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1927 Pimmit Drive
Falls Church, VA 22043
pimmithills.org



PLEASE DELIVER BEFORE APRIL 2

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 Cherri 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.

May issue deadline: April 5

Pimmit Hills Citizens Association Meeting Dates for 2001-02:

April 2, 2002
May 7, 2002

June 4, 2002
Jul-Aug: break

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.

Upcoming PHCA Events:

April 20: Community Yard Sale
June 15: Taste of Pimmit Hills

*Our Neighborhood,
Our Home*

April 2002



The Pimmit Hills Dispatch

Published since 1952
Courtesy of the Pimmit Hills
Citizens Association

pimmithills.org

PHCA SPRING YARD SALE!

Saturday, April 20

8:00 am to 1:00 pm

PHCA House: 1927 Pimmit Drive

Spaces are available at \$5 each for you to bring your table and sell your stuff at this fundraising community-wide yard sale.
Don't have a lot of stuff to sell?
Donate your items to the PHCA table.

PIMMIT HILLS, VIRGINIA ■ ESTABLISHED IN MAY 1950

PIMMIT HILLS NEWS

This April issue went to the printers on March 11. The deadline for articles and ads for the May issue is April 5.

☺

Every time the editor thought she was late in getting the *Dispatch* out in time for the next PHCA meeting, the issue has been delivered on time. This is thanks to the people at **Kwik Kopy** on Pimmit Drive who have been printing the *Dispatch* for many years; the people at **Direct Development, Inc.** of Falls Church, who prepare the *Dispatch* for bulk mailing; and finally, the **US Post Office** whose delivery people make sure the *Dispatch* arrives before the PHCA meeting. The Post Office has the option of distributing bulk mail pieces any time between three days to three weeks after receiving the mail, but they've always delivered our *Dispatches* as soon as possible. A big thank you to all of these people who make it possible for you to get your *Dispatch* in your mailbox every month.

☺

Input for the **Pimmit Hills Directory** due date is April 12. Please be sure to fill out the form on page 3 if you haven't done so already. This directory has been produced for many years with everyone in PH included in it and citizens have told the PHCA board they want it to continue to be published. We are trying to make it as accurate as possible, and this is a big job, which is why

we need your correct information.

☺

The PHCA
Spring Yard Sale

on Saturday, April 20 from 8 am to 1 pm is a great way to make some money with all that stuff that you don't know what to do with. Instead of the trouble of having a sale yourself, our combined efforts will make this a super neighborhood sale. Only \$5 buys you a spot on the front yard of the PHCA House, 1927 Pimmit Drive, to set up your table and sell things. Be sure to set aside that Saturday to come by and get some great finds.

☺

In June we have our final big PHCA event for the season – *A Taste of Pimmit Hills neighborhood picnic* at Olney Park. Homeowners and renters, new and long-time residents, young and old – EVERYONE is encouraged to come and bring their favorite food to share. Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 15 as a great time to meet others in the neighborhood and eat great food.

☺

Upcoming PHCA Meeting Dates:

April 2, 2002

May 7, 2002

The 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 to attend.☺



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, WEBSITE: PimmitHills.org

OFFICERS for June 2001 to June 2002:

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

WHO TO CALL:

PHCA Sunshine Fund	<i>vacant</i> (please volunteer to help)	
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@pimmithills.org
 mail: 1925 Cherri Drive



Display Ad Rates:	Classified Ad Rates:
\$25 for 1/4 page per month	\$5 per month; 40 words max
\$50 for 1/2 page per month	
\$75 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 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



Pimmit Hills Directory

Home Owners and Renters in PH: We need your accurate information for the Pimmit Hills Directory:

We are in the process of finalizing the information for the new edition of the Pimmit Hills Directory. If you have not yet paid your **yearly dues (our year goes from Sept 2001 to Aug 2002)** along with the below form please do so right away so that information for you and your address will be listed correctly.

PHCA membership is only \$5 per person; \$10 per couple or household. *Homeowners and Renters are encouraged to sign up.* As a member, you will receive the new directory for free when completed this summer. If you haven't paid your dues, the directory will cost \$20 due to printing/ mailing costs.

