orchard where the development was built). Mary Ellen Dick kept the ad because this model home is actually her house and she and Donnie have lived there every since buying it. Note the price of the home: only \$14,500! Cars now days are more expensive than that.

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Pimmit Hills Gardener

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

What a long, hot summer it's been! And the weeds have loved it.

If you've been hiding inside in the a/c, it's time to get out into the garden and get the weeds before they go to seed.

Pulling the baddies now will save you a lot of work next year. Then a good layer of mulch (2 inches or so) should keep any un-sprouted weed seeds from growing.

Now that fall is here, think about helping nature's air conditioning by planting a shade tree to cool your house and yard.

The cooler temperatures of fall will help new plants get well rooted before the scorch of next summer.

Also, fall planting allows you to take a look at the roots of your new tree and correct any crossing roots or buried root flares.

Crossing roots can occur when young trees are grown in pots too long before being planted out in the field, and can eventually strangle the tree. The roots should grow straight out in spoked wheel fashion.

Remove the burlap or unpot the tree and carefully knock or wash off the soil; straighten or cut off those roots that spiral around.

Also look at the root flare, the base of the trunk that flares out into the roots. Sometimes this portion of the trunk gets buried in the nursery field and sprouts fine roots.

Remove these and be sure to plant your tree with the flare above ground level.

Make sure that you pack the soil around the roots as you back-fill the hole as to not leave pockets of air that can cause the tree to settle later.

Staking is usually not necessary and new roots will grow stronger if the tree is allowed to move in the wind.

A good soaking from the hose and a ring of mulch (no more than 2 inches and less right around the trunk) will get your new tree off to a good start.

And speaking of mulch, consider putting the fallen leaves to work this fall.

We are stripping our soil of the organic matter needed to hold water and nutrients by raking and bagging leaves every fall.

Why not use them to mulch the azaleas or add them to the vegetable garden?

I have a handy, little battery operated leaf blower that easily deposits leaves from the patio and walks into the beds.

Fifteen years of "leaving the leaves" has given my soil a lovely, darker complexion and the ability to hold more rain water which means less run-off and a smaller water bill!

This is also the time of year to plant mums, pansies and spring flowering bulbs.

If your pots of summer annuals are looking a bit worn, remove the plants that have seen better days and replace with budded mums. (Those already in full bloom won't last as long.)

Or use pansies for color through the winter. Pansies are great companions for tulip bulbs; plant the bulbs pointy end up and top with pansy plants.

My favorite combo is 'Apricot Beauty' tulips with blue pansies, though the yellow 'West Point' with purple pansies is a close second! Happy gardening! ■

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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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PHCA MEMBERSHIP REPORT	Feb 2012	Apr 2012	June 2012	Aug 2012
Paid Resident Members	156	205	233	277
Paid Non-Resident Members	9	7	7	9
TOTAL MEMBERS	165	212	240	286
Contacts in Database	497	570	604	618

Please become a paid member to support your PHCA!

- Pimmit Hills Membership Website: \$100/month
- July/Aug 2012 *Pimmit Hills Dispatch* Printing & Mailing to all 1,642 homes in Pimmit Hills: \$1,435
- July/Aug 2012 *Dispatch* Advertising Income: \$2,030

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October 1, 2012

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Pimmit Hills Dispatch

Pimmit Hills Citizens Association (PHCA)
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Community Website: PimmitHills.org
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POSTMASTER: Please deliver **BEFORE** September 22, 2012

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Brian Varani
Pimmit Hills Resident



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