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The Pimmit Hills DISPATCH

COURTESY OF THE PIMMIT HILLS CITIZENS ASSOCIATION, INC. 1927 PIMMIT DRIVE, FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA 22043.

May 2000



The Trees of Pimmit Hills

Come to the next meeting; kids welcome!

**Pimmit Hills Citizens Association meetings:
Tuesday, May 2 and June 6, 2000 at 7:30 pm**

Pimmit Hills School, 7510 Lisle Avenue, Falls Church





Pimmit Hills
Your Community

Membership Dues Due

If you haven't paid this year's (September 1999-August 2000) PHCA membership dues, please use the form on page 26. It's only \$3 per person and your dues help support your association.



PHCA Sunshine Fund

Would like to cheer up someone in Pimmit Hills who is ill or in the hospital? Call Joan Naleppa at 703-893-7866. She runs the PHCA Sunshine Fund and sends well wishes from the citizens of Pimmit Hills.



Only One More Month...

Until the Citizens Association and the Pimmit Hills Dispatch go on a break. The new officers will start in September. Make plans to get involved with ways to enhance our community next year.



Next PHCA Meeting...

Tuesday, May 2 at 7:30 pm at the Pimmit Hills School. Can't find a babysitter? Bring your kids! Wheat's Landscaping will talk to us about the proposed landscaping for the baseball field at the Pimmit Hills School. Also, the new slate of officers for the Sept. 2000-Aug. 2001 year will be presented. They will be voted on during the June 6 PHCA meeting, the last meeting until September. See Jennifer Baker's "Did You Know" column for the names of those who have come forward to serve on the board.

REACH 1,585 HOMES IN THE HILLS:

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and support the Pimmit Hills Citizens Association

DISPLAY ADS: \$25 for 1/4 page; \$50 for 1/2 page; \$75 for entire page

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Contact the editor, PimmitHills@suburbanweb.com, 703-734-0402 phone, 703-734-0779 fax

DEADLINE:
10th of the month



Pimmit Hills Citizens Association

OFFICERS:

President	Keith Allison	703-356-9632
First Vice President	Linda Rose	703-442-8375
Second Vice President	Gary Samples	703-893-7075
Treasurer	Daniel VanRoekel	703-821-6680
Secretary	Jennifer Baker	703-448-1394
Three Year Director	Jackie Allison	703-356-9632

WHO TO CALL:

Neighborhood Watch	Joe Baker	703-448-1394
Fairfax County Police (non-emergency)		703-691-2131
The Dispatch Delivery	Linda Rose	703-442-8375
The Dispatch Editor	Cindy Kwitchoff	703-734-0402

fax 24 hrs/day: 703-734-0779

e-mail: PimmitHills@suburbanweb.com

mail: 1925 Cherri Drive

Pimmit Hills Citizens Association, Inc. (PHCA)

1927 Pimmit Drive, Falls Church, VA 22043

NEXT PHCA MEETINGS:

Dates:	Tuesday, May 2 and June 6, 2000
Time:	7:30 pm
Location:	Pimmit Hills School
Address:	7510 Lisle Avenue, Falls Church

Your Community
Your Voice in Fairfax County



Pimmit Hills
Your Community

PIMMIT HILLS CITIZENS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

September 1999 - August 2000

It only takes \$3 per person to join the Pimmit Hills Citizens Association. If you haven't paid for this year, please do so to support and get involved with your community! The more members we have, the stronger our voice is with the government of Fairfax County. ☞

Mail form to:

Pimmit Hills Citizens Association, Inc.
1927 Pimmit Drive
Falls Church, VA 22043

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Falls Church, VA 22043

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E-Mail Address

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Did You Know?

BY JENNIFER BAKER, PHCA SECRETARY

Here's what happened at the last Pimmit Hills Citizens Association (PHCA) meeting in April:

Attendance at the monthly meetings has been steadily increasing, but we know that it could be so much higher. Remember that the PHCA is the official voice of the Pimmit Hills Community, which means that the Association is speaking and acting for you in a variety of ways. Be sure your views and opinions are heard by becoming a PHCA member and making time to attend each monthly meeting. With just a small investment of time, you can find out things like...