Deadline for directory input: April 12

Mail Membership/Directory Form with your YEARLY dues to:
Pimmit Hills Citizens Association, Inc.
1927 Pimmit Drive, Falls Church, VA 22043

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

Street Address

Falls Church, VA 22043

Home Phone

E-Mail Address

Amount Enclosed

I'd like to volunteer for PHCA activities

yes no



Did You Know?

By Jennifer Baker, PHCA Secretary

Hello Neighbors—I don't know about you, but I really hope that we see a lot of those famed "April showers" this year. I am afraid if we don't there won't be any May flowers to enjoy, as they will all die of thirst!

Speaking of dying...Like flowers need water to thrive, your Citizens Association needs your participation in order to continue its' existence. Three Board positions are coming this year - President, Second Vice President, and Secretary - and we need some of you good folks to step up and take them on. I assure you that you can do this. I say that from experience. I work full-time; I have a life (or at least it's one in my eyes - smile); I travel; I maintain many interests. If I can do this, so can you. It's not rocket science. It's mainly a labor of love for your neighborhood that doesn't require too much beyond one meeting a month. I ask you to seriously think about putting your hat in the ring and running for an office. Feel free to call or email the incumbent officers in these positions if you want to know more about what is involved. And, once you've made the decision, please call or email Joe

Baker, the PHCA President, so he can get you in touch with the Nominating Committee members. Your participation is vital and will make a difference for your neighbors and your neighborhood!

With that said, following are a few highlights from our March meeting. We welcomed guest speaker, Robert Dively, Assistant Attorney General. He gave an informative and entertaining presentation on consumer fraud and how to prevent it, touching on ten of the most common scams and providing excellent tips for protecting oneself from being taken. In the months to come we will try to include some of these tips in the *Dispatch* as room allows and on the website. He also gave every attendee a copy of the Virginia Consumer Guide. This guidebook is chock full of great information and resources residents can call for assistance in this area. He left extra copies of this publication with us, so if you want one come out to the next meeting and pick up a copy for yourself.

After thanking our speaker, Joe Baker continued with the regular order of business. First Vice Presi-

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Ads are due
April 5
dispatch@pimmit hills.org

ADVERTISING in the *Dispatch*

CLASSIFIEDS:

\$5 per month; 40 words max

DISPLAY:

1/4 page = \$25 per month

1/2 page = \$50 per month

1 page = \$75 per month

Ad designed for free

Write checks to:

PHCA

Send checks to:

1925 Cherri Dr.

Send ad copy to:

email: dispatch@pimmit hills.org

fax: 703-734-0779

mail: 1925 Cherri Drive

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.

☞

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.

☞

TUTOR—Virginia Certified Educator with Master's of Education will tutor students in my home. Years of teaching experience. Special needs addressed. Writing, Reading, Social Science, Elementary Math and Science, Adult ESL. For rates and available hours call Jennifer Clark at 703-506-0641.

☞

CLASSIFIED ADS—Only \$5 per month with a 40 word maximum. Easy way to get the word out to 1,636 Pimmit Hills homes!

☞



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, Independent AVON Rep to get your Cosmetics, Fragrances, Haircare, Skincare and Wonderful "Mothers Day" gifts delivered to your door. You will receive a FREE gift with every order. Call today to get your FREE brochure. 703-790-5147 or donjuliatiff@earthlink.net.

☎

BABYSITTER—Available evenings and weekends (responsible teen-17). **PETSITTING/HOUSESITTING** services also available. Call Melissa or Linda at 703-734-1683.

☎

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.

☎

FOR SALE—Hechingers 12 horsepower tractor-mower, starting at \$425. Call 703-893-1076.

☎

FOR SALE—Twin bed, very clean, in excellent condition. Used less than two years. Includes mattress, faux box spring and steel frame. \$100 negotiable. Call 703-848-0742.

☎

FREE quart and pint canning jars. Bring container to put them in. Call 703-273-9564.

☎

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

☎

HANDYMAN—Kenny's Handyman Service: Painting, tile, drywall repair, decks power washed and repaired, minor plumbing. No job

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703-750-0830James J. Naccarato, Jr.
Licensed Optician

Pimmit Hills Author Diana Lee Johnson has released her second novel with three more novels close behind!

