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1927 Pimmit Drive  
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pimmithills.org

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THE PIMMIT HILLS CITIZEN AT  
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## Advertise in the *Pimmit Hills Dispatch* and reach 1,636 Pimmit Hills homes

Display ads: \$25 for ¼ page; \$50 for ½ page; \$75 for entire page, all per month. Ad designed for free. Classified ads: 40 words maximum; \$5 per month.

Write check to: PHCA; Mail check to: Editor, Pimmit Hills Dispatch, 1925 Cherrri Drive, Falls Church, VA 22043

Send news items, articles, ad copy, classified ads, etc to the *Dispatch* Editor via:  
email – dispatch@pimmithills.org; OR fax – 703-734-0779; OR mail – above address.

### February issue deadline: Jan 11

#### Pimmit Hills Citizens Association Meeting Dates for 2001-02:

January 8, 2002	April 2, 2002
February 5, 2002	May 7, 2002
March 5, 2002	June 4, 2002

PHCA 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. Come to discuss important issues facing our community.

*Our Neighborhood,  
Our Home*

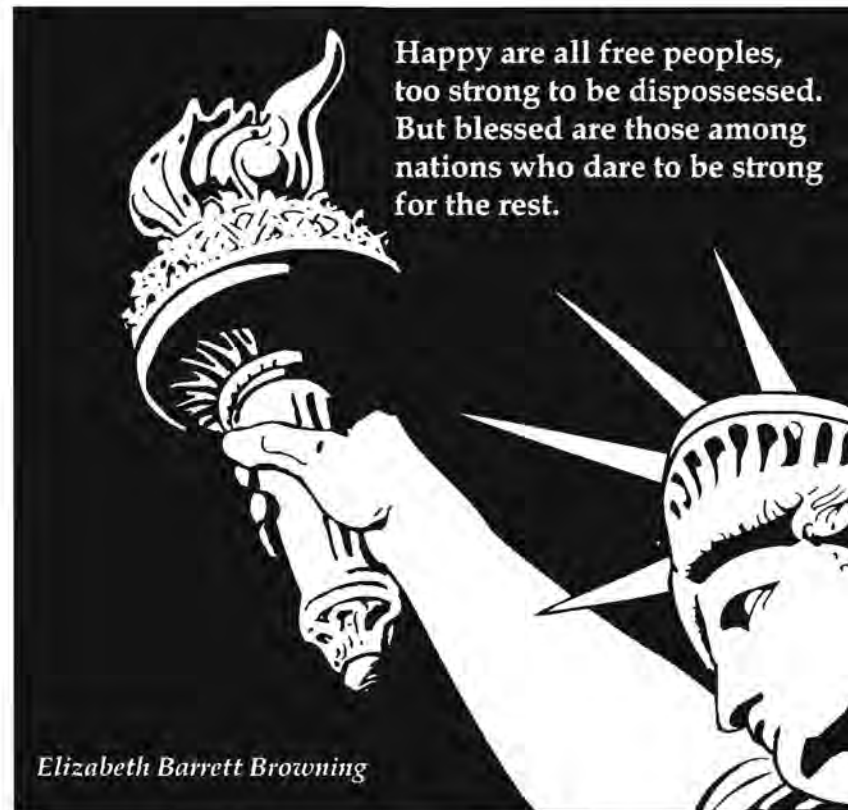
January  
2002



# The Pimmit Hills Dispatch

Courtesy of the  
Pimmit Hills  
Citizens Association

pimmithills.org



*Elizabeth Barrett Browning*

PIMMIT HILLS, VIRGINIA ■ ESTABLISHED IN MAY 1950

# PIMMIT HILLS NEWS

This January issue went to the printers on December 10. The deadline for the February issue is January 11.

Ooops, the next PHCA meeting is not on January 1 (the school is closed that day) but on the following **Tuesday, January 8 at 7:30 pm**. Start the new year by attending the meetings where issues affecting our community where you live are discussed.

People from all over the area drove to Pimmit Hills to see the famous holiday decorations and lights adorning so many houses. Our community is famous for putting on a good show. The winners of the Pimmit Hills Decorating Contest will be announced in the next issue of the *Dispatch*. But if you can't wait that long, the winners will be listed on our website.

Because there is no guarantee with bulk mailing as to the exact date you will receive your *Dispatch*, remember that you can always go to the Pimmit Hills website for all the articles online. Often there is more on the website than can fit into this paper, like the photos (on the right) from the PHCA Holiday Party held on December 4.

Thanks to all who brought the abundance of cookies – what a party! And to those who helped set up and clean up afterwards. The contributions show we have a lot of community spirit.

