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- Display ads: \$30 for ¼ page per month; \$55 for ½ page per month; \$80 for entire page per month. Your ad designed for free.
- Classified ads: 40 words maximum; \$10 per month
- Write check to: PHCA
- Mail check to: Editor, Pimmit Hills Dispatch, 1925 Cherri Drive, Falls Church, VA 22043
- Send news items, articles, ad copy, classified ads, etc to the *Dispatch* Editor via:
 - email—dispatch@pimmithills.org
 - fax—703-734-0779
 - mail—above address

October issue deadline: Sept 6

Pimmit Hills Citizens Association Meeting Dates:

Sept 3, 2002	Feb 4, 2003
Oct 1, 2002	Mar 4, 2003
Nov 5, 2002	Apr 1, 2003
Dec 3, 2002	May 6, 2003
Jan 7, 2003	Jun 3, 2003

PHCA community 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 and encouraged to attend!*

*Our Neighborhood,
Our Home*

September
2002

The Pimmit Hills Dispatch

Published since 1952
Courtesy of the Pimmit Hills
Citizens Association

PimmitHills.org



PIMMIT HILLS, VIRGINIA ■ ESTABLISHED IN MAY 1950

PIMMIT HILLS NEWS

Welcome back everyone! We hope you had a great summer and relaxing vacations. School is back in session so we make our yearly request to refrain from speeding and keep our kids safe. Don't forget to stop completely for school buses as they pick up or drop off the kids.

A Reminder: Our Garden columnist urges everyone to please empty all containers that hold water, including trash cans, old tires, kiddie pools, pot saucers, and even kids' toys. Even the smallest amount of still water can harbor the tiny, shrimp-like larvae of the mosquito. With the West Nile Virus on the rise, we all need to do our part to keep the mosquito population to a minimum.

At the June 2002 PHCA meeting, **Lee Rock** was voted in as Second Vice President and his wife, **Sarah Rock**, was voted in as Secretary. This is their first term and we are happy to have them.

Also at the same meeting, members voted to change the **PHCA dues** to a slightly more 21st century amount instead of the 1960s amount. The dues are now **\$12 per person** which is still very way below the dues of other associations. See the next page for what your dues go towards to help better our community.

Do you have good **organizational skills** and would you like to meet others in PH? PHCA is looking for

someone to be the chairman of our group of volunteers who assist the Association with PH events. Please contact phca@pimmit hills.org or a board member.

Our website, **PimmitHills.org** has been updated with a fresh new look. See our new home page for all sorts of useful links and information. The articles from the printed version of the Dispatch are posted online many weeks before you get the issue in your mailbox.

Thanks to **Matthew and Muriel Monahan** of Lisle Avenue for letting the Dispatch scan old photos of their house for our cover. Do you have photos of how Pimmit Hills looked like back in the 1950s or 60s? We'd love to see them. Contact the Dispatch Editor.

Upcoming PHCA Meeting Date:

Sept 3, 2002

Our meetings are at 7:30 pm on the first Tuesday of every month at the Pimmit Hills School on Lisle Ave. All **homeowners and renters** are encouraged and most welcome to attend meetings to meet your neighbors, learn more about your community, voice your concerns, and participate in votes. The meetings usually last a little over an hour and refreshments are served. ■



Pimmit Hills Citizens Association

Pimmit Hills Citizens Association

1927 Pimmit Drive, Falls Church, VA 22043

EMAIL: PHCA@pimmit hills.org, WEBSITE: PimmitHills.org

OFFICERS for September 2002 to June 2003:

President	Joe Baker	703-448-1394 president@pimmit hills.org
First Vice President	Bill Niland	703-356-8240 firstveep@pimmit hills.org
Second Vice President	Lee Rock	secondveep@pimmit hills.org
Treasurer	Kim Rollen	703-761-7391 treasurer@pimmit hills.org
Secretary	Sarah Rock	secretary@pimmit hills.org
Three Year Director	Martha Duggar	703-356-6508 director@pimmit hills.org