★The Directories are here! Come to the May meeting to get your very own copy.

★The good news about a recent article that appeared in the *Washington Post*. Paula Castri, the Assistant Principal of the Pimmit School, was on hand to discuss the article, which gave a positive profile of the school and a number of the students who are working very hard to complete their high school education. Ms. Castri reported that

the response to the article has been quite heartening. At least three people have called the school since the article appeared to ask about signing up for classes, saying that the article had inspired them to call.

★The proposed project to landscape the baseball field adjacent to the school for use by Babe Ruth teams for practice. Ms. Castri also provided an update on this project and indicated that the Principal will be registering concerns about the impact on both the school and the houses near the field with the organizers of the project.

★The fact that the County is still deliberating about how much space at the school will be designated for parking. Ms. Castri closed her presentation by reiterating a point made by Principal Bill Harper last month, that is that *residents need to lend support to getting additional parking spaces approved*. Residents should contact Jane Strauss, our local school board representative, by phone at 703-246-4780 or by e-mail at board@burkholder.fcps.k12.va.us and let her know how much

Continued on page 6

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DUE DATE for all ads and articles is the 10th of each month.

CR

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CR

News, Articles, Ads, Etc.

Send news items, articles, ads, responses to issues, etc for *The Pimmit Hills Dispatch* to Cindy, the editor:

EMAIL: PimmitHills@suburbanweb.com

PHONE: 703-734-0402

FAX: 703-734-0779

or drop it off at her house, 1925 Cherri Drive Falls Church, VA 22043.

We need YOUR input!

Send your news!





THE PIMMIT HILLS DISPATCH

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

FOR SALE - 2 washer and dryer sets (white and the other almond), electric. House gifts. \$450 per set. Call 703-916-5344 pager.

☞

TOUR of England/Ireland - Sept 10-22, 2000. Adult tour for 12 days from BWI-Dublin-Ring of Kerry and castles-Waterford-Coventry-Stratford-London. Star hotels, museum entrance fees, guided tours of cities, castles. Cost \$2399 double occupancy. Call Bob Kovalchik at 301-474-4240 or 1-800-767-7602.

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BIBLE STUDY - Come and join us in a Bible Study each Wednesday evening at 7:30 pm. Get into God's Word, have refreshments, and enjoy some great fellowship. For more information, call Jo Ann Kissal at 703-734-9580.

☞

CARPET CLEANING - Pimmit Hills whole house special only \$68; five rooms \$45; furniture cleaning, water damage emergency service. Serving Northern Virginia since 1977. Call Mike at 703-978-2270 or 703-716-0420.

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Continued from page 4

additional parking is needed.

The slate of officers for 2000-2001 has been completed. Linda Rose, First Vice President and Chair of the Nominations Committee, reported that a few good men and women have come forward to serve as officers next year. **Joe Baker** is running for President, **Jennifer Baker** as Secretary, **Linda Rose** as First Vice President, **Bill Niland** as Second Vice President, **Martha Duggar** as the 3 year Director, and **Cindy Kwitchoff** as *Dispatch* Editor. Linda and Cindy will share the duties of Treasurer. The formal slate will be presented at the May meeting and then voted upon at the June meeting.

The **Traffic Calming Study** has been approved. In May, counters will be set up to determine if the roads in questions – Lisle and Griffith – carry enough daily traffic to qualify for traffic calming interventions. As previously reported, this is just a first step. The entire process will take awhile, and community input will be solicited before any traffic calming devices are actually installed.