**Waltz in Time**

by Diana Lee Johnson

Escape to historic Fredericksburg, Virginia for the time travel novel of a 1990s woman and a Confederate Colonel transported from 1862.

"...Ms. Johnson's research is impeccable, as her characters come to life before your very eyes... Outstanding storytelling, realistic characters, humor and a poignant love that will last through the ages... Diana Lee Johnson has penned a winner... this is one book you won't want to miss."—The Word on Romance

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Rose Award
for 2002**

Order online from www.wingspress.com

Coming Soon:

~Wrong Side of Love—June 2002

~Castle of Sorrows—September 2002

~Tomorrow Came Early—January 2003 (Sequel to 'Too Late for Tomorrow')

www.dianaleejohnson.com

Continued from page 4

dent Bill Niland reminded everyone about the upcoming Neighborhood Watch meetings and shared some excellent safety tips. Thanks to Bill's efforts, the Association now has a supply of good brochures on a variety of safety issues. We have these brochures out at all of our meetings for residents to review and take as they wish.

Residents are also reminded to come on out and participate in the upcoming Community Yard Sale. Additional details about where and when are provided later in this issue of the *Dispatch*. This is such a deal and such a great way to do some of your spring-cleaning. I encourage you not to miss it!

In closing, I'd like to acknowledge some of our neighbors who have answered the call to serve. Many thanks to Grace Zultowski for providing the goodies that we all enjoy at our monthly meetings. I know that Grace is a busy person, but she has still found the time to

serve and we applaud her for it. Thanks also go to Jackie Allison and Kenny Shrader for serving on the 2002 Nominating Committee. They have the unenviable job of putting together a slate of officers for the next Association year (9/1/2002 - 8/31/2003). I really hope that there are those among you who will heed my earlier call and make their job easier by stepping forward as a candidate for the Board. I know that Jackie and Kenny are also busy folks, but they too have found the time to serve and we applaud them as well.

Next PHCA Meetings:

April 2 at 7:30 pm
May 7, 2002 at 7:30 pm
June 4, 2002 at 7:30 pm
Pimmit Hills School, Lisle Ave.

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Have you considered selling your home?

We are interested in purchasing it, and we have a unique offer you may be interested in . . .

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Call 703-433-9534

What they're saying about "As Is" Home Buyers

They did what they promised...that's rare these days.

Pat, Falls Church, VA

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

Cheryl, Falls Church, VA

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Joe, Falls Church, VA

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

William, Falls Church, VA

BPM, L.L.C. dba "As Is" Home Buyers/Fixin' to Sell (Principals are licensed real estate professional)
If your property is listed with a Realtor/Firm, this is not an intent to solicit such listing

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'is of McLean
and Falls Church hold gatherings,
called "firesides," open to all at 8
pm every Friday.

Pimmit Hills Community Events

Sponsored by the
Pimmit Hills Citizens Association

NEXT EVENT!

Community Yard Sale: Saturday, April 20 (or rainedate Saturday, April 27) from 8:00 am to 1:00pm at the PHCA House, 1927 Pimmit Drive. Clean out your house and make some money at a yard sale for the whole community. PHCA will be selling spaces for \$5 each as a PHCA fundraiser for you to set up your own table and sell your stuff. Or, you can donate your stuff to the PHCA table.

Taste of Pimmit Hills: Saturday, June 15 at Olney Park. Our community is rich in diversity with people from different countries! We will celebrate this by having a community picnic where everyone is invited to bring their favorite food to share from their native country or tradition. Local restaurants will be invited too.

ENTRY FORM (mail to: PHCA, 1927 Pimmit Drive)

- I'd like to buy ____ number of spaces at the Community Yard Sale
 I'm going to donate items to the PHCA table at the Yard Sale
 I'd like to bring a dish to the Taste of Pimmit Hills

Name:

Address/Phone:

Name of food; County/Tradition it is from:

Amount enclosed for Yard
Sale space(s):

I'd like to volunteer to help out with:

- Community Yard Sale
 Taste of Pimmit Hills

Community Youth Group Growing

By Leigh Rivenbark, St. Luke's UMC

St. Luke's United Methodist Church had no youth group and only one teenager as of 2000. But that one ambitious teen and two dedicated adults who wanted to make a difference in the community launched a group they now say is small in size but large in spirit.

