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

PLEASE DELIVER BEFORE APRIL 1

How to Advertise in the Pimmit Hills Dispatch and reach 1,636 Pimmit Hills homes

- 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 (Pimmit Hills Citizens Association)
- Mail check to: Editor, Pimmit Hills Dispatch, 1925 Cherril 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

May issue deadline: April 12

Pimmit Hills Citizens Association Meeting Dates:

April 1, 2003

May 6, 2003

June 3, 2003

No July or August meetings

September 2, 2003

October 7, 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!*

April
2003

The Pimmit Hills Dispatch

Our Neighborhood,
Our Home

PimmitHills.org

Published since 1952
Courtesy of the Pimmit Hills
Citizens Association

PIMMIT HILLS, VIRGINIA ■ ESTABLISHED IN MAY 1950

Second Annual Pimmit Hills Community Yard Sale

Saturday, April 26
PHCA House, 1927 Pimmit Drive

PIMMIT HILLS NEWS

On our webpage, PimmitHills.org, there are links to Homeland Security websites, Fairfax County guide to emergencies, etc plus other resources. We will use the website to communicate any information pertinent to where we live. Please keep our country and our leaders in your prayers, especially the men and women of our armed forces.

Our annual **Pimmit Hills Community Yard Sale** will take place on Saturday, April 26 at the PHCA house at 1927 Pimmit Drive from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. PHCA is selling spaces for only \$5 (money goes towards PH Sign Project) and all Pimmit Hills residents are invited to sell their own stuff at this combined sale. You are also invited to come out, meet your neighbors and buy their stuff too! Raindate is on Sunday. An idea has been suggested that Pimmit Hills begin its own flea market every first Saturday of the month at the PHCA house. If you are interested in selling your crafts, antiques, etc, let us know. If enough people are interested, we'll begin advertising it.

The *Dispatch* has received word that longtime Pimmit Hills resident Grace Hallahan of Olmstead Drive has passed away. She had served as an officer on the PHCA board. Our condolences to her family.

The Pimmit Hills Sign Project is doing well. The committee is still

looking for donations of material to build the brick/stone signs as well as people to help build them. We will give any business that donates material a free one-page ad in the *Dispatch*. If you can help in any way, please call Joan Naleppa at 703-893-7866.

The PHCA officer positions of **President** and **First Vice President** are up for election. Please consider serving for one year in one of these positions. Contact PHCA President Joe Baker for more information.

Upcoming PHCA Meeting Date:

April 1, 2003

We will be discussing and voting on the rest of the amendments to the PHCA Bylaws. You can read the amendments at www.pimmithills.org.

The meeting begins at 7:30 pm 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.

More meetings:

Tuesday, May 6 at 7:30 pm
 Tuesday, June 3 at 7:30 pm
 No meetings in July and August



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 September 2002 to June 2003:

President	Joe Baker	703-448-1394 president@pimmithills.org
First Vice President	Bill Niland	703-356-8240 firstveep@pimmithills.org
Second Vice President	Lee Rock	703-760-7181 secondveep@pimmithills.org
Treasurer	Kim Rollen	703-761-7391 treasurer@pimmithills.org
Secretary	Sarah Rock	703-760-7181 secretary@pimmithills.org
Three Year Director	Martha Duggar	703-356-6508 director@pimmithills.org

WHO TO CALL:

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 Cherrri 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 entire page per month	
<i>Ads designed for free, send copy via email, fax or mail</i>	

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

Pimmit Hills Citizens Association Meeting NOTES

By Sarah Rock, PHCA Secretary



Hello neighbors! Thank goodness for April after the long winter we've had this year. At the March meeting, several folks shared stories of meeting and helping other Pimmit Hills neighbors during the February snowstorms. I was amazed at how quickly the roads in Pimmit Hills were plowed. We heard plenty of stories of other neighborhoods that took a week or more to clear. Thanks to all who pitched in to help clean up.

It was brought up in the meeting that some residents in the Hills were not able to clear their own driveways or sidewalks due to circumstances beyond their control. Some residents suggested that they would be willing to help others in these circumstances. Would you be interested in volunteering to help your Hills neighbors?

Real estate tax assessments arrived the week of the March meeting. Did you know that the greater Falls Church area, including the Hills, had the third largest increase in Fairfax County, behind Lorton (#1) and Springfield (#2)? The average increase in the assessed value of houses in the neighborhood was around \$36,000, which works out to an increase of about \$450 in annual real estate taxes.

Several residents have recently voiced concern over the broken fence between Peachtree Apartments and our neighborhood. President Baker recently spoke with the Peachtree management about this issue. He shared the good news that Peachtree is planning to replace the fence sometime in March.

Speaking of neighboring apartments, you may have wondered about the **development plans for the Commons**. Germaine Broussard of the McLean Commons Citizens Association gave a quick update at the March meeting. Currently all plans for the Commons are on hold due to the residential development planned by West*Group and Lerner Inc. in the Tysons area. Unfortunately, it seems that Safeway's development plans are also on hold.

In other Association business, half of the **50 Bylaw amendments were approved!** The first 25 amendments were read for a second time, discussed and approved at the March meeting. If you missed the reading of the Bylaw amendments, copies of the current Bylaws and amendments are on the PHCA website.