PHCA Second Vice President Raymond Bernot needs your help

working with the McLean Citizens Association and the McLean Commons Citizens Association on development and traffic issues affecting our whole area. Together, the three Associations can be a strong voice in Fairfax County. Contact him at 703-893-8433.

☞☞

Upcoming PHCA Meeting Dates:

January 8, 2002

February 5, 2002

March 5, 2002

The meetings are at 7:30 pm on the first Tuesday of every month at the Pimmit Hills School on Lisle Ave.☞



**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](mailto:phca@pimmithills.org)

## OFFICERS for June 2001 to June 2002:

President	Joe Baker	703-448-1394 <a href="mailto:president@pimmithills.org">president@pimmithills.org</a>
First Vice President	Bill Niland	703-356-8240 <a href="mailto:firstveep@pimmithills.org">firstveep@pimmithills.org</a>
Second Vice President	Raymond Bernot	703-893-8433 <a href="mailto:secondveep@pimmithills.org">secondveep@pimmithills.org</a>
Treasurer	Kim Rollen	703-761-7391 <a href="mailto:treasurer@pimmithills.org">treasurer@pimmithills.org</a>
Secretary	Jennifer Baker	703-448-1394 <a href="mailto:secretary@pimmithills.org">secretary@pimmithills.org</a>
Three Year Director	Martha Duggar	703-356-6508 <a href="mailto:director@pimmithills.org">director@pimmithills.org</a>

## WHO TO CALL:

PHCA Sunshine Fund	Joan Naleppa	703-893-7866
Neighborhood Watch	Bill Niland	703-356-8240
Fairfax County Police (non-emergency)		703-691-2131
The Dispatch Editor	Cindy Kwitchoff	703-734-0402 fax: 703-734-0779
		email: <a href="mailto:dispatch@pimmithills.org">dispatch@pimmithills.org</a> mail: 1925 Cherri Drive

## Ad rates per issue:

\$25 for 1/4 page  
\$50 for 1/2 page  
\$75 for whole page  
Classifieds: \$5; 40 words max

# BE A MEMBER

## of the Pimmit Hills Citizens Association



Have you renewed your yearly membership  
in the Pimmit Hills Citizens Association?

Yearly membership is only

\$5 per person per year; \$10 per couple

(PHCA Year is: September 2001 to August 2002).

Members will receive the new PHCA Directory when completed.

Non-members must pay \$15 for the Directory.

**Important: the information you provide below will be incorporated  
into the next PHCA Directory. Please be sure it is accurate.**

*Mail form with your yearly dues to:*

Pimmit Hills Citizens Association, Inc.

1927 Pimmit Drive, Falls Church, VA 22043

Name (s) [\$5 per person; \$10 per couple]

Street Address

Falls Church, VA 22043

Home Phone

E-Mail Address

Amount Enclosed  
(\$5 per person)

I'd like to volunteer for PHCA activities

yes  no

# Pimmit Hills Community Events

Sponsored by the  
Pimmit Hills Citizens Association

## NEXT EVENT!

**Community Yard Sale:** Saturday, April 20 or raindate Saturday, April 27. PHCA will be selling spaces (place TBD) for \$10 as a fundraiser for you to set up shop and sell your stuff.

**Taste of Pimmit Hills:** Saturday, June 15 at one of our local parks. Our community is rich in diversity! We will celebrate this by having a picnic where everyone is invited to bring their favorite dish to share from their native country or tradition. Local restaurants will be invited too.

# CHINA KING



Authentic Hunan and Szechuan Cuisine

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Beef . . . \$4.50

Shrimp . . . \$4.75

Vegetable . . . \$3.95

Fried Rice/Lo Mein . . . \$3.95-\$4.50

Chef Specialities . . . \$6.50-\$7.95

Location: 7500 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA

*We are on Route 7 at Tyson's Station Shopping Center (1/2 mile inside  
Beltway) next to Trader Joe's*

**Phone: 703.288.6588**

Hours: Mon-Thurs 11:00 am to 9:30 pm; Fri 11:00 am to 10:00 pm;

Sat 11:30 am to 10:00 pm; Sun Noon to 9:00 pm

We gladly accept cash or checks

### FREE

Egg Roll or Choice of Soup

Wonton, Egg Drop or Hot & Sour  
with this coupon or any entrée purchase.  
China King • Falls Church  
703-288-6588

Not valid with other offers.  
Offer expires 3-1-2002 PH

### \$2 OFF

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703-288-6588

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Offer expires 3-1-2002 PH

### FREE

Chicken Fried Rice

With any purchase of \$25 or more  
China King • Falls Church  
703-288-6588

Not valid with other offers.  
Offer expires 3-1-2002 PH





## Did You Know?

By Jennifer Baker, PHCA Secretary

**H**ello Neighbors—I am here to tell you that I don't think I have ever seen so many holiday treats in all my life. The table at the December meeting and holiday social was groaning with a wide variety of baked goods, all of which tasted as good as they looked – or so I was told (smile)! After a short business meeting, over forty of us enjoyed a wonderful time mixing, mingling and generally getting into the spirit of the season. We thank everyone who came out and all those who contributed to the success of this event. We hope that everyone enjoyed a safe and happy holiday time.

