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# Pimmit Hills

# DISPATCH



■ **APRIL 2004 ISSUE** ■

PUBLISHED SINCE 1952 COURTESY OF THE PIMMIT HILLS CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

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## **Next PHCA Town Meeting**

Tuesday, April 6, 2004 at 7:30 pm  
Pimmit Hills School, Lisle Avenue

*Dispatch* Garden Columnist and Horticulturalist  
Deanne Eversmeyer-Ellis will talk about  
**Gardening in Pimmit Hills** and answer  
your garden questions.



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PIMMIT HILLS, VIRGINIA ■ ESTABLISHED MAY 1950  
"Our Neighborhood, Our Home" ■ [www.PimmitHills.org](http://www.PimmitHills.org)



# PHCA Community News

## **PHCA Town Meeting**

It's been a long, hard, cold winter but spring has arrived and with it the urge to get out of the house and garden! Nothing makes your house look better than attractive flowers, bushes and trees. Whether you would like to begin gardening in your yard for the first time or you've been gardening for a long time, you won't want to miss our Tuesday, April 6th Pimmit Hills Town Meeting at 7:30 pm.

Horticulturalist Deanne Evermey-er-Ellis of Leonard Road will give a talk about gardening in Pimmit Hills and answer gardening questions.

Deanne is the author of the *Dispatch's* popular column, "The Pimmit Hills Gardener," which she has been writing since December 1999. How she transformed her plain grass backyard into the "Longwood Gardens" of Pimmit Hills complete with two ponds, a stream, two patio areas, and lush, varied plantings can be seen in photos on our website, [PimmitHills.org](http://PimmitHills.org).

And by special request, she will talk about the infamous "17-year cicadas" which will appear this summer.



## **Community-Wide Yard Sale**

The PHCA Community-Wide Yard Sale will be held at the end of April on Saturday, April 24 (raindate Sunday, April 25). Everyone is encouraged to hold a sale at either their own house that day or at the PHCA house (1927 Pimmit Drive). If you don't have a lot of stuff to sell, you can donate it to PHCA that day for us to sell. Proceeds

will go towards PHCA projects like the entrance signs.



## **PHCA Clean-Up Day**

The next PHCA Clean -Up Day will be Saturday, May 1 at the PHCA House, 1927 Pimmit Drive. See our website for details. This is the time to throw away big junk. Current membership in PHCA is required to participate.



## **New PHCA Three-Year Director**

Grace Zultowski has moved to Florida where it's warmer and closer to family but she found Pete Collat of Edgar Court to replace her as the PHCA Three-Year Director. We wish Grace well and welcome Pete on the Board.



## **The Journal Newspaper**

Are you tired of *The Journal* newspapers littering your driveway? Tired of seeing piles of untouched *Journal's* sit there all over PH driveways and yards? You're not alone. PHCA has sent letters and made calls with little effect. *The Journal* tells us if someone doesn't want to receive the paper, they can call as individuals (we can't call as a group). Unfortunately, even when you call, they still continue to deliver it. What to do? One citizen wants to start a petition. Another idea is for a really fed-up individual to go around with a big trash bag and collect as many *Journal's* as possible that are piled at the end of driveways. Then hand-deliver the bag to *The Journal* so maybe they'll finally get the point.

Any volunteers? ■



# PHCA Membership

**FOR YEAR: September 2003 to June 2004**

**Open to all owners and renters living in Pimmit Hills**

**Your yearly membership dues of \$12/person go towards:**

- Printing and mail delivery of the *Pimmit Hills Dispatch* (which costs about \$2 per house *per month*--10 month schedule equals \$20)
- PHCA Membership Telephone Directory to be published in June 2004 BUT ONLY FOR PHCA MEMBERS (non-members must pay \$20 for the directory)
- PHCA representing the community to Fairfax County and its officials
- Access to community events like Clean-Up Day
- Projects like building entrance signs to Pimmit Hills
- 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
- Being a part of the McLean Citizens Association which gives us an even stronger voice in Fairfax County
- Helping PH citizens with problems and complaints; working with Fairfax County on serious property concerns, an official PHCA membership card, **AND MORE!**

## PIMMIT HILLS CITIZENS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

Pimmit Hills Citizens Association (PHCA)  
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: (for PHCA to contact you; email will not be listed in Directory)

I'd like to volunteer to help out with PHCA activities     yes     no

I do NOT want to be listed in the PHCA Membership Directory

Dues Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$12 per person )



# PHCA Meeting Notes

By Sarah Rock, PHCA Secretary

*Hello Neighbors*, here are the highlights from the March meeting.

With great sadness, President Gene Lesser reported that Bill Niland passed away February 26. Bill was a founding member of PHCA and served many years in various PHCA offices. After a moment of silence, several residents shared memories of Bill.

Gene also announced that Three-Year Director Grace Zultowski resigned due to her recent move to Florida. Pete Collat was nominated and unanimously approved to fill the remainder of the Three-Year Director term.