There are strong feelings in our community about property rights! A discussion to gauge interest in preserving the many tall stately

trees that grace our landscape was held. The majority present did not want to consider anything that would impinge on the right of individuals to do whatever they want on their property, which is certainly a valid concern. Unfortunately the discussion got a bit heated at times, which took away from the overall quality of the conversation. The Association meetings are the perfect place for residents to come together to exchange views. I just hope that in the future, as issues that engender strong feelings come up for discussion, speakers will focus on attacking the merits of the issue at hand rather than being aggressive and dismissive towards those expressing opposing views. If participation in the Association is going to grow, we must be willing to hear each other out and work together to identify common ground.

See what you miss out on when you don't come? Ok, ok, I'll get off my soapbox, but not before I remind you that the monthly PHCA meeting is a great place to meet your neighbors and hear about the issues that effect our community, so make the time and plan to join us in May!☞

**Next PHCA Meeting:
Tuesday, May 2 at 7:30 pm**

**From the National Arbor Day Foundation website,
www.arborday.org:**

- Trees can increase the property value of your home 15% or more.
- Shade trees planted east and west of your home can cut cooling costs 15-35%.
- A windbreak can lower home heating bills up to 30%.
- Cities without trees are "heat islands." 100 million additional mature trees in US cities would save \$4 billion per year in energy costs.
- Trees remove air pollution by lowering air temperature, through respiration, and by retaining particulates.
- Trees support many generations of birds and other wildlife and improve community pride.

What's Your Opinion?

During the last Pimmit Hills Citizens Association Meeting, the issue of the trees in our community was discussed as the result of an incident where a citizen had cut down all the trees in his yard because he did not want to rake the leaves in the fall. What is your opinion on this?

Not at issue are the basic rights to do as we please with our property. Most (but not all) of us like the fact that no one can tell us what color to paint our house or if we can park a commercial truck in our driveway, like the restrictions of some higher-end communities. What the issue is – what do you think about the above incident? Email your response to PimmitHills@suburbanweb.com, or you can fax or mail it to the editor. All responses must be signed.☞

School News

Home Games at Marshall High School

*Sports events right in your backyard!
Show your support for our teams.*

May 4: Men's soccer, women's lacrosse, both playing Langley
May 5: Baseball, playing Fairfax; Men's Lacrosse, playing Langley; women's softball, playing Fairfax
May 7: Women's lacrosse, playing Edison
May 8: Women's soccer, playing Woodson
May 10: Baseball and women's softball, both playing Madison
May 11: Tennis, playing Woodson
May 12: Baseball and women's softball, both playing Lee

Music Events

May 23: Orchestra concert, 7:30 pm
June 1: Band concert, 7:30 pm
June 7: Choral concert

off! This willowy four-foot grass is not hardy here, but can be lifted in the fall and kept in a cool basement or garage for the winter.

A fresh new face at the garden center belongs to the Million Bells (*Calibracoa*), a miniature version of the petunia with trailing tendencies. The sun-loving, afraid-of-no-drought Vinca (*Catharanthus*), aka Madagascar Periwinkle (but not to be confused with *Vinca minor*), comes in more new colors each Spring. And the old Geranium has certainly gone through a face-lift. Look for varieties with colorful foliage such as 'Vancouver Sentinel' with its heavy rusty-red zonation and bright orange flowers, or 'Platinum' with its white-rimmed

leaves and sprays of coral blossoms. For shadier pots try one of the Mini-Cascade Ivy Geraniums (the flowers and foliage are much smaller than a regular ivy geranium, but also much more abundant) or the lacy Bacopa with tiny lavender or white flowers. Given up on the old-fashioned fuchsias that die off before you get tired of having the kids home for the summer? Then ask for the beautiful upright Fuchsia 'Gartenmeister Bohnstedt' instead. The bright coral, tubular flowers and purple-flushed foliage will draw rave reviews! ☺

Horticulturalist Deanne Eversmeyer lives on Leonard Road.



"One touch of nature makes the whole world kin."

☺ William Shakespeare ☺


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Local Church Holds Sale

Idylwood Presbyterian Church is having a Spring Sale Event on Saturday, May 13 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

There will be food and drink, baked goods, household items, kitchenwares, furniture, appli-

ances, clothing, jewelry, shoes, flowers, plants, books and odds and ends.