Now, it's time to turn our attention to the New Year that lies before us. The thing I love about this time of year is that it is the perfect time to focus on establishing good habits and overcoming obstacles (real and imagined) to the implementation of our good intentions. A good example of an excellent and relatively easy new good habit you could form is making time once a month to come out to the PHCA meeting. For just a small investment of time, this is one of your best chances to make a real community connection.

You will meet a cross section of your neighbors, old and young, long time residents and those new to the area. You will also get in touch with the events going on in and around the boundaries of the Hills that impact our quality of life and have the opportunity to voice your opinions and respond to them. So, resolve now to make it out on January 8<sup>th</sup> (moved due to the New Year Holiday) and then the first Tuesday of every month thereafter through June.

In order to entice you just a bit more, following are a few highlights from the Association's last meeting.

President Joe Baker reported on his attendance at a meeting on emergency preparedness hosted by County officials. He indicated that, based on the information provided at this meeting, it appears that Fairfax County is pretty well positioned to respond to a large-scale community emergency. Joe brought back a supply of literature on emergency preparedness to distribute. These materials will be put out at future meetings as well.

First Vice President, Bill Niland

*Continued on page 6*

Ads are due  
January 11  
[dispatch@pimmithills.org](mailto:dispatch@pimmithills.org)

## ADVERTISING in the Dispatch

CLASSIFIEDS:  
\$5 per month; 40 words max

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1/4 page = \$25  
1/2 page = \$50  
1 page = \$75  
per month  
Ad designed for free

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PHCA

Send checks to:  
1925 Cherri Dr.

Send ad copy to:  
email: [dispatch@pimmithills.org](mailto:dispatch@pimmithills.org)  
fax: 703-734-0779  
mail: 1925 Cherri Drive

**MASSAGE**—Licensed, Nationally Certified Massage Therapist offers therapeutic massage in convenient Falls Church location. If you can benefit from increased mobility, decreased stress or pain, or simply pure relaxation, please call Leslie Jividen Luxenberg, CMT at 703-827-2747 for more info.

**WANTED**—House to rent. Family with County/HUD Housing Choice Voucher (family pays portion of rent based on income; govt pays remainder). Min. 3 BR, 1-1/2 bath. Max. rent: mid \$1500s including utility allowance. Call Laura, 703-288-3684 or 571-276-2172

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in the Dispatch



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 2000 sq ft addition. I'll give you ideas and client reference list. Call Peter Boric at 703-790-8396.

☞

**AVON**—Call Maggie, your Pimmit Hills Avon Representative, 703-356-6058. Leave name and number.

☞

**AVON**—Call Julie to get your Cosmetics, Fragrances, Haircare, Skincare and gifts delivered to your door in time for every occasion. Free gift with every order. Call today to get your free brochure. 703-790-5147 or donjuliatiff@earthlink.net.

☞

**CARPET CLEANING**—4 rooms only \$48. Pimmit Hills resident. 7 rooms & hallway \$75. Nationally certified. Furniture cleaning experts. Serving Northern Virginia since 1977. Pet problems and carpet protection. Call Bill or Mike at 703-978-2270 or 703-847-9741.

☞

**CHILDCARE**—In my Pimmit Hills home for infants and toddlers. Close to 495, Rt 7 & 66. Experienced and great references. Reasonable rates which include lunch and snacks. Call Edna at 703-821-8366.

**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.

☞

**FREE** wood mulch and firewood delivered. Call Mark at 703-790-0651.

☞

**KIDS WANT TO WORK** to earn spending money. Need mowing, raking, babysitting, odd jobs? Boy, 15 (yard work experience), 2 girls, 14; little brother, 12, can help too. Call Laura 703-288-3684 or 571-276-2172; email hartwl@hotmail.com.