First Vice President Joan Naleppa provided an update on the progress of the neighborhood welcome signs. One sign has been made and installation plans are in the works for the Magarity/Lisle/Route 7 entrance to the neighborhood.

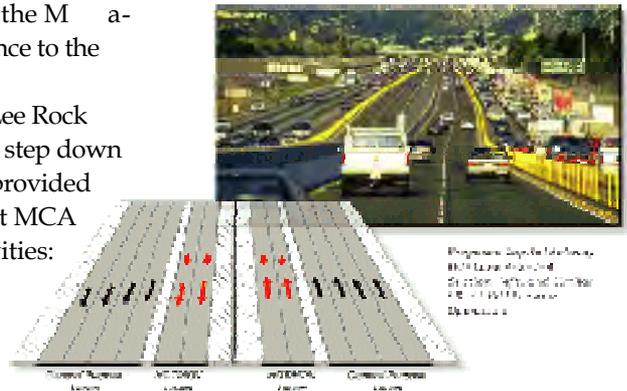
Second Vice President Lee Rock announced that he plans to step down at the end of the year. Lee provided a quick summary of recent MCA Planning and Zoning activities:

- MCA decided not to get involved in proposed Chesterbrook Residences, Inc plans for an assisted living facility off Westmoreland Street.

- MCA endorsed the proposal by Winchester Homes for a mixed single family house and townhouse community off Great Falls Street, just north of Havcock Road.

The 2004 Fairfax County Tax Assessments were discussed. Many residents noted how much the assessments increased over last year. One resident shared with the group how he had appealed his assessment last year with some success. When an assessment is appealed, an assessor is sent to your home to consider any features or factors you think were unfairly assessed.

In addition to the regular PHCA business, we had a guest speaker at the March meeting. Gary Groat from Fluor Daniel spoke about proposed "HOT" (high occupancy toll) lanes for a portion of the Capital Beltway extending from west of the Springfield interchange to south of Georgetown Pike.



The lanes would be free for HOV and public transportation, but would charge a toll for solo riders. There would be no tollbooths that might cause traffic back-ups, instead the lanes would be "actively" managed

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with a system of cameras and human monitors.

Mr. Groat outlined the benefits of the HOT lanes proposal as compared to previous transportation options proposed by VDOT.

■ HOT lanes would displace approximately 6 homes/business addresses instead of 300.

■ HOT lanes would encourage public transit and carpools.

■ HOT lanes would pay for themselves with the tolls generated by solo riders.

■ Fluor Daniel's plan would cost 1/3 of the lowest alternative

Additional information and details about Fluor Daniel's proposal can be found at [www.beltwayhotlanes.com](http://www.beltwayhotlanes.com)

Hope to see you at the April 6th meeting! ■

## Next Pimmit Hills Town Meeting: Tuesday, April 6 at 7:30 pm, Pimmit Hills School



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## Founding Member of PHCA Passes Away

Recently, the Hills lost a good neighbor. Bill Niland, a friend of many in this community, passed away on Thursday, February 26.

One of the founding members of the Pimmit Hills Citizens' Association (PHCA), Bill's signature can be found on the original incorporation papers for the PHCA.

In addition to serving in various leadership positions within the PHCA over the years, Bill gave his time and talents to a host of other civic and charitable endeavors.

Bill was active with the Family Respite Center and made time to perform



kind deeds for his neighbors, helping out with grocery shopping, transportation to church, and other activities of daily living as needed.

Blessed with a keen curiosity about the world

around him, Bill studied Russian and was a treasure trove of safety-related knowledge that he freely shared as head of the Neighborhood Watch.

Bill's service to his community will be sorely missed and our sincere condolences go out to Bill's daughters - Susan Tygrett, Linda Niland and Carol Altieri and the rest of the Niland family. ■

*By Jennifer and Joe Baker*

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# **703-847-4658**



# PHCA Events

## **Tue April 6, 7:30p**

### **Gardening in Pimmit Hills**

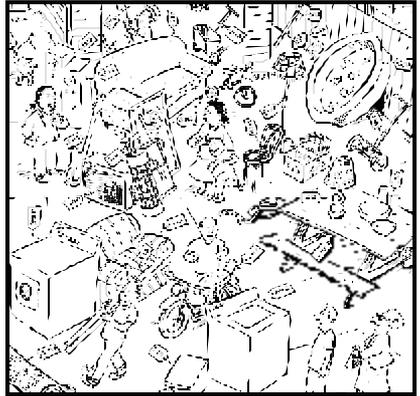
Pimmit Hills *Dispatch* Gardening columnist and Horticulturalist Deanne Eversmeyer-Ellis will speak at our monthly PHCA meeting at the Pimmit Hills High School on Lisle Ave. Bring your gardening questions and also find out the impact on our gardens from the coming "17-year" cicadas!