WHO TO CALL:

PHCA Chairman for Volunteers	<i>vacant</i>	
Neighborhood Watch	Bill Niland	703-356-8240
Fairfax County Police (non-emergency)		703-691-2131

The Dispatch Editor Cindy Kwitchoff 703-734-0402

Contact Information for Ads/Articles fax: 703-734-0779

email: dispatch@pimmit hills.org

mail: 1925 Cherri Drive



Display Ad Rates:	Classified Ad Rates:
\$30 for 1/4 page per month	\$10 per month; 40 words max
\$55 for 1/2 page per month	
\$80 for whole page per month	
Ads designed for free	

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

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
5115 Franconia Road, Suite B
Alexandria, VA 22310-1903
PHONE: 703-971-4700
WEBSITE: www.house.gov/moran

Jane K. Strauss, School Board
10700 Page Avenue
Fairfax, VA 22030
PHONE: 703-246-4780
EMAIL: 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

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 Supr, 703-324-3151
Consumer Affairs, 703-222-8435
Dept of Health, 703-246-2411
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 Public 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-emer) 703-691-2131
Tax Administration, 703-324-8234
Trash Collection/Recycling,
703-324-5040
VDOT Maintenance, 703-383-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



Pimmit Hills 2002-03 Membership Drive

The annual Pimmit Hills Citizens Association (PHCA) Membership Drive begins September 2002 and ends June 2003. Dues are only \$12 per person. Please show your support of your community by becoming a member!

Your membership dues go towards:

- Printing and delivery of the *Pimmit Hills Dispatch* (which costs about \$2 per house *per month*--10 month schedule equals \$20)
- PHCA Telephone Directory
- PHCA representing the community to Fairfax County and its officials
- Special community events like clean-up day, annual yard sale, holiday socials, picnics, holiday decorating contests, etc
- Projects like building *Welcome to Pimmit Hills* signs at the entrances to PH
- Sunshine fund--cheering up neighbors who are ill or who've lost loved ones
- 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
- Participating in the McLean Citizens Association which helps give us an even stronger voice in the County
- Helping PH citizens with problems and complaints; working with Fairfax County on serious property concerns
- And more!

Please send in your dues or bring them to the next PHCA meeting and show how much you care about your community!

Mail this Membership Form with your YEARLY dues to:
Pimmit Hills Citizens Association
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:

Dues Enclosed:
\$12 per person

I'd like to volunteer for PHCA activities
 yes no



Curb Appeal

By Cynthia Bernat,
Anderson Road

Hello Neighbor! What a spectacular summer for Pimmit Hills! I've noticed many of my neighbors outside boosting their home's curb appeal—I've seen everything from new siding to new porches to fresh paint to new flowers. You folks have been hard at work this summer, and it looks GREAT!

All that heat and humidity has been working hard too—on your home's exterior, particularly on your roof and siding. Your roof may not be the most exciting feature of your home, but it certainly is the most important! Siding usually gets a little more attention, but only from a distance. Taking time to do some simple maintenance will lengthen the life of your roof and siding, and of course, increase your home's curb appeal.

Let's take it from the top—the roof, that is. Do you have dark brown or black stains on your roof? Has the entire roof darkened to a dismal shade of black? It could be roof fungus, a vicious little critter that literally eats the tar right out of your asphalt shingles. (The technical term is saprophytic fungus.) It takes them a while, but their appetite eventually spells disaster for your roof. The dark fungus also ab-

sorbs more heat from the sun than your lighter shingles do, which translates to higher utility bills. What can you do? Don't scrub-it's hard on the shingles, and way too much work. The best way to get rid of the fungus is with a cleaner formulated specifically for roofs. One brand is ROOFCLEAN, which is biodegradable, won't harm your plants or grass, and is pretty easy to use. Mix as directed, spray it on, wait 30-40 minutes, and hose it off. (If you're feeling particularly lazy, you can let the next rainstorm rinse it off.) It even prevents regrowth of the fungus for up to 4 years. This and similar products are available at hardware stores like Ace and TrueValue, as well as Wal-Mart and through Sherwin Williams. Remember, safety first! If you don't like heights, or can't climb up on your roof, call a professional or a handyman. Your roof will thank you for it by lasting longer and looking like new!