The sale is being held at the church, which is located at 7617 Idylwood Road in Falls Church.



Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor, I am writing to thank all the people who live on the corner

of Lisle and Anderson. My family was in a car accident and the neighbors all came out to assist. We were fortunate that no one was hurt, even the eight month old baby — thank heavens for car seats and seat belts.

I have lived in Pimmit Hills for over a year and have seen numerous car accidents at this intersection. The gentleman that hit us said he did not see the stop sign. I have noticed that the lighting is not very good and the stop signs sit back from the intersection. With the amount of accidents that happen there, can we put additional lighting and/or make it a four-way stop?

What happened to the petition to put more stop signs in Pimmit Hills? With summer coming and all

children playing, lets hope people will start paying a little more attention and no one else gets hurt.

Robin Stecyk
Gilson Street

Dear Editor, I am a resident of Pimmit Hills. I have neighbors (near the corner of Pimmit and Taylor, on Taylor) who run motors on assorted vehicles in their driveway and around the block, all day. I can't open my windows or leave the stereo off in nice weather, or else I hear the roar or seemingly unmuffled engines. This is serious, nerve-wrecking noise pollution. These neighbors seem like nice guys; I'd like to avoid calling the police on them and don't know quite how to confront them. Could the Citizen's Association help? I'm sure I'm not the only distressed neighbor.

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The Pimmit Hills Gardener

By Deanne Eversmeyer

Okay, how many of you are still using those tired old scarlet geraniums in the pots on the patio? And how many are filling that flower bed with the same old impatiens? Wake up, folks! With plant expeditions back in vogue and advances in plant propagation, it's a whole new world at the garden center these days!



First off, the buzz word is "foliage." Think chartreuse, think burgundy, think pink! The new Coleus (*Solenostemon scutellarioides*) varieties are to die for! They're bold, splashy and mostly sun-tolerant! Use them with impatiens and caladiums in the shade, or with marigolds and geraniums in the sun. Instead of the variegated vinca vine, try one of the new Sweet Potato Vines (*Ipomoea batatas*) to cascade color over the rim of a pot or planter. For rambunctious lemon-lime foliage to pair with bold, hot colors look for the variety 'Margarita,' use the deep, dark purple 'Blackie' with either pastels or bolds; and the modest 'Pink Frost,' with its soft green leaves splashed lavender-pink and

white, prefers the company of pastel shade lovers. Other trailing plants to keep an eye out for are the Lotus Vine (*Lotus maculatus*) and the Creeping Dusty Millers (*Helichrysum petiolare*). The Lotus Vine looks like a small gray-green asparagus fern and does well in bright shade or full sun. The Creeping Dusty Miller likes to mingle, taking its felted grayish foliage politely through other plants. This one is available in a variegated form, a chartreuse form called 'Limelight,' and a miniature species (*H. microphyllum*). A few clumps of the Red Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum setaceum 'Rubrum'*) set in between tall orange cannas and the annual Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia 'Indian Summer'*) will surely knock the neighbors' socks

Tree Preservation in Pimmit Hills

By George d'Angelo

At the April meeting of the PHCA a brief debate was held on tree preservation in the area. Some suggested measures to protect large, old growth trees. More than one person, however, voiced opposition to the idea, fearing government interference with their property rights. I think there is some confusion on the issue and I will try to clarify it.



I vote for the protection of large, healthy trees.

Pimmit Hills is an old subdivision with many mature trees that are the envy of newer neighborhoods. We live in one of the greenest areas inside the Beltway and should strive to keep it that way. The benefits of vegetation and large trees in par-

Counties, states, the federal government and other entities always have imposed restrictions on property rights and always will. If you have any doubts about that, just take a look at the Fairfax County Zoning Ordinance or Public Facilities Manual which are the size of huge phone books.