## **Sat April 24, 8a-?**

### **Community-Wide Yard Sales**

Time to clean sweep your house and join forces to have our largest community yard sale ever. Have a yard sale at your house that day or you can bring your stuff to our "home base" (PHCA House at 1927 Pimmit Drive) to sell or to donate for PHCA to sell. Nothing to sell? Then roam the neighbor and look for great buys. Raintdate for the yard sales is the next day.



## **Sat May 1, 8a-Noon**

### **Clean-Up Day**

Here it is, our most popular event: the PHCA Clean-Up Day at the PHCA House (1927 Pimmit Drive). You need to be a paid member of PHCA to be able to throw away your stuff at this event. See our website ([PimmitHills.org](http://PimmitHills.org)) for more information and let us know if you'd like to volunteer to help out that day.



## **Tue May 4, 7:30p**

### **Red Cross presentation: Together We Prepare**

At our May PHCA meeting, learn five simple steps to make you, your family and your community safer in the event of an emergency.



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# The Pimmit Hills Gardener

By Deanne Eversmeyer-Ellis,  
Horticulturalist

Winter. Yuck. Well, okay, not “yuck” when it snows. I like snow, but it really doesn’t snow very often here. “Yuck” is the usual from December through February. And if you’re a winter-hating, plant-nut like me, flipping the calendar over to March is always a thrill! Really! And some years, like this year, flipping over to March coincides with the first maple blooms – a sure sign that spring is on its way.

Yes, maples have flowers. They are not particularly showy. Their petals are greatly reduced or completely absent, depending on the species. Each year as the winter season wanes, I watch for signs of life from a couple of very large Silver Maples growing along Lisle Avenue. These specimens always bloom before any others along my commute and often a late winter rain litters the pavement with their spent flowers. Our neighborhood is full of old Maples. Back fifty years ago Silver and Red Maples were planted because they were cheap, fast growing and hardy. In Dunn Loring Woods, where I grew up, every house had a Maple tree, if not in the front yard,



## Arbor Day is April 30

then in the back. Many of these old trees have been ruined by “topping”, a very, very bad thing to do to a tree.

There are many species of Maples. The most common in our neighborhood are the Silver (*A. saccharinum*), the Norway (*A. platanoides*), the Sugar Maple (*A. saccharum*), the Red (*Acer rubrum*)

and the Japanese Maples (*A. palmatum*). The tallest of these trees are the Silver Maples. The undersides of the leaves give this fast-growing tree its name. Unfortunately, this tends to be a weak-wooded species and the fall color is nothing to write home about.

The Norway Maple has the largest leaf of these five trees. Its form is that of a large lollipop on a stick. The broad, dense canopy, combined with its shallow roots make for poor to non-existent turf underneath. The most obvious cultivar (cultivated variety) is ‘Crimson King’, with its deep purple leaves. The fall color is yellow. The Sugar Maple is similar looking, but its fall foliage is a glorious mélange of gold, orange and red. It is not as tolerant of poor conditions, needing a fairly moist, fertile soil. One way to distin-



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guish between the Norway and Sugar Maples is to look at the seeds: the Norway's twin seeds point east and west, reminding me of a perky mustache, while the Sugar's seeds droop like two drops of maple syrup.

The Maple with the greatest range is the Red Maple. The range I refer to is not only the physical habitat (Newfoundland to Florida, west to Minnesota and Texas), but also in fall foliage. Red Maples are not only some of the earliest trees to color up, but also some of the last. And the color can range from lemon yellow to dark red. Although the flowers are almost always red, these trees can vary in their seed production, ranging from seedless (like the 50-year-old over our driveway) to heavy seeding (like our neighbor's which litters our patio). The best bet is to buy a named cultivar from a nursery. Look for 'Brandywine', a National Arboretum introduction, for brilliant purple-red fall color and no seed production. (Both of the most popular Red Maple varieties, 'October Glory' and 'Red Sunset', are seed makers.)

The Japanese Maple is a smaller tree and can take on many forms, from the 15 to 20 foot tall "wild" form to the weeping, feather-leaved 'Red Filigree Lace' that's barely there. The named varieties are grafted onto seed-grown under stock and anything that pops out below the graft must be removed before it takes over. This grafting process makes the special forms of Japanese Maple a bit pricey. But a full

grown, cut-leaf (a.k.a. "dissectum") variety with soft green or hardy burgundy foliage is a treasure, and a young tree in a moist, semi-shady location will fill out quickly. Almost cut-leaf varieties grow laterally, creating a lovely mound of lacey foliage over a fine netting of branches. 'Seiryu', which graces our front yard, is the exception with finely cut green leaves on a small upright tree. The non-dissectum Japanese Maples are usually selected for deep red to rich purple summer foliage, although there are many cultivars that have good green leaves, some even splashed with white and pink. The fall color of all Japanese Maples can't be beat, ranging from fiery crimson to electric orange to lemon-yellow. A wonderful ribbon-leaf form



by the patio, 'Koto No Ito', looks like a blazing haystack every fall and 'Sango Kaku' (the Coral Bark Maple) displays yellow-gold leaves on bright red branches.