☞

**HANDYMAN**—Kenny's Handyman Service: 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.



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**Free ice cream for dine-in only**

**Conveniently located near Pimmit Hills at the  
 Commons Shopping Center  
 on Anderson Road**

**We're located to the right of the Safeway**

**703-356-5568**

**Monday-Thursday 11:00 am to 10:00 pm**  
**Friday and Saturday 11:00 am to 11:00 pm**  
**Sunday 11:30 am to 10:00 pm**



Continued from page 4

and resident Julius Hankin shared information about the Shepherd's Center. This is an inter-faith organization run by seniors for seniors and focused on a new vision of aging. There are over 100 centers around the county. All receive support from local faith groups, but there is no religious focus to any of the group's activities. A Shepherd Center group is now forming for this area and participation is needed.

Second Vice President Raymond Bernot reported that he has been working with representatives from the McLean Commons Citizens Association (MCCA) and those interested in being involved in the efforts to address concerns relative to the development proposal for the Commons will be contacted soon about upcoming meetings.

Germaine Broussard, President of the MCCA, and several other members of that association were present and spoke to us. As always, the MCCA representatives offered some interesting information, including a surprising statistic. Ap-

parently, they have seen data that indicates 20,000 cars per day travel on Magarity between Griffith and Anderson. Wow - talk about a traffic problem! Many thanks go to Germaine and her group for their willingness to share information and make positive connections between our two communities.

Please remember that we have posted information on the Association Web site ([www.pimmithills.org](http://www.pimmithills.org)), so that you can contact key officials and let your own voice be heard on the proposed plans for the Commons. We have provided you with some general tips on how to compose your own message and hope you do choose to be involved. If you do choose to contact your representatives, please let us know by calling or emailing President Joe Baker.

Thanks and we look forward to seeing even more of you in the New Year!!

#### Next PHCA Meetings:

January 8 at 7:30 pm

February 5 at 7:30 pm

Pimmit Hills School, Lisle Ave.

**Next PHCA Meeting:  
Tuesday, January 8**

**[pimmithills.org](http://pimmithills.org)**

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:DelJScott@aol.com)

### State Senator Janet D. Howell

P.O. Box 2608  
Reston, VA 20195-0608

PHONE: 703-709-8283

EMAIL: [SenHowell@aol.com](mailto: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](http://www.house.gov/moran)

### 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 Serice, 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 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 Human Svc

Health Line, 703-222-0776

Fairfax County Public Schools,

703-246-2502

Gas Leaks, 888-223-9452

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, 703-838-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](mailto:plancom@co.fairfax.va.us)



# Visit a Place of Worship

## Charity Baptist Church

(Spring Hill at Lewinsville Road)  
1328 Spring Hill Road, McLean  
Pastor John Mitchell  
Pastor Andy Giessman – Youth  
703-893-2177

Worship 10:45 am; Adult and children's Sunday School 9:30 am; Home Bible Studies-weekday eves.

☪

## 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  
Evening service 6:30 pm

☪

## McLean Presbyterian Church

1020 Balls Hill Rd, McLean  
Pastor John Hutchinson  
703-821-0800

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

☪

## Idylwood Presbyterian Church

7617 Idylwood Rd, Falls Church  
Pastor Leonard B. Sirbaugh, Jr.  
703-573-3027

Sunday School for children and adult education class at 10:00 am; worship 11:00 am; coffee hour at noon.

☪

## 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  
Sunday school 9:45 am  
Sunday services 8:30 am, 11:00 am  
Praise Service 6:30 pm

☪

## 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.

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Sat-Sun: Closed



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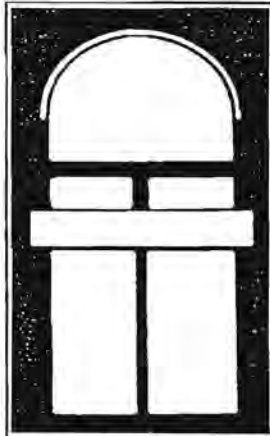
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## Development Plans Effect on Traffic

By Bob Hartenstine,  
McLean Commons Citizens Association



**The Commons  
of McLean Proposed  
Redevelopment**

One of the most damaging effects of the Commons development plan on the local quality of life would be its impact on traffic. At the present time local traffic could be described as heavy, particularly at peak hours. The roads most directly effected would be Anderson Road, 123 and Magarity.

Almost all Commons traffic must use Anderson road and for Pimmit it's the most direct route

too 123. Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) figures for the year 2000 show an average daily use of 7,700 cars on the section between Magarity and 123. With the new development adding about 10,000 more cars and assuming an average use of only two trips a day, once out once back, the new figure would be about 27,700, about a 250% increase.

Most mornings 123 bound traffic on Anderson road gets backed up past the light at Old Chain Bridge road. Now the back up might go all the way to Magarity. With the three minute light at 123, it could take 30 minutes to get through this short stretch of Anderson road. Bad as

this estimate may seem, it may be optimistic considering other aggravating factors.