Sterling resident Theresa Campbell--who has nieces and nephews living in Pimmit Hills--and Pimmit Hills resident Kenny Shrader are the

group's adult leaders. Kenny's daughter Amanda was the only teenager at St. Luke's as of 2000. But rather than going to other churches' youth groups, Amanda and her friends wanted to start a group at St. Luke's.

Theresa says a church youth group can be important to the community. "We feel that at least one night a week, we know the kids are in a safe place, a group where they can be with people their own age," she said. "And we can bring a little bit of church into their lives." She says the group's purpose is "twofold, helping them grow as people and helping to grow the



St. Luke's Youth Group members David Warren, Tirna Singh, Katie Bynaker and Amanda Shrader at a March of Dimes walk last year.

church as well."

Six to eight youths in grades seven through 12 attend the twice-monthly meetings. The group's doors are always open to anyone in those grades. Activities at meetings include teaching goal-setting and team-building, skills the youth say they enjoy and can use at school, Theresa said.

The youth group's service projects have included walking to raise funds for the March of Dimes and the "Light the Night" Leukemia Walk. Last September, youth helped Fairfax County Fire and Rescue workers inspect 60 cars'

continued on page 10

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

This is in response to Mike McGuire's letter printed in the last issue of *Dispatch*.

First, Mr. McGuire is incorrect with his cite of the Code of Virginia section which he purports bans the use of motorized scooters in Pimmit Hills. Next thing we know, he'll be tossing out citations that supposedly ban bicycles from our streets.

And since Mr. McGuire and others in this neighborhood - rather development - have seen fit to consistently waste the time of Fairfax County Police officers (not to mention our taxpayer dollars) by continuously calling them out, let me just reiterate what I, as a parent, have been told on two occasions.

First, and foremost, these scooters (and the Mopeds as well) ARE legal to be ridden in Pimmit Hills. As long as the HP rating is under 50, there is no license required; however, Moped operators MUST be at least sixteen years of age.

Just like a bicycle rider must observe all the rules laid down for automobiles, so must a scooter rider.

Therefore, continuously calling the Fairfax County Police away to respond to what basically amount to complaining about some kids having fun rather than out buying drugs, or stealing, is nothing short of a total waste of their time, and our tax dollars.

Backing out purposely in front of a child on a scooter is against the law, and had you caused personal injury would have been subject to the same laws as they apply to automobiles. In addition, purposely stopping a child while they are riding and making rude and/or threatening comments is not acceptable.

I have lived in Pimmit Hills since 1978 and will only say that the development, subdivision, whatever is no longer the neighborhood it formerly was.

Karen van Allen
Storm Drive

Letters to the Dispatch must be signed along with your street address. Send letters to dispatch@pimmithills.org.

PimmitHills.org

Your Community Website

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the base of a tree can cause rot to set in, so keep the mulch thin right around the root flare. If you're meticulous about mulching each spring, you may need only a thin topper this year -- poke around and see what's left before putting down more.

And when it comes to pruning your trees, don't let a licensed and insured arborist "top" your trees. This buzz-cutting of limbs leaves behind stubs which will either rot and become a hazard, or sprout numerous, congested shoots. An experienced arborist will remove entire limbs as necessary, never leaving stubs behind and never taking more than the tree can stand to lose at one time. If your tree is too big, old, or messy, take it down and plant a new one that you've chosen for its size, seasonal interest and habit.