A word of warning is necessary here: these trees can be habit forming. I have 14 different varieties of Japanese Maples. And I have 8 other species in the yard, not counting the giant Red that came with the house. So proceed with care. And keep your eyes peeled. You never know what you might find at the plant sales this spring - maybe a Maple that you don't have yet. (There's always room for one more!)■

*Horticulturalist Deanne Eversmeyer-Ellis  
lives on Leonard Road*

# ● Area School Calendars

## ● Westgate Elementary School

*For more information, call 703-610-5701*

**April 5-9:** Spring Break

**April 13:** PTA Meeting, 7 pm

**April 20:** Ledo's Night, 5-8 pm



## ● Pimmit Hills High School

*For more information, call 703-506-2323*

**April 5-9:** Spring Vacation

**April 14-24:** National Volunteer Week

**April 22:** Rotary Scholarship Interviews

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**Meetings, Dispatch, News, Weather, Area Links, and more**

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# PIMMIT HILLS RE

Spring

Crocuses and Daffodils are blooming  
At the time of this writing there are NO  
With Supply Down and Demand Up  
and a contin

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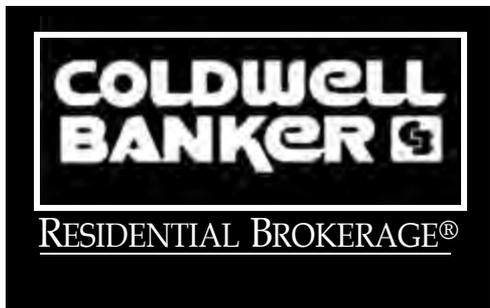
# Bill Bol

# 703-22

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EMAIL: [bill@billbc](mailto:bill@billbc)

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# Shepherd's Center is Seven Years Young

By Mary Fisk and Janice Holmblad

"There is a wealth of experience and knowledge in the older adult population that is not as well utilized as it could be," affirms Donna Grim, Director of the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna. This wealth was the impetus for an organizational meeting in November 1997 to explore the interest

on founding a center for people ages 50 and older.

Representatives of congregations from Oakton, Vienna, and Dunn Loring attended the meeting. "We were met with a lot of enthusiasm at the meeting and were very encouraged," Donna recalls. "We started with five or six congregations committed to meeting monthly, and then we grew from that foundation."

The center offers a range of events from service opportunities to enrichment programs. There are numerous volunteer opportunities for older adults to help one another. The center started with three services: friendly caller, transportation to medical appointments, and handy helpers. Expanded services now include companion shopping, financial record keeping assistance, Caregivers support group, and a Parish Nurse.

"Adventures in Learning" is an enrichment program offered in three eight-week semesters. Classes meet on Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Vienna Seventh Day Adventist Church. Parallel classes are offered

each hour, so participants have several topics from which to select. "People can go to one class or stay all day," Donna explains, for a nominal registration fee. Sample courses include creative writing, poetry appreciation, the immigrant experience, and a health series. The weekly World Affairs session is

held after lunch and is attended by most of the Adventures in Learning participants. A beginner computer class is offered in cooperation with Oakton High School and the Future Business Leaders Club.

Other activities include quarterly lunches, "Lunch and Life," at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church, featuring speakers or entertainment. Several day trips are planned throughout the year. A Parish Nurse volunteers her time, teaching courses and serving as a resource. Blood pressure screenings are available before Lunch in Life and Adventures in Learning. A Caregivers Retreat is offered three times a year for family caregivers.

Over 200 volunteers contribute their time and talents to support this impressive range of services and programs, and the need for volunteers is on going. The Shepherd's Center mailing list is over 1700 people. In fiscal year 2003, the Shepherd's Center volunteered

## The Shepherd's Centers of America



# Weekly Mowing for Pimmit Hills Lawns

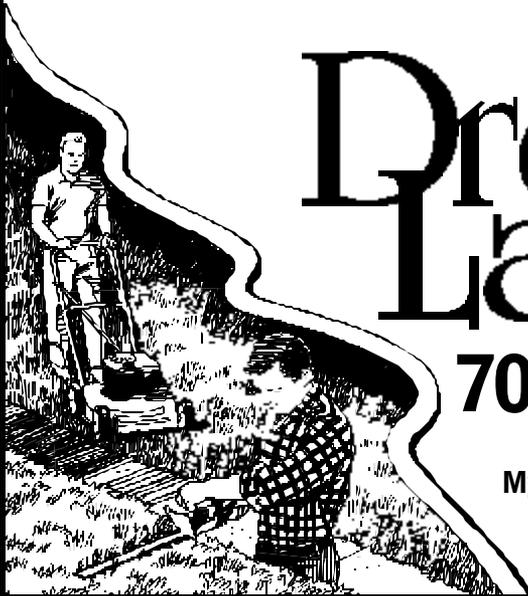
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unteers provided over 1300 hours of services. There is a continuing need for volunteers to staff the office, help with planning events, and to meet the ever-increasing requests for services.