VDOT figures show that 123 between the Beltway and Old Dominion-drive is already a bottle neck. The 53,000 cars per day is about 20,000 more then the road sections on either end of it. The work being done now to widen 123 is only to accommodate the added traffic expected from Mitre, Bank One and other new com-

plexes that will add many thousands of cars a day (4,000 = 8,000 per day from Mitre alone) to this already heavy load. Together this could add about 35,000 cars or about a 65% increase.

The traffic nightmare at Anderson and 123 will force many drivers to seek other routes like the already heavily used Magarity Road. Between Griffith and Anderson, Magarity averages 20,000 cars a day. Between Anderson and Great Falls Road its 10,000. How much would be added is hard to say, but clearly it would be significant. If you factor in the new Super Safeway on Magarity right next to the elementary

*Continued on page 10*

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Pat, Falls Church, VA

*It's nice to deal with honest folks you can trust.*

Cheryl, Falls Church, VA

*They were so nice and patient, I never felt rushed or harassed.*

Joe, Falls Church, VA

*It was nice to just hand them my keys and walk away from all the headaches.*

William, Falls Church, VA

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If your property is listed with a Realtor/Firm, this is not an intent to solicit such listing



continued from page 22

damaged most of their Camellia collection. One species survived intact and from this a line of hardy, fall/winter-blooming Camellias was produced by Dr. William Ackerman. These lovely, small-flowered evergreen trees can be found in most garden centers; look for chilly names such as 'Winter's Star', 'Polar Ice' and 'Pink Icicle'.

Another Arboretum breeding project brought us one of the most widely planted Crape Myrtles (*Lagerstoemia*), the white-flowered, cinnamon-barked 'Natchez'. By incorporating the hardier *Lagerstoemia fauriei*, which arrived in this country from Japan in the 1950's, into the Common Crape Myrtle, *L. indica*, Dr. Donald Egolf introduced a line of hardier, disease resistant Crapes with Native American names such as 'Hopi', 'Commanche' and 'Tuscarora'. Plant breeders have also crossed unrelated plants to produce inter-genetic hybrids, designated by an "x" in front of the Latin name. The most popular of these crosses is the Leyland Cypress (*x Cupressocyparis leylandii*), a narrow, flame shaped evergreen, easily found in our neighborhood. Although the original cross was made over a hundred years ago in Wales, Leyland Cypresses did not become popular here until the 1980's.

In the flower gardens Daylilies (*Hemerocallis*) are a great example of a bloom boom. From the lowly or-

ange "Ditch Lily", a horde of new and exciting cultivars have appeared on the market -- yellows, pinks, purples, whites, minis, spiders and doubles.

But the biggest thing to hit the Daylily world was the introduction of the ever-blooming, golden-yellow 'Stella D'Oro' in 1975. And now the trend appears to be a long season of bloom, with 'Black-eyed Stella' and 'Happy Returns' following in Stella's footsteps. Less than ten years ago the black-leaf Yam Vine called 'Blackie' (*Ipomoea batatas*) made its debut in public gardens. Now the home gardener can find it at the local home improvement store, along with its variegated and chartreuse cousins, 'Pink Frost' and 'Margarita'. And the Asiatic-Easter Lily hybrids ("L.A." for short) that appeared in bulb catalogs only a couple/few years ago, are showing up in floral arrangements already.

Whew! It's enough to make your head spin! Well, maybe mine spins a little more readily than most. But look for something new and different in the garden catalogs this winter and in the nurseries this spring. There is so much out there in the horticulture world ... and so little space in the yard... I wonder if the neighbor would notice if the fence got a little closer to his back door...?

*Horticulturalist Deanne Eversmeyer  
lives on Leonard Road.*

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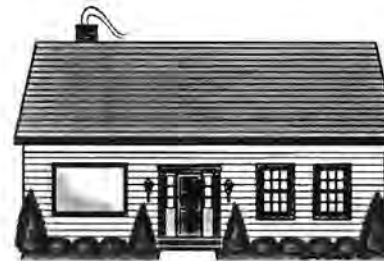


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Continued from page 8

school the problem becomes even worse.

Clearly this massive increase in traffic will adversely effect public safety, air quality, noise and generally degrade the quality of life. If you agree with us at the McLean Commons Citizen's Association (MCCA) and PHCA that this devel-

opment plan should be opposed, then we need your help. I urge you to stay active in the PHCA, stay informed, apathy is are greatest enemy. Be prepared to write, or speak out. We must let the decision makers know what the people think. Each of us can make a difference. ☞

  
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profit from the venture a necessity, realizable by closing the project to thru traffic with concomitant increase in value to the landlord.