Let's see, what else is there from the don't list? Oh, yeah, don't prune your spring flowering shrubs until after they've bloomed. If you cut back your Azaleas now, you won't have any flowers! Try pruning them in bloom, taking longer branches for display in a vase inside. Cutting bigger pieces is healthier for the shrub and a whole lot easier to clean up than the little bits from shearing. And when you go to fertilize your lawn, use a time-release fertilizer and apply it in the fall. The decaying remains of last year's lawn will feed the growing grass this spring and additional fer-

tilizer just means more mowing -- and haven't we all got better things to do on a Saturday? A fall feeding strengthens the root system, making for a stronger lawn all year round. And speaking of time-release fertilizer, why not do it yourself? Grass clippings left on the lawn (not bagged for landfill) become free, organic fertilizer as they decay. Don't worry about the dreaded "thatch"; it's a result of over-fertilization. Also don't work in the flower or vegetable bed when the soil is wet -- you'll just compact it and that's the last thing our Virginia clay needs. And when the Daffodils are done blooming, don't tie up the foliage into bundles -- it needs to see the sun to produce food for next year's flowers. Wait until the leaves start to yellow, usually in June, to remove them. (I plant mine towards the back of the bed and let the later-emerging perennials hide the old Daffodil foliage.)

Okay, let's recap. Don't plant too early, don't mulch too much, don't prune improperly, don't over-fertilize, don't work wet soil, and don't hog-tie your Daffodils. That's about it for now. Oh, and one other thing, don't forget to plop yourself down in a lawn chair once in a while and enjoy your garden.

*Horticulturalist Deanne Eversmeyer
lives on Leonard Road.*



www.longandfoster.com

**Grace
Zultowski,**
Fay Place
Pimmit Hills

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703-582-8022
CELL

703-534-9660
OFFICE

Not planning to SELL your home, but not sure how to improve its value? Over the next months, I'll write about some possibilities. If you have ideas of what you'd like to read about or would like to share remodeling experiences, please call, write or email me.

What improvement will you do? Why not get that washing machine out of the kitchen! The hall closet at 35x38" is large enough for a stacked or one-piece unit. Purchasing the new washer/dryer is the most expensive part at about \$1000. Plan about \$200 to widen the doorway and add a 30" louvered door for ventilation, about \$250 for the electrical circuit, about \$300 for the plumbing - vent pipe, drain and water lines. If this is the only electrical and plumbing work to be done, you just need washer/dryer permit -- about \$50. Replacing hardwood flooring where the wall was removed is about \$50.

Materials to run the dryer vent under the house are about \$60. Rigid 4" vent pipe is required and there are limits on length and turns. Don't be tempted to vent into the attic or crawl space. The moisture isn't good for the framing and the lint is a fire hazard...and this may even be against code. I did the venting myself, but connecting the lengths under the house almost brought me to tears. Hacking the hole in the concrete foundation to bring it to the outside was easier!

Rather move instead of remodeling your home? I'd be pleased to help you find a home to BUY and to help you SELL your current home. Please allow me to assist you with your real estate questions and needs. At any time I'm happy to provide a free Competitive Market Analysis. Use this to estimate if you can obtain financing for your remodeling plans or your home's resale value.



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child safety seats. The youth handed out forms and distributed water. They have taught children's church during Sunday worship services, served food at the church's harvest dinner and sung and danced in the church's Spring Sing talent show.

The group also has a social side including a ski trip to Bryce Mountain, an overnight "lock-in" at church and a concert at Jammin' Java coffeehouse in Vienna.

The group plans more fundraisers so members can attend camp

and decorate a newly dedicated youth room at the church. Youth also will help with the church's annual Christmas in April project, which provides home repairs for qualified homeowners.

The youth will walk for the March of Dimes charity again on April 28 and are looking for sponsors. For more information about sponsorship, or for information about joining the group, contact the church at 703-893-9220. St. Luke's is at 7628 Leesburg Pike, across the street from Marshall High School. ☪

Photos by Theresa Campbell.



Above: St. Luke's UMC Pastor Gretchen Miller with David Warren and his brother Taylor, Amanda Shrader, Katie Bynaker, Angie Snyder, Tiffany Snyder on their Confirmation Day.



Left: Youth Group member Amanda Shrader sings Bible songs with Raymond Berndt, Bobby Berndt, Jared Shrader and Sheryl Berndt at a Spring Sing held last year.