The Shepherd's Center hosted a conference in August for groups interested in starting Centers in their area. We continue to be enthusiastic about sharing the Shepherd's Center concept with groups in Northern Virginia.

The Shepherd's Center will be hosting a fun fundraiser on May 29 at Marshall High School. This event will feature a Marshall High School choral group and the political satire group, Hexagon.

The Shepherd's Center is located in the Vienna Baptist Church, 541 Marshall Rd., SW, Vienna 22180. Contact the Shepherd's Center at 703-281-0538.

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## Letter to the Editor

*Dear Editor:*

Just a note to tell you how much we are enjoying your interesting and very informative "The Joys of Remodeling" series.

No matter how small or large the job, remodeling is a daunting (and usually expensive) proposition. We all need all the help and advice we can get. Learning about someone else's experience in our own neighborhood is absolutely invaluable.

One of the fellows you mentioned in the March *Dispatch* was Steve Burnham. I can tell you from experience that he is personable, dependable, and does exactly what the job entails for the price he quotes.

Again, thanks for a great series.

*Marilyn Lerette*  
Burnside Court



## Advertising in the Dispatch

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# Area Worship

## **Garfield Memorial Church**

*(Disciples of Christ)*

1731 Great Falls St, McLean

PHONE: 703-356-7878

SUNDAY CLASSES: 9:30a

WORSHIP SERVICE: 10:30a

## **McLean Presbyterian Church, PCA**

1020 Balls Hill Rd, McLean

PHONE: 703-821-0800

WEBSITE: McLeanPres.org

WORSHIP SERVICES: 9:15a & 11:00a

SUNDAY CLASSES: 9:15a & 11:00a

## **Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Parish**

8601 Wolftrap Rd, Vienna

PHONE: 703-938-2828

WEBSITE: olgcva.org

MASS: Mon-Fri 8:00a; (Noon-check website); Sat: 8:00a; Vigil 5:00p; Sunday: 7:00a, 8:00a, 9:30a, 11:00a, 12:30p; Mass in Spanish 6:00p

## **Redeemer Lutheran Church**

1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean

PHONE: 703-356-3346

WEBSITE: redeemer-mclean.org

SUNDAY CLASSES: 9:45a

WORSHIP SERVICES: 8:30a, 9:45a, 11:00a

## **St. Luke's United Methodist Church**

*"The Church on the Hill"*

7628 Leesburg Pike (Pimmit Hills)

PHONE: 703-893-9220

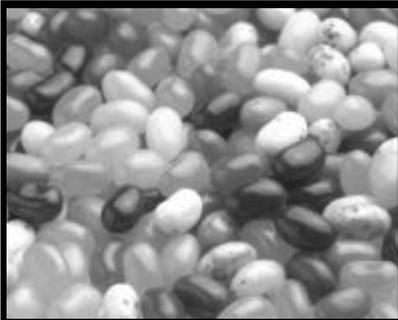
SUNDAY CLASSES: 9:30a

WORSHIP SERVICE: 11:00a

## **The Baha'i Faith**

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Embraces the Oneness of God, Religion and Humanity as the foundation of the truth of all religions. The Bahai'is of McLean and Falls Church hold gatherings, called "firesides," open to all at 8 pm every Friday.



## The Jelly Bean Prayer

RED is for the blood He shed  
GREEN is for the grass He made  
YELLOW is for the sun so bright  
ORANGE is for the edge of night  
BLACK is for the sins we make  
WHITE is for the grace He gave  
PURPLE is for His hour of sorrow  
PINK is for our new tomorrow  
A bag full of jelly beans colorful and sweet  
is a prayer, is a promise, is a special treat.  
Happy Easter!

Poem submitted by Joan Naleppa, Griffith Road

# The Joys of Remodeling

By Cindy Kwitchoff, Dispatch Editor

Part 3

What do you do when you have need for a large remodeling project—whether necessary like the dry rot/termite-damaged walls in my old addition or if you need more space/want to update the look of a room?

Finding a contractor can be difficult because of the high demand for their services. Many times contractors have so much work that they don't even have time to return a call to say they are booked. Be prepared for a lot of dead-ends. I tried calling contractors from the Yellow Pages and local newspapers with no luck. If you want job security, learn how to build a house and you'll never lack for work.

I tried a couple of online websites where you describe your remodel project and contractors call you if they want the job. A few of them came by to give estimates. I was very confused when the estimates from two different companies came back with a \$30,000 price difference. Would the lower price be a poor job just because it was cheaper? I couldn't tell between the two so I didn't go with either.