If closure of Anderson Road at Magarity was decided at the charrette, then PHCA members should be advised so that their opinion for or against the measure will be an

informed one. By not making this feature explicit, the form taken by PHCA member complaints can itself be interpreted by the planning supervisors as a recommendation that the road be closed. This is not right.

**Bob Lowry**  
*Gilson Street*



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# The Pimmit Hills Gardener

By Deanne Eversmeyer,  
Horticulturalist

When I was a kid the garden center at the intersection of Gallows Road and Lee Highway wasn't much more than a roadside stand. It's amazing how much it and other landscape related businesses have grown in the last few decades as our economy has boomed. And grown not only in quantity, but also in quality.



Our desire to have the best and newest has spilled over into the plant world. And the plant explorers, hybridizers and producers have kept pace, feeding the gardening frenzy with new plants every year.

Yes, there really are people out there who go exploring for new plants. Some poke through the woods near home, looking for a different, better form of a native plant. Others search for new, garden-worthy plants in exotic locales such as China, Korea and Chile. Once transplanted to the U.S., these imports are often subjected to cross-breeding, or hybridization, with related plants. Genetic manipulation

of plants has been a human pastime for millennia, since the first person saved the biggest kernels of corn in the Americas or the seeds of the sweetest melon in Africa to plant the next year. The recombining of genes can lead to wonderful things, but only if they can be propagated for more to enjoy. The nurserymen

come in at this point, reproducing plants by seed, cuttings, grafting and, more recently, by tissue culture. With tissue culture, a technician can take one plant and grow hundreds and even thousands in the lab. A prize-winning Hosta that used to remain in the rich-and-famous price bracket for decades, can now be produced in quantities that make it affordable for the average Joe Gardener just years after it's debut.

One of the largest plant breeding programs is just across the river at the National Arboretum. Back in the late '70's a couple of rough winters

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# What Do We Care About?

By Tom Gillespie, Storm Drive

I was at the October PHCA meeting and listened to the developers and I read the related articles in the last issue of the Dispatch. I've been thinking about the proposed McLean Commons redevelopment, as many of us have. Thinking about 10 years of construction, a delayed new Safeway, a denser population, clogged schools, and related traffic issues—I asked myself, "what do I care about? How does this affect me?" I asked myself this because my first inclination was to oppose the redevelopment without much consideration. However, I decided that I wasn't going to be just a knee-jerk oppositionist; I wanted to really consider this carefully and compare it to what's important to me. Below are the issues, what I think they mean, and what I care about.

## The Commons:

If they bulldoze the Commons, certainly many people will have find a new place to live. And the new apartments will probably be of poorer overall quality and be out of their price range. I can sympathize with the Commons residents who oppose the proposed plan, but I think they should start looking now for a new place to live. Even if the Metro station isn't built, the new owners are committed to making a buck off of the property through redevelopment of some kind. That's

one reason why I bought a home and don't rent--renters aren't the masters of their own domains. Ten years of construction: Ugh--this really seems like a lot of mess for a long time. Of course, for those like me who live in the innards of the Hills, the worse we'll face are lots of dump trucks and an ongoing ugly scene. I can feel for those like the man who spoke up at the October meeting and said he lives on Margarity and his house faces the Commons--for those people, this plan is a ten-year nightmare. But let's face it: construction in our area is inevitable. It seems like every speck of land that's underused or unbuilt on is being bulldozed and populated with \$400,000-\$600,000 luxury homes that I couldn't afford even if my decent salary quadrupled. Sad but true, the price for living in an area that a lot of people want to live in is that construction happens.

## Safeway:

I shop at Safeway for one thing--half price specials. And I do that infrequently. Their prices seem higher to me than other grocers, so I shop elsewhere. Even if I did shop there, is a new bigger Safeway store really going to be such a big deal? I doubt it. I think the big deal is getting another drugstore and a cleaners there and I'd hate to wait four or five ex-

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# Letters to the Editor

*Pimmit Drive resident Esther Dunlap asked her fellow Pimmit Hills resident and friend Sandy Albrecht to comment about the PH community and support to Sandy during a tragic time:*

As you know, you asked that I drop you a short note regarding the wonderful community support that was given to my family after the murder of our son, David.

As you will recall, David was 17 years old in February 1998 when he was shot in the head behind Marshall High School. Our family was in complete shock, devastation, and the myriad of emotions when you lose a child, especially a child as wonderful as David. I know every parent thinks their son is wonderful, but David was a special child--warm, kindhearted, and a joy to be with.