The real issue, therefore, is not whether we are going to have regulations but which things and activities we want regulated. Some people feel there should be some control over lawns or home styles. Others are concerned with Christmas and other outside decorations.

ticular are that many trees moderate the effect of sun and wind, provide buffers against noise and air pollution, contribute to the intake of carbon dioxide and the release of oxygen in the atmosphere and filter out air pollutants. They also decrease stormwater runoff through canopy interception and root zone uptake. They act to moderate temperature and provide shade; provide a haven for animals and for birds which, in turn, assist in the control of insects.

Trees are also important psychological, sociological and aesthetic counterpoints to the man-made urban setting. They also tend to conserve and increase property

continued on page 10

continued from page 9

values both for individual properties and collectively for the neighborhood.

Thanks to the economic growth of the region, in recent years we have seen a faster turnover of properties and the arrival of newcomers from different cultures. While most residents would not remove healthy large trees without a reason, there is a noticeable and accelerating trend toward indiscriminate large tree removal and even clear cutting of entire yards.

Unlike ordinary plants or small trees, removal of old growth is of particular concern because of its irreplaceable value. It should also be noted that certain activities within one's own property can have a significant effect on other properties and residents. In that sense, indiscriminate destruction of substantial natural assets which provide a landscape to the neighborhood becomes a concern for the entire community and should be resisted.

While many areas and subdivisions, even here in Virginia, have restrictive covenants and other regulations to protect the landscape, Pimmit Hills does not. Unfortunately, county and state regulations, which seem to cover everything else in fine detail, do little or nothing to protect our trees. The

few zoning and environmental laws that are on the books are seldom enforced.

Contrary to popular belief, true opposition to environmental and conservation efforts does not generally come from freedom-loving residents but from well-heeled developers and large commercial interests with substantial influence over the legislative process. No help is therefore forthcoming from the county or the state any time soon, if ever, which means that the only way to slow down this destructive process is to get involved as a community. And this includes *you* because, if you don't make an effort to protect your neighborhood, nobody else will. And if you are concerned about your individual rights, this may also be one of the best things you can do to protect your property as well as the right to live in a pleasant, green and good looking neighborhood.

Those who are interested in looking into tree conservation and can volunteer some time can contact George d'Angelo via the *Pimmit Hills Dispatch*, PimmitHills@suburbanweb.com. Perhaps a tree commission may be a way to deal with this particular issue without burdening the entire PHCA. ☞
George d'Angelo lives on Howard Court

"A man does not plant a tree for himself; he plants it for posterity." – Alexander Smith



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Sunday 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 am
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Pastor Kenneth W. Collins
703-356-7878
Church school 9:30 am
Worship service 10:30 am

McLean Presbyterian Church
1020 Balls Hill Rd, McLean
Pastor John Hutchinson
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Worship at 9:30 and 11:00 am
Sunday school for children and
Adult Education classes at 9:30
and 11:00 am



**St. Luke's United Methodist
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Rev. Gretchen A. Miller
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Sunday school 9:30 am
Worship service 11:00 am



Idylwood Presbyterian Church
7617 Idylwood Rd, Falls Church
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Worship/Church school K-6 at
11:00 am; Coffee hour at Noon

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Doug Morris at 703-573-4300; residence 703-847-4658



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Pimmit Hills Senior Center

Open to everyone 55 years of age or older.

7510 Lisle Avenue
Falls Church, VA

Monday through Friday
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

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 Brenda Riley at 703-734-3338. Listed below are just a few of the programs offered:

Friday, May 12 at 12:30 pm

Mother's Day Celebration

Monday, May 15 at 11:00 am

"Learn How Medicare and Medicaid Works
in Managed Care"