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The Pimmit Hills Gardener

By Deanne Eversmeyer,
Horticulturalist



Wow! What a winter! The first Narcissus in bloom broke the previous record (my records, that is) by more than three weeks! Appropriately named 'February Gold', the first bud opened on the first of February.

Flowering Apricot and Quince have been in bloom since at least mid-January, with the small Snow Crocus following shortly after. The Star Magnolias are always too early to bloom, their lovely white starry flowers often turned brown by a frosty return of winter, but this year they seem particularly impatient. But let's not get too impatient about setting out our summer annuals. The home improvement stores and the garden centers bring in their bedding plants earlier each year. And there's no point in planting your Impatiens and Marigolds if they're just going to sit and sulk in the cold ground or even be killed off by a late frost. There are annuals (those flowers that do not survive the winter) that like the cooler months and can take the chilly tem-

peratures of early spring, such as Sweet Alyssum, Snapdragon, Calendula, and Lobelia. These lovelies prefer a milder summer and often go comatose or even die during our summer swelters. Your best bet is to use these in pots or

beds with tulips once the lows are above the 30's, and in May replace the spent tulips with a summer-lover like Vinca or Impatiens which will fill in as the early annuals bow out. And then there are the tried-and-true Pansies; for maximum enjoyment, plant these tough guys in the fall and enjoy them through the winter and spring. (Do plan on replacing them also, as they really are pansies when it comes to summer heat.)

So don't jump the gun when it comes to planting summer annuals. And don't over-mulch trees and shrubs. Shallow rooting Azaleas and Boxwoods can suffer die-back if their roots are smothered by too much mulch. And material (mulch, leaves, soil, debris) piled up around

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Curb Appeal

By Cynthia Bernat,
Anderson Road

So, we've all heard the buzz words "curb appeal," but what does that mean, anyway? And if I'm not trying to sell my home, what difference does it make? And what if I don't want to spend a lot of money?



trimmed shrubs and grass, values go up, because buyers are willing to pay more to live there. By maintaining or improving my home's curb appeal, I'm securing the value of my home — and making

sure it's on the way up!

"Curb Appeal" refers to how a house looks to potential buyers, who often form their opinions while driving by. Curb appeal is one of the most important factors in selling a home — a home's well-kept exterior and yard will attract buyers and increase the value. Whatever condition your home is in, it probably is not in "show" condition. Although you are presenting something you are proud of, buyers are going to find as much wrong with it as possible!

"But I don't want to sell my home! Why should I care?" Well, I don't want to sell my home either — I like living here! But my home's VALUE is important to me. Every time a home sells in our neighborhood, the value of MY home is affected. In a neighborhood of neatly

There are many things that you can do to increase your home's curb appeal — and its value. Upgrading the siding and windows on your home (as many Pimmit Hills residents have) makes a big difference — not just in appeal, but in your energy bill as well! In addition, many of our neighbors know that the front of the home takes center stage, and have added inviting porches and landscaping. But that can be expensive. What if you don't want to spend a lot? Nothing wakes up a home's exterior (or interior, for that matter) like a fresh coat of paint. Use a "neutral" color for the siding — accent colors can be tastefully introduced to your home's exterior in shutters, doors and trim.

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PIMMIT HILLS HOMES FOR SALE!

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 know anyone that would like to move into our neighborhood? I can help! In our market, it's a matter of being in the right place at the right time. I live here, and I check on our neighborhood listings EVERY DAY. If you have a friend that you'd like to have as a neighbor, call me! I will get them pre-approved financing, so that when their new home comes on the market, they won't miss the opportunity to buy it! Have you considered selling your home? I'm happy to provide a free, no-obligation comparative market analysis of YOUR home —

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Saturday, March 23, 2002, 10:30am -12 noon

Saturday, May 18, 2002, 10:30am -12 noon

Saturday, June 1, 2002, 10:30am -12 noon



Cynthia Bernat

OFFICE: 703-437-3800 ext.3065

CELL: 703-598-0399

EMAIL: cynthia@longandfoster.com

WEB: www.2hdb.com/cynthiabernat



Community Bulletin Board

Christmas in April Project Needs Volunteers

St. Luke's United Methodist Church is once again forming a Christmas/Sukkot in April Team. The Christmas in April project has been making repairs to homes of low income/elderly homeowners in Northern Virginia since 1988. Volunteers are rewarded with the memory of an experience of a lifetime and the knowledge that they have helped to restore the dignity and hope to a needy neighbor.