What about the siding? Well, you wash yourself, your dog, your car—some of you even hose off the driveway and sidewalk—why not give your house a bath too? First walk around the entire house, inspecting the caulking around win-

Continued on page 6

Call Ticketmaster at 703-573-7328 or go online at SpyDrive.com for more information.

~~~~~  
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~~~~~  
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to send in your
classified ad!



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\$10 per month; 40 words max

DISPLAY:
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1/2 page = \$55 per month
1 page = \$80 per month
Ad designed for free

Write checks to:
PHCA

Send checks to:
1925 Cherri Drive

Send ad copy to:
email: Dispatch@PimmitHills.org
fax: 703-734-0779
mail: 1925 Cherri Drive



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

CARPET CLEANING—5 rooms only \$65. 7 rooms only \$88. Furniture cleaning experts. Nationally certified. Quality service since 1975. Pet problems and carpet protection treatments. Carpet stretching. Call Mike or Bill at 703-978-2270 or 703-847-9741.

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.

HANDYMAN—Kenny's Handyman Service: Kitchen, bathroom remodeling, 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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MARY KAY—When was the last time you played with colors? Why not try a new shade and a new look? Call Martha, your Pimmit Hills Mary Kay Beauty Representative, 703-442-8014 or MLR1130@aol.com. Se habla espanol.

SPYDRIVE—See the secret side of Washington, DC (the Spy Capital of the World!) with retired FBI, CIA, DOD and KGB intelligence officers. 2½ hour bus tour; \$55 per person.

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Continued from page 4

dows, and replace it if necessary. Make sure all your siding is firmly in place too. Then wash it like you would your car-gently, with a mild soap, and hose it off-gently! A soft bristle brush on an extendable pole (like the kind available to reach the tops of vans and trucks) works great at getting any mildew or algae spots off. Just be careful when rinsing-make sure you don't spray up under the siding! Aim at the top and let the water run down. And if that all sounds like too much work, you can always hire a pro or a handyman to get the job done.

The finishing touch-windows. So, you think clean windows aren't necessary to home maintenance? Well, washing your windows should include inspecting them as well. You know how you never notice that little ding in your front

fender until you wash your car? Same with windows. Getting up close and personal with your windows will allow you to take a good look at their condition, and make any repairs necessary. Don't forget to check your screens for places that need repair and make sure the "weep holes" (if you have them) on your windows or storm windows are clear and draining properly. Washing the windows will let in more light, and will make your home sparkle on the outside.

A bright, new-looking roof, squeaky-clean siding, and sparkling windows-it all adds up! It will give your home a fresh appearance at relatively low cost. It's just one more way to enhance the value of your home, and increase its curb appeal!■

Cynthia Bernat is a licensed realtor

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*Hello Neighbor! My name is Cynthia Bernat,
and I'm a realtor with Long & Foster Realtors.
I'm also a Pimmit Hills resident!*

Do you realize how HOT the real estate market is in our neighborhood? There are more qualified buyers than there are houses available for them to buy! What does that mean for you as a seller? Well, when supply is low and demand is high, prices go UP. You just might be amazed to know how much your little rambler is worth. Even the smallest Pimmit Hills homes are selling for *over* \$200K, and at a breathtaking pace-usually in just a few days!

Our neighbor's homes are not only selling fast, they're selling *above* list price. There are so many buyers that there are often multiple offers on the same home-and often, the buyers will offer more than list price in the hopes of "winning" the contract and having a home to call their own. But of course, only one buyer will "win"—the others are still looking for a home to buy! Have you considered selling your home?

*Please give me a call,
I would love the opportunity to answer your questions.*

THE BUYERS ARE WAITING!