Thursday, May 18 at 11:00 am

Blood Pressure Screening

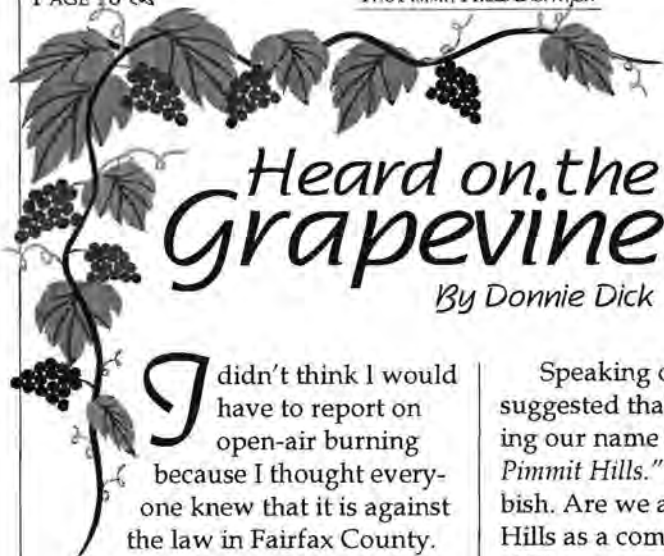
Tuesday, May 23 at 10:30 am

Craft Project: Memorial Day Wreath (RR),
cost \$12.50

Thursdays at 11:00 am

Beginners ESL Class

Pimmit Hills Senior Center is operated by Fairfax County Community and Recreation Services.



Heard on the Grapevine

By Donnie Dick



I didn't think I would have to report on open-air burning because I thought everyone knew that it is against the law in Fairfax County.

I noticed one of our neighbors burning yard debris in their backyard the other day. Please let's not pollute the air our neighbors breathe. Although, I don't see how indoor stoves and fireplaces are any better for our lungs.

I have also noticed some of our good citizens dumping old rugs, sofas and appliances at the Pimmit High School and Adult Center dumpster and the container by the office complex on Route 7. You folks are giving our community a bad name.

Speaking of names, it has been suggested that we look into changing our name to "The Village of Pimmit Hills." Sounds rather snobbish. Are we ashamed of Pimmit Hills as a community name after all these years? If so, I think it would be far better to change our image and build a community where people are proud to live.

Does anyone know what the story is with the arson fire on Lunceford Lane? I saw nothing in the paper about it or in the police crimes report. Was this in retaliation for multiple families living in a single family dwelling? A domestic dispute or what?
Donnie Dick lives on Nigh Road.

Why is this space empty?

We're waiting for some news from you!

Would anyone like to write a home improvement or renovation column?
 Would anyone like to write about the history of our 50 year-old community?
 What was Pimmit Hills like in 1950? Does anyone have photos?

Send articles to PimmitHills@suburbanweb.com
 or mail to 1925 Cherri Drive.

PH Citizen Contact Information



Supervisor Stu Mendelsohn
 McLean Government Center
 1437 Balls Hill Road
 McLean, VA 22101
 703-356-0551 phone
 703-821-4275 fax

Jane K. Strauss
 School Board
 10700 Page Avenue
 Fairfax, VA 22030
 phone 703-246-4780
 email: board@burkholder.fcps.k12.va.us



Fairfax County Police (non-emergency): 703-691-2131

Internal Affairs (complaints related to service provision): 703-246-2918

Traffic Safety Division: trafsaf@co.fairfax.va.us

McLean District: mclect@co.fairfax.va.us

Pimmit Hills School: 703-506-2344

7510 Lisle Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22043

To report safety, parking or behavioral concerns: 703-506-2318

Principal: William Harper, 703-506-2315, wharper@fc.fcps.k12.va.us

Asst. Principal: Paula Castri, EdD, 703-506-2310, pcastri@fc.fcps.k12.va.us

Asst. Principal: Bud Mayo, 703-506-2273, bmayo@fc.fcps.k12.va.us

Fax: 703-506-2397 Web site: www.fcps.k12.va.us/PimmitAltHS/



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FOR SALE!

Three bedroom, two bath expanded brick home. Brick addition includes master bath, laundry room and large rec room with fireplace. Huge covered patio and level, nicely landscaped yard are added features you are sure to enjoy. Currently listed for sale at \$199,000. Call Bill or Kitty for more information, or for other homes about to come on the market in the Pimmit Hills area.

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