Another company came out, looked around and said they would get back to me with their estimate. I never heard from them. One person was a dreadful salesman. A singleton carpenter, he acted like everything was going to be too difficult. Yet, he wanted to know when I wanted the job started because he

needed the money for his wife who had cancer and was in the hospital. I don't know if this was true or not, but complaining about difficulties and using a sick relative to gain sympathy is not a mark of a professional business person and not someone you want to be dealing with every day for 4-5 months.

An article in the *Washington Post* told of a man in Arlington who couldn't find a contractor willing to expand his home. In his frustration, he began doing it himself after work and on weekends. A year or two later, through trial and error and lots of on-the-job learning, his remodel was complete. Afraid this would be my fate, I started reading home improvement books.

One day last spring, while taking some photos of Deanne Everst-Smeyer's gardens, I mentioned my lack of success finding a contractor. She suggested a contractor she knew well—her fiancé (now husband) Rich Ellis.

That was the good news: I found a contractor willing to do the job, someone I could trust, and he lived around the corner. The bad news for readers is that my remodel project is his last job after 20 years because he is changing careers and going into the lucrative computer networking business. However, I'm trying to get Rich to write a home improvement/remodeling column for the *Dispatch* so he can share with us his valuable experience and

knowledge. Stay tuned!

The whole contracting process takes time so it's good to be patient. It began in May 2003 and actual construction work didn't begin until January of this year. Between that time, the architect Rich uses came out and did drawings, Rich was working on another job, and the plans had to go through Fairfax County for approval (the contractor deals with that fortunately).

Where do you get the money to do a remodel? That wonderful thing for homeowners — equity. Go to your bank or any bank and discuss your needs. They can figure out a way to make it happen, especially since our homes are worth a lot and continuing to increase in value. I refinanced, got a cash out and an equity loan. Even so, remodeling is expensive and I've had to stay away from all malls and stores. At least I don't live in Illinois where my mother lives — her house is in short

walking distance of Home Depot, Target, Michaels, etc. That's all there is to do around the Chicago-land area — shop at these mega stores in every town. I'd go broke!

In November I began preparing for the remodel. Pimmit Hills resident Dave Stevenson came and removed my wood deck to make a playhouse for his kids. I'm glad it's going to good use. When he removed the flooring, we found the drainage pipe at the corner of the house went nowhere except in a big puddle. Apparently the builders of the deck never put on a drainage pipe extension for some bizarre reason. The corner cement blocks were really eaten away by the constant water — not good!

Groundbreaking began in January and when the siding was taken off, the extent of the wall damage became clear. The bottom of the 2x4's had been eaten away by termites some time ago and the poor





drainage cause the wood to become compost. I'm amazed the back of the house didn't crash down, especially during Isabel.

What shocks me the most is something I mentioned in my first article. The siding contractors back in 2001 could clearly see how rotted the walls were but they never told me. They just covered it up with Tyvek and siding, got paid and were gone.

Replacing the old metal Pimmit Hills siding with new vinyl siding is one of the easiest ways to immediately improve the look of your house. However, it is so important to be watching the entire time to see the condition your walls . My siding people knew if they told me how bad the back walls were that I would have to stop the job, take time to fix it and they wouldn't get their full payment. Unscrupulously, it was better for them to cover it up, not say anything and get paid. These types of contractors unfortunately make others look bad. How-

ever, not all contractors are like this and many are very concerned about doing a quality job the right way.

My contractor Rich says that word-of-mouth and personal

recommendations from family, friends, coworkers, neighbors are probably the best way to find a good contractor. Rich also had good advice to get mentally prepared for remodeling projects: it will always take longer than expected. At first it will be exciting to watch it get started, then you'll get real tired of the mess, noise and people everywhere, but once you see everything coming together towards the end, your excitement will go up again. He also said it will be dustier than expected.

He's right about the dust! So far, I find watching the whole construction process fascinating and I'm not minding my entire house is in chaos. Maybe it's from watching too much HGTV or TLC shows. Who needs them when I can go out and watch it live and try out the nail gun once in a while? ■

# Warm Weather Brings Con Artists

By the National Association of the Remodeling Industry

Along with warm weather often come the home improvement con artists.

As welcome as a spring breeze and often as blustery, these con artists show up at your door offering an array of services ranging from driveway to roof repair, and usually demand a hefty down payment up front. They might offer a "great deal," based on using materials left over from a previous job, but homeowners should remember that a "great deal" isn't always what it seems.

Frequently, these fly-by-night operators drive vehicles without out-of-state license plates, or set up temporary offices from which they can move quickly once authorities start looking for them.

Before writing that check, and especially before allowing any unknown individual into your home, NARI suggests that you:

- Get the name and address of the company that person allegedly represents.
- Get all details of the offer in writing and carefully review it. Be sure you understand everything in the contract and that any verbal promises made are included in the contract.
- Determine how long the company has been in business and call organizations with which the contractor is affiliated, such as NARI or other trade associations, to determine the firm's legitimacy.