Cynthia Bernat

OFFICE: 703-437-3800 ext.3065

CELL: 703-598-0399

EMAIL: cynthia@longandfoster.com

WEB: www.2hdb.com/cynthiabernat



Advertise

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\$30 per month for 1/4 page

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\$10 per month; 40 words maximum

Dispatch Deadline Dates

for all advertising and article submissions:

Sept 6 for the Oct 2002 issue

Oct 4 for the Nov 2002 issue

Nov 8 for the Dec 2002 issue

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Feb 7 for the March 2003 issue

March 7 for the April 2003 issue

April 4 for the May 2003 issue

May 9 for the June 2003 issue

July and August: Not published

Checks made out to:

The Pimmit Hills Citizens Association

Mailed to:

Editor, Pimmit Hills Dispatch

1925 Cherri Drive

Falls Church, VA 22043

Email: Dispatch@PimmitHills.org ■ Website: PimmitHills.org

Phone: 703-734-0402 ■ Fax: 703-734-0779



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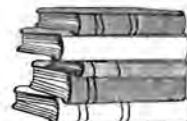
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Tysons Pimmit Regional Library News



The dog days of summer are over, and it's back to business for students and vacationers alike. We have not been on break at the library, however! Record numbers of readers participated in the 2002 Summer Library Program, in which students read either fifteen or eight books, depending on grade level. Staff and patrons alike have both been busy inaugurating

our new computerized library system and catalog, iBistro. Our tech personnel have been working hard to smooth down some rough edges, but expectations are high that iBistro will exceed its promise of thorough and speedy service.

As the school year gets underway, we want to remind students (and parents) to bring a copy of their assignments to show the librarians when asking for materials or help. Also, the library's collection of online databases continues to grow — and these are full of useful full-text articles, illustrations, pictures and tables. Most of the databases can be accessed at home as well as in the library. Ask staff members for more information about how to access these gold mines of free information.

The library continues to offer free computer training for our patrons. One-on-one tutoring is available on Wednesdays and Sundays by appointment; and the fall lineup of group classes begins September 19 with the popular Web 101 program. Tysons-Pimmit Library currently offers seven internet stations, including one express computer, with print-

ing capability in both black and white, and color. Call the library's information desk for more information, or visit the Library's web site at www.co.fairfax.va.us/library. ■

*By Chris LaMarca
Associate Branch Manager
Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library*

Tysons Pimmit Regional Library
7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church

HOURS:
Sunday, Noon to 6:00 pm
Mon-Thurs, 10:00 am to 9:00 pm
Friday, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

PHONE: 703-790-8088

WEBSITE:
www.co.fairfax.va.us/library



English as a Second Language (ESL)

ESL

CLASSES for Fall 2002/Clases de Ingles 2002:

Registration/Inscripción:

Saturday, September 14, 2002, 10am—Noon
Sabado 14 de Septiembre, de 10am—12 del Mediodia

Classes/Clases:

September 21-November 16, 2002, Saturdays 10am—Noon
Sabados de 10am—12 del Mediodia
Desde el 21 de Septiembre al 16 de Noviembre 2002

Cost/Costo:

\$15 for the semester
\$15 al registrarse, valido por todo el semestre

Location/Localización :

St. Luke's United Methodist Church
7628 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22043

703-841-0292



Do you have photos of Pimmit Hills in the 1950s or 60s? We'd love to see them! Photos can be scanned and returned to you. Please contact the Editor of the Dispatch.



Pimmit Hills in the 1950s



These photos were taken in May 1954 of the Pimmit Hills Citizens Association board members. They were looking at plans and standing on the future location of the Pimmit Hills School on Lisle Avenue.

Photos courtesy of Matthew and Muriel Monahan of Lisle Avenue

PHCA Board Members shown in these photos include above: Bing Bazar, Jim Duggan, Nan Neathesan, Jim Whytock and Matthew Monahan (apologies if names are misspelled).



Next page: more photos of what Pimmit Hills homes and the surrounding area looked like in the 1950s. The above photo was taken on Cherri Drive looking south towards Lisle Avenue.