David was killed on a Friday and we had to arrange funeral arrangements, deal with the hundreds of friends that David had, and cope with our grief. Imagine our feeling when the next day, Saturday, people from all over Pimmit Hills were dropping by with food, flowers, offers of any and all kinds of help, and emotional support. I have lived in Pimmit Hills since 1985 and my husband was born and raised here, but I felt like I had been here my entire life.



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The wonderful Pimmit Hills community did not stop their emotional support after David's funeral, and their support has continued until this day. It is a wonderful testament to the parents of the friends of David that their children still come by to say hello, and some of the young men are my daughter's designated older brothers!

Again, thank you and this wonderful community! We could not have survived this devastating tragedy without this wonderful help.

*Sandy Albrecht*  
Leonard Road

☞

Dear Editor,

I am convinced, after attending the Oct. 2 meeting of the PHCA that the transit-based (pedestrian-friendly) project as described makes no sense unless Anderson Road is permanently closed at Margarity Road intersection. The subsequent revelation that the proposed Anderson Road address for the Safeway was not acceptable to the developers solidified this conviction. The further offer to compensate Safeway for lost revenue makes substantial

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## Tyson's Pimmit Regional Library News

One of everyone's favorite stops in the library is the lighted display case located in the lobby.

Over the past months it has held a wide range of interesting artifacts from the collections of both staff and patrons. In December, a local citizen loaned his family's trove of antique Christmas decorations. Some of these tiny papier-mache houses and tree ornaments dated back to the 1940s and 50s and earlier, bringing back many a fond memory.

Other displays have featured materials on Islam, Native Americans, and rug hooking, to name a few.

We also welcome loans to the small glass children's display case located near the Information desk. Many treasured toys, from Pokemon figures to American Girl Dolls, have caught and held the attention of our younger patrons.

The library welcomes patrons to share their interests and their collections with the rest of the community, as long as the displays con-

form to the library's guidelines. Exhibits are sought which satisfy the educational, artistic, and cultural curiosity of our visitors. The library avoids sponsoring displays promoting a single political position or candidate. It also does not permit objects to be shown with sale prices, although the exhibitor may be contacted for information about availability for purchase.

Find out more about sharing your collection, or to discuss reserving the display cases, by calling (703) 790-8088.

**Tyson's Pimmit Regional Library**  
7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church

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tra years for that. Most people seemed to agree at the October meeting that we'd like the shopping center redone as soon as possible. The delay the redevelopment poses is not a plus.

### Schools:

My kids will begin attending Lemon Road Elementary in a few years. And although Westgate may be more directly impacted because of its proximity to the Commons, if it gets overcrowded, the school board may move some students to Lemon Road or other schools. I guess I trust that the school board will keep the school crowding under control.

### Traffic:

This is the most important issue for me. I haven't got a clue about how regional traffic planning works or about how Metro stations should be built in highly concentrated residential areas. But I do have serious concerns about potential traffic problems in our neighborhood. What I've noticed in the rhetoric from the developers and those who support them is that "developers don't cause traffic problems" and that "inaction from our county supervisors does." What I feel like these people want me to believe is that adding thousands of residents to my backyard is NOT going to cause a traffic problem. I don't believe that, because whether or not they ride Metro, these new residents will cut through Anderson

Road and Pimmit Drive so much that we're going to be miserable. As much of these developers implied that they are doing a public service for Northern Virginia transportation with this project, the traffic right here in the Hills will become unbearable if their plan moves ahead.

What I care about, and I what I'm going to do about it: I'm no expert, but we have zoning laws for a reason. Just because a bunch of investors want to make a fortune doesn't mean we should re-zone an area. Otherwise, why have zoning laws in the first place? When the proposed project is done, the investors will drink champagne while our streets have become clogged parking lots. On the traffic issue alone, I oppose this redevelopment plan. Even if the developers and their supporters are correct and this redevelopment reduces Northern Virginia traffic (who knows if it will for sure, anyway?), the residents of Pimmit Hills will pay a high price for this. As much as I'm a good citizen, I'm not willing to sacrifice my streets for a bunch of investors to rake in millions on a project that might--MIGHT--be good for our regional transportation system. I plan to write to our elected officials and tell them how I feel. I hope this is something you care about too. We can win this battle, but only if we fight it now. ☞



## Donnie Dick's Heard Through the Grapevine

In one of the previous *Grapevine* columns, I promised to write about good news when I saw or heard something good to report.

I am now able to report such news. You may recall that I complained about the problem of smokers from the Alternative High School and Continuing Education Center, as well as the Senior Center, smoking across the street from the facility. This was an issue that was raised several times with school personnel to no avail.

Well, the problem appears to have been resolved and the smokers now take their breaks on Fairfax County property adjacent to the school's boundaries. I don't know who is responsible for this welcome change but I want to thank them on behalf of our community. Now if we could improve the parking problems, we would really be making progress.