- Ask for references and contact each one.

Remember that any legitimate company that wants your business will be more than willing to allow you the time to do your homework. Don't fall prey to high-pressure tactics such as "this is the only chance you have" or "by tomorrow the extra materials will be gone."

Be skeptical if they....

- Come to your door unsolicited.
- Use high-pressure sales tactics.
- Request full payment before completing the work.

- Give a post office box without a street address or phone number.

- Promise to begin and complete the work more quickly and cheaply than any other company.

- Say they just finished work on your neighbor's house and have just enough materials to do repair work on yours. They might say they can give you a better bargain if you let them do the work today since they have the supplies now.

Consumers can call the NARI National hotline at 800-611-NARI and request a free copy of NARI's brochure, "How to Select a Remodeling Professional," or visit [www.RemodelToday.com](http://www.RemodelToday.com) and click on the homeowner's guide for more information. ■



# Dispatch Classifieds

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**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.

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

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**CARPET & FURNITURE CLEANING**—Plus carpet/furniture protection, pet problems. Also pressure washing and auto detailing. 15 years experience, no gimmicks. Call now for free estimate. Bill Gentzler at 703-847-9741 or 703-963-4905.

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**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.

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**DAYCARE**—In my Pimmit Hills home. Full-time, part-time, before and after school. Close to Rts. 7, 66 and 495. I care for children 6 weeks and up. I have 30 years experience and great references. Reasonable price includes lunch and snack. Call Edna at 703-821-8366.

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**DAYCARE**—In my home in Pimmit Hills, Fairfax County. CPR Training. Food Program. Close to Rts. 7, 66 and 495. For more information, call Connie at 703-288-0229 or 703-609-0194.

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**FOR SALE**—2 Simmons Geneva Easy Side Cribs in a butternut finish for sale. Recommended in the Baby Bargains book. Each crib includes a Simmons Super Maxipedic crib mattress. \$150 a piece or \$250 for the pair. Call Laurie Peake at 703-356-7414

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**FOR SALE**—Brand new custom-made conventional surf fishing rod, 11 ft 6 in, 2 pieces, 4-8 oz. All Star Blank. Beautiful design, red drum logo, gold/garnet colors. It will change the way you fish. Capable of casting over 200 yards. Call 703-442-9633.

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

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**HANDYMAN/REMODELING**—Specializing in kitchen, bathroom remodeling. Also available: painting, tile, drywall repair, decks power washed and repaired, minor plumbing and lots more. **SPRING SPECIAL:** Crawlspace insulation! Call Kenny Shrader at 703-506-4532 for free estimate. Long-time Pimmit Hills resident.

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**HANDYMAN**—Roof and gutter repairs, hauling and general home maintenance. Gutter cleaning special \$35 (with gutter screens extra). Power washing fences, decks, siding. Call Steve at 540-718-4120 or pager, 703-393-3272. Free estimates. 24-hr emergency roof repairs.  
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**HANDYMAN SERVICE**—Handyman Service Reasonable Rates—shed installation, pet doors, drywall & rotted wood repair, ceiling & attic fans, window & screen replacement, storm doors, toilet repairs, caulking, dryer vent cleaning, outdoor lighting, power washing +. Free estimates, insured. Call Doug at 703-556-4276. See our website [www.novahandyman.com](http://www.novahandyman.com).  
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**PERSIAN RUGS**—Antique, semi-antique, & new. 8 x 5 & smaller. Great quality, unbeatable prices! Sheila at 703-714-0090.  
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**PERSONAL CHEF**—Healthy and delicious dinners cooked for you by a member of the Personal Chefs of America. Your calorie/diet needs as well as personal taste met. Dinners delivered to your home, save time and money. Call Deborah at 301-922-1174.  
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**RELIABLE HELP**—Student is available to pet sit, house sit, house clean, evening babysitting, etc. Call Maggie at 703-790-8961.  
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**SPRING CLEAN UP SERVICE**—Reasonable prices. Lawn mowing, edging, gutter cleaning, leaf removal, trimming and other services upon request. I will provide you with excellent service and unbeatable rates. Call Eduardo at 703-442-9633 for a free estimate.  
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**YARD SALE**—Community-wide Pimmit Hills yard sale on Saturday, April 24 (rain date Sun, Apr 25), 8 am—?. Everyone in PH is encouraged to have a yard sale that day or go to your neighbor's yard sale! PHCA homebase for sale will be 1927 Pimmit Drive. Set up a table there or at your home.  
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**YOUR AD HERE**—Only \$10 per month with a 40 word maximum. Easy way to get the word out to 1,637 Pimmit Hills homes! Go to [PimmitHills.org](http://PimmitHills.org) website for easy way to send in your ad.  
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**Ads & Articles Deadline  
for May 2004 Pimmit Hills Dispatch:**