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resident for over
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Community Events at Area Church

By Leigh Rivenbark, St. Luke's UMC

St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Pimmit Hills is offering a variety of religious studies, youth activities, live music and health information for the community.

St. Luke's, at 7628 Leesburg Pike in Falls Church, traditionally draws many of its members from the Pimmit Hills area. All of their activities are open to everyone and you need not be a member of the church to participate.

Sunday, Sept. 8 is the debut of the church's fall schedule and that day's worship at 11 am will commemorate Sept. 11, 2001. Rev. Gretchen Miller, St. Luke's pastor, says representatives of fire, police and military services are expected to participate in the service. The congregation hopes that its Pimmit Hills neighbors will join in this service to remember the heroism and the sacrifices of that day.

A Christian pop concert by the Cal Jammers begins at 1 pm on Sunday, Sept. 8, after the special worship service. Food is available from 1 pm until 3 pm and kids can play games and win prizes.

A new Bible study will meet in the home of a Pimmit Hills resident starting Wednesday, Sept. 11. The study, which focuses on friendships, will last six weeks and will meet from 6:30 pm until 8:30 pm each Wednesday.

The church's youth group begins its fall meetings on Wednesday,

Sept. 11, at 7 pm. The youth group welcomes anyone in grades seven through 12 and interested youth can simply drop in at the first meeting. This fall's activities are still being planned but past youth activities have included lock-ins, concerts, ski trips, charity walks and other service projects.

St. Luke's English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, which have helped nearly 200 people improve their English, will continue this fall. Registration is Saturday, Sept. 14 and classes begin Saturday, Sept. 21. The church is looking for ESL teachers; no previous training is necessary--the church provides training.

A health fair on Nov. 2 will give Pimmit Hills residents one-stop access to tests such as blood pressure readings and bone density checks. The health fair also will provide information on basic health issues.

St. Luke's tradition of service continues with its participation in a Habitat for Humanity project to build a home for low-income families. A team of a dozen people from the church will work several weekends, starting in September, on a home in Fairfax. On Sept. 15, a speaker from Habitat for Humanity will talk at the 11 am worship service and describe the charity's work. Anyone interested in joining the building project should call the church office for more information at 703-893-9220. ■

Celebrate Pimmit Hills—Celebrate Fall!

Join us as we celebrate our neighborhood and kick off our fall programs!



9:30 am
Sunday School
for all ages

11:00 am
Worship Service
Remembering
9/11
Participation by
fire, police and
military members

Sunday, September 8, 2002

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

Live Concert at 1:00 pm!

"The Cal Jammers"

Contemporary Christian pop music for the whole family

Especially for the kids:

Games and Prizes

*Hamburgers, hot dogs and an Old-Fashioned Cake Walk
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St. Luke's United Methodist Church

7628 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, Virginia

On Route 7 across from Marshall High School

703-893-9220

Visit a Place of Worship

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

☪

McLean Presbyterian Church
 1020 Balls Hill Rd, McLean
 Pastor John Hutchinson
 703-821-0800
 Worship at 9:15 am and 11:00 am;
 Sunday school for children and
 Adult Education classes at 9:15 and
 11:00 am

☪

**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
 Asst. Pastor Jeffrey Wilson
 Sunday school 9:45 am
 Sunday services 8:30 am, 11:00 am

☪

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.

☪

Excerpt from President George Washington's prayer for the United States:

"Almighty God, we make our earnest prayer that you will keep the United States in your holy protection, that you will incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large."

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The Pimmit Hills Gardener

By Deanne Eversmeyer,
Horticulturalist