While on the subject of the Pimmit School, I would like to welcome the new principal, Beverly Wilson, to our community. We all look for-



ward to working with her on issues of interest to the school and Pimmit Hills.

If all goes as planned, the area around the school will be blooming daffodils next spring as the result of a bulb planting project on the part of the students and Senior

Center participants completed in early December. This is in addition to the landscaping that has already been completed at the school. If you haven't seen the beautification of the grounds up close and personal, stop by for a visit. You might even want to check out the renovation of the interior of the building. Our tax dollars well spent.

Some of our walking neighbors have advised me of leaves being dumped on county land in the Pimmit Park. The leaves have direct access to our storm drains. For those who don't know, this walk way is in a small park area behind the homes in the 2000 block of Pimmit Drive. Let's show a little respect for our park areas. ☞

*Donnie Dick lives on Nigh Road*

  
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## PIMMIT HILLS



## Remember When...

Looking back through old issues of the *Pimmit Hills Dispatch*, we go to the year 1962 – 40 years ago.

1962 was the first full year the *Dispatch* was in a professional 'booklet' format as it is today and *Dispatches* were sent through bulk mail, all under the able leadership of *Dispatch* Editor Floyd O'Dell [also known as "Digger" who now lives down the street from the current editor]....On the front page of the January 1962 issue: "Ask not what the Association can do for you; ask rather what you can do for your community"....A goal was set to obtain 1500 PHCA members [last year we had around 350]. The reason was so the PHCA had more of a voice when it opposed zoning changes in the area.... Miss Brenda Raines of Howard Court was named the Snowball Queen at the Pimmit Hills Teen Club's annual dance....An article reported on a Fairfax County civil defense meeting held on Dec. 7, 1961, the 20th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack. The effects of and countermeasures against a nuclear attack, County civil defense programs, chemical and biological warfare, and the "psychological problems of shelter living" were among topics discussed.....The February PHCA meeting was deemed a "Gripe Night" for citizens to come forward with their complaints.... The membership drive was so suc-

cessful that the PHCA became the largest active Association in Fairfax County.....Do you remember the following advertisers in the *Dispatch* back then – Fallfax Building Supply, Robinson's 5 & 10 Cent Stores, Brown's Hardware, The Vienna Trust Co, A'Bon Beauty Salon, Pimmit Hills Cleaners, Arlfax Electrical Service, The Pizza Box, Broadlee Amoco, Tyson's Locker Plant, McDaniel's Esso Service Center, McGonegal Plumbing and Heating, and Linkletter-Totten Dance Studios teaching the "Quick-Learn" dance instruction....There was a regular "House and Garden" column written by Doris Langland.....Trash pickup was \$2 a month....There was an article regarding the Tyson's Corner area – widening the roads and a recent county approval of two 80 acres sites "for possible shopping centers.".....The Pimmit Hills PTA, representing Fairfax County, had a float in the 1962 National Cherry Blossom Parade and it was awarded First Place for best overall float, winning out over floats by Coca-Cola and C&P Telephone....240 PH citizens attended a PHCA dance held at the Flame Room over the Vienna Fire Hall. PH'ers loved to dance back then!....*More next month.*☞

– *Dispatch Editor*



## Pimmit Hills Senior Center

Pimmit Hills Senior Center offers a wide variety of activities such as ceramics, craft classes, exercise classes, guest speakers, blood pressure screenings, weekly shopping trips and various other programs. We also offer a daily hot lunch for a donation based on your monthly income.

If you would like to find out more about the Center, please stop by anytime to visit and pick up a copy of the monthly calendar with a complete listing of the daily activities and menu, or call 703-734-3338.

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

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

## Good Neighbor

Ok, we're just going to come out and say it. Please, please, please take down your lights. While icicles and multi-colored strings add to the curb appeal of a home during the holidays, they tend to detract from it the other ten months of the year. Thanks!

If your dog constantly barks you may not notice, but please remember to be considerate of your neighbors and mindful of the law. Fairfax County has strict noise ordinance laws that are in effect 24 hours a day, 7 days week (County code section 108-5-2). Neighbors who are bothered by a dog's constant barking can call the police non-emergency number: 703-691-2131. The first time the officer responds to a complaint, a verbal warning is given; the second time, a summons is issued and the third time an arrest can be made. And this can all happen within a 24-hour period. So please, let's all do our part in keeping our neighborhood a quiet place to live.

Do you have any good neighbor tips to share? Tell us about them. You can email your ideas for this column to [phca@pimmithills.org](mailto:phca@pimmithills.org). Thanks!

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