If you are over 16 and interested in making the difference in someone's life, this project needs you. Work to be done can include yard work, interior/exterior painting, roof repair, shed building, flooring, minor electrical, leaky faucet, etc. No skill required but all trades welcome. Donations are also being accepted for breakfast or lunch for the workers on the day of the event. This year's event is Saturday, April 27th, location not yet determined. Please contact team captain Kenny Shrader for more information at 703-506-4532.

☞

Church Hosts Forum

Even though faith is alive and well in the United States, surveys show only about a quarter of Americans believe in the existence of absolute moral truth. The Rev.

Dr. Terrence Reynolds of the Department of Theology, Georgetown University, will explore this phenomenon at an Adult Forum entitled, *The Quest for Moral Absolutes* at Redeemer Lutheran Church, corner of Chain Bridge Road and Westmoreland Street in McLean, on Sunday, March 24 at 9:45 am.

Dr. Reynolds will address questions such as are there moral absolutes, how can we know what they are and how do we decide among competing claims for truth.

☞

Plant Sale

The Dan Dalgard Memorial Plant Sale will be held Saturday May 4, 2002 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Halquist Memorial Hospice Center, 4715 N 15th Street, Arlington, Virginia. Rain date is May 5.

Perennial divisions, small shrubs, and garden items will be sold and refreshments will be available.

This sale benefits the Landscape Fund of Hospice of Northern Virginia. 100% of the sales go directly to the maintenance of the landscape at the acute care facility. Pimmit Hills POC is Joe Pimenta, 703-847-8587.



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Flowering plants, such as pansies (fall, spring) and impatiens (summer) are another great and inexpensive way to highlight your home, either in neat flower beds or large planters by the front door.

And if you don't want to spend any money at all? Even simple things, like keeping the shrubs trimmed makes a difference. Keeping your grass cut, the sidewalks edged, and pruning back trees that make walking on the sidewalk in front of your home difficult all con-

tribute to your home's curb appeal and increase your home's value. And if you have a neighbor that can't do it all by themselves, offer to help – because when their home's value goes up, so does yours!

Is there a home-related topic you'd like to see discussed in this column? Please send your ideas to the editor at dispatch@pimmit hills.org.



April 26 is Arbor Day

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- Trees provide shelter and food to wildlife.

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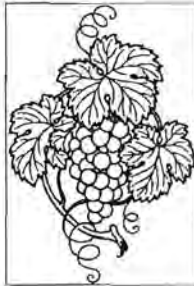
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Donnie Dick's Heard Through the Grapevine



It's that time of year again when we are paying our taxes and filing our income tax forms both state and federal. We are fortunate to have received a tax cut and a refund at the federal level. Now we are going to have to pony up more at the state and local level to close a short fall in the state budget.

I was feeling pretty good about the real estate sales in Pimmit Hills. Now we see the other side of this bonanza. Our new property assessments will result in an increase in our real estate taxes. There is also a possibility of our sales taxes increasing to pay for roads and schools. Some of our friends in Richmond are suggesting a local income tax in addition to the state income tax. I don't have a solution to our budget problems. All I know is it is going to cost us more to live in this community.

Some of you may qualify for tax relief from the county real estate tax if you are a senior citizen or have a disability. The Department of Taxation has details on this program. For information and/or application form, call 703-222-8234.

It now looks like the 70% car tax cut will result in a rise in all the other taxes we are obliged to pay. As the old saying goes, it is not free to live in a free society.

Editors Note: At the March meeting of the Pimmit Hills Citizens Association, Donnie's March column was brought up regarding the proper way to dispose of the American flag once it is worn-out. You can give your flag to the American Legion, the Boy Scouts or the VFW who will conduct a special ceremony to dispose of the worn-out flag properly.

Donnie Dick lives on Nigh Road



Pimmit Hills Senior Center

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. 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 Center is operated by Fairfax County Community and Recreation Services

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