The fireflies have been spectacular this summer. Sitting out on the deck in the evening, I watched as they ascended into the tree tops, blinking a sort of "love Morse code" as they went. Fireflies use their bioluminescence to attract members of the opposite sex. When the girl firefly likes the light show, she signals to the boy firefly and, well, the sparks fly.

The enzyme that causes these little beetles to light up is aptly named "Luciferase." The eggs and larvae are also luminescent. The larval stage is spent in the layer of organic debris at the soil surface, feeding on earthworms, snails and slugs. (Mmmm, yum!) Most adult fireflies eat pollen and nectar from flowers, if they eat anything at all. There are a few cannibalistic species which mimic other fireflies' flash patterns to attract amorous males to their last supper.

Unfortunately, today's landscape maintenance habits are not helping the firefly. Bagging lawn clippings and raking flower beds clean leave no place for fireflies to hide. Outdoor lighting actually



competes with the firefly's light display, leaving the poor little guys lonely and probably a bit envious. Also, pesticides can kill off both the firefly larvae and their dinner.

The use of pesticides, especially non-specific sorts like the outdoor foggers, kill off more than just the offensive pest. Predators, which help to maintain the balance of power in the garden, are also affected.

And, with the predators out of the way, the surviving pests (and there will always be survivors) come back in a big way. In the spring, especially after a mild winter, the aphid population always seems to get out to an early lead. But if you wait a bit (why arrive at the party before the buffet is spread out?), the ladybugs and their larvae (black comma-shaped critters with orange spots) will soon be out in force to keep the aphids in check. If you apply pesticides and kill off the aphids, there will be nothing for the emerging ladybugs to eat. They will leave your party for the one down the block -- they are very loyal to

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good hosts -- leaving you with a whole new crop of aphids to contend with. And healthy, happy plants are surprisingly resilient, taking insect damage in stride. And think about how much more interesting the garden is with butterflies sailing from one blossom to the next in search of nectar. If you kill off the caterpillars, you won't have butterflies. Instead go to the other end of the spectrum and grow plants just for the caterpillar's supper.

Members of the Umbel family, such as dill, parsley, carrots and fennel, make great dining for the swallowtail larvae. (Watch for caterpillars banded in black, yellow and green.) Tuck in a few cabbages or mustard plants (or leave last winter's ornamental cabbage to go to seed) to feed the cabbage butterfly's young. And don't forget the nectar plants for the adults. These are usually flat-topped flower clusters or daisy-type flowers, but also include trumpet-shaped blossoms.

During a dry summer when non-cultivated flowers are scarce, my flower gardens and wildflower meadow are busier than Grand Central Station, attracting butterflies, bees and hummingbirds, searching for nectar and pollen.

The only active insect control I have in my yard is a pair of wrens, feeding their second brood of



youngsters in the birdhouse mounted over the kitchen window. Well, that's not completely accurate. There's also have a pair of house sparrows nesting in the house hung in the Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*). And there

are the catbirds who love the thick, woody vegetation of the backyard and the cardinals who come to drink at the "creek". Out front in the meadow, the song sparrows patrol the grasses looking for insects.

Did you know that the hummingbirds that come for the nectar of the Trumpet Creeper Vine (*Campsis radicans*), the Beebalm (*Monarda didyma*) and the Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) also eat aphids and other small insects? And the dragonfly is the enemy of the mosquito; the backyard pond attracts dragonflies, though its moving waters and perpetually hungry goldfish keep it from becoming a mosquito nursery.

So the next time you reach for a container of pesticide, think about all the other creatures you will be impacting, including yourself. Instead of poisoning our outdoor living rooms, let Mother Nature do her thing and let's return to the eloquent equilibrium that she designed. ■

*Horticulturalist Deanne Eversmeyer
lives on Leonard Road.*

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