**April 10**

**See back cover for more information**



# Citizen Contact Info

## **Dranesville Supervisor Joan DuBois**

McLean Governmental Center  
1437 Balls Hill Road  
McLean, VA 22101  
PHONE: 703-356-0551; FAX: 703-821-4275  
EMAIL: dranesville@fairfaxcounty.gov

## **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**

*Reston District Office*  
1760 Reston Parkway, Suite 312  
PHONE: 703-481-4339  
*Alexandria District Office*  
5115 Franconia Road, Suite B  
Alexandria, VA 22310  
PHONE: 703-971-4700  
WEBSITE: [www.moran.house.gov](http://www.moran.house.gov)

## **Jane K. Strauss, School Board**

10700 Page Avenue  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
PHONE: 703-246-4780  
EMAIL: [jane.strauss@fcps.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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 Supervisors, 703-324-3151  
Consumer Affairs, 703-222-8435  
Dept of Health, 703-246-2411  
Dept of Motor Vehicles, 866-368-5463  
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 Pub. 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-emergency) 703-691-2131  
Tax Administration, 703-324-8234  
Trash Collection/Recycling, 703-324-5040  
VDOT Maintenance, 703-383-VDOT  
Virginia Power, 888-667-3000

## **Fairfax County Zoning Enforcement**

Investigates complaints of alleged violations of the Zoning Ordinance and the Noise Ordinance  
PHONE: 703-324-1300  
FAX: 703-324-1343  
WEBSITE: [www.co.fairfax.va.us/gov/ocp/zoningordinance](http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/gov/ocp/zoningordinance)

**NOTE:** If you find a phone number is incorrect or has been changed, please let the *Dispatch* know.



# PHCA Officers

## Pimmit Hills Citizens Association (PHCA)

1927 Pimmit Drive, Falls Church, VA 22043

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

The Pimmit Hills Citizens Association is one of the largest and oldest community associations in Fairfax County and represents a community of 1,637 homes in the Pimmit Hills area of Falls Church, VA. Pimmit Hills was first established in May 1950. The PHCA monthly *Dispatch* newspaper has been published since 1952.

### PHCA Officers for September 2003 to June 2004:

<b>President</b> President@PimmitHills.org 7711 Fisher Drive	Gene Lesser	703-356-4117
<b>First Vice President</b> FirstVP@PimmitHills.org 1867 Griffith Road	Joan Naleppa	703-893-7866
<b>Second Vice President</b> SecondVP@PimmitHills.org 1848 Peabody Drive	Lee Rock	703-760-7181
<b>Treasurer</b> Treasurer@PimmitHills.org 1939 Leonard Road	Kim Rollen	703-761-7391
<b>Secretary</b> Secretary@PimmitHills.org 1848 Peabody Drive	Sarah Rock	703-760-7181
<b>Three-Year Director</b> Director@PimmitHills.org 2008 Edgar Court	Pete Collat	703-790-1487
<b>Immediate Past President</b> PastPresident@PimmitHills.org 2012 Burfoot Street	Joe Baker	703-448-1392
<b>Dispatch Newspaper Editor</b> Dispatch@PimmitHills.org 1925 Cherri Drive	Cindy Kwitchoff	703-734-0402 703-734-0779 fax
<b>Neighborhood Watch</b>	<i>Vacant</i>	
<b>Fairfax Police (non-emergency)</b>		703-691-2131

PRSR STD  
 U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
 Permit #6221  
 Merrifield, VA

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

PLEASE DELIVER BEFORE APRIL 6  
 Address Correction Requested



## How to Advertise in the Pimmit Hills Dispatch and reach 1,637 Pimmit Hills homes EACH MONTH

DISPLAY ADS:	CLASSIFIED ADS:	WRITE CHECK TO:	MAIL CHECK TO:	SEND News, articles, ads, etc to the Dispatch Editor—
PER MONTH— \$30 for ¼ page; \$55 for ½ page; \$80 for 1 page. Your ad designed for free.	PER MONTH— \$10 for 40 words maximum	PHCA (Pimmit Hills Citizens Association)	Editor, Pimmit Hills Dispatch, 1925 Cherri Dr, Falls Church, VA 22043	<b>EMAIL:</b> Dispatch@PimmitHills.org; <b>FAX:</b> 703-734-0779;
<b>May issue deadline: April 10</b> Go to <a href="http://www.PimmitHills.org">www.PimmitHills.org</a> to send ads/articles				<b>or by MAIL:</b> 1925 Cherri Drive

### PHCA TOWN MEETINGS:

- April 6, 2003
- May 4, 2003
- June 1, 2004
- July-No Meeting
- Aug-No Meeting
- Sept 7, 2004
- Oct 5, 2004
- Nov 2, 2004
- Dec 7, 2004
- Jan 4, 2005
- Feb 1, 2005
- March 1, 2005



PHCA Town Meetings are at 7:30 pm on 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!*