Joan Naleppa and John Quick of the **Sign Committee** gave a brief

Continued on page 6

HOME IMPROVEMENT AND REPAIR—Carpentry, drywall, interior/exterior painting, minor electrical and plumbing, siding, gutters cleaned/installed, yardwork, hauling, miscellaneous odd jobs. For free estimate, call Yemane at 703-760-0915. Please leave a message. Have built two additions to my Pimmit Hills home.

KNITTING—Learn to knit or receive help on current projects. Individual or small group lessons available. \$30/hr private lessons, your home. For appointment call Lynne or Kristin at Neat Knots, Inc., 703-239-0114. You can be a skillful knitting fiend.

MARY KAY—When was the last time you played with colors? Why not try a new shade a new look? Call Martha, your Pimmit Hills Mary Kay Beauty Representative at 703-442-8014 or MLR1130@aol.com.

RENOVATION SALE—(6) 3040 Double pane Rehab windows, will fit Pimmit Hills homes (\$40 each), Insulated Steel Entry Door with decorative glass insert (\$75), Full glass vinyl Storm Door w/screens (\$75), Rudd Gas Furnace (\$150), and more. call 703-506-3979.

SKINCARE FOR ALL AGES See 30% reduction in fine lines, 29% decrease in dryness, 21% increase in firmness per clinical research. Fast, easy to use formula. Have clear, healthy looking skin. Call Jeff and Jane Stoltzfus, Independent Reliv Distributors, 703-848-0742.

SPECIAL EASTER PROMOTION—Surprise your family/friends/colleagues with an Easter Gift Basket Singing Telegram delivery, \$40. Delivery dates 4/18-4/20, includes: costumed delivery (bunny rabbit/baby chick), small basket of Easter chocolates, talented/cheerful delivery staff. Call A-Laugh-and-Half Singing Telegram Service at 703-893-3911.

WANTED—MODEL TRAINS—Collector looking to buy model train collections (O/027 scale/Lionel). If you are looking to sell your collection, please call Garrett at 703-821-2332 or email me ggoldstein@hotmail.com with a subject line "TRAINS".

YARD SALE—Pimmit Hills Community Yard Sale on Saturday, April 26 at the PHCA House, 1927 Pimmit Drive. Sell your stuff for only \$5 per space or come and buy other people's stuff!

YOUR AD HERE—Only \$10 per month with a 40 word maximum. Easy way to get the word out to 1,636 Pimmit Hills homes!

Ads and Articles due
April 11
 Dispatch@PimmitHills.org
Classified Ads
\$10 per month
 Go to PimmitHills.org website for an easy way to send in your classified ad!

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 2500 sq ft addition. I'll give you ideas and client reference list. Call Peter Boric at 703-790-8396 or 301-770-8595 ext. 206.

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.

FIRST CLASS TRAVEL—Exclusive travel agent in McLean offers a 7-night/8-day vacation to Waikiki Beach, Hawaii May 7-14, 2003. Package includes airfare, transfers and beachfront hotel. Out-

rigger reef on the beach. All ground transportation and taxes included. Cost per person \$1,368 double, \$100 deposit required per person. Tour escort provided. Call 703-356-4537 or 703-827-5400.

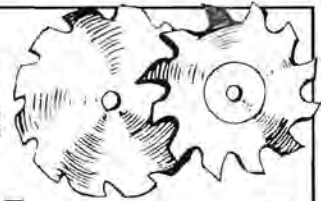
FOR SALE—Pimmit Hills neighbor has '73 Winnebago for sale. Good condition. 440 Chrysler rebuilt trans, good tires, VA inspection. Stove, bath, shower, sleeps four. \$3,500. Call Mac at 703-905-9707.

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

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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"...A knockout of a North Carolina barbecue..."

—Phyllis Richman, *Washington Post*



THE THREE PIGS

of McLean

1394 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, Virginia

703-356-1700

Continued from page 4

update on their progress. Design applications were submitted to the County for approval in February. The County examined the proposed locations along Route 7 in early March. Pending approval, the next step is to apply for building permits, which are valid for six months. Thanks to all residents who have offered their time and services and those who have donated money for this project. We still need your help to complete these signs. If you would like to contribute, please contact a PHCA

board member or Sign Committee member.

One easy way you can help PHCA is by cleaning out your attic and joining us at the **Annual Yard Sale April 26**. You can donate your goods to PHCA or rent a space and set up your own table. We cleaned out our attic last year, but somehow already have another attic full of yard sale treasures, much to my husband's chagrin! Hope to see you at the April meeting and the Yard Sale. ■

secretary@pimmit hills.org



Second Annual Pimmit Hills Community Yard Sale

Saturday, April 26
8 am-3 pm

Time to clean out your attic, closets, garage and make some money! No need to spend time advertising or posting signs—join forces with us and sell your stuff at this community-wide (we have 1,636 homes here!) yard sale for only \$5 a space. Don't have a lot to sell? Donate your items to the PHCA table. Money goes towards the Pimmit Hills Entrance Signs Project.

Pimmit Hills Citizen's Association House
Location: 1927 Pimmit Drive



God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son,
that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

John 3:16

Join St. Luke's United Methodist Church as we prepare for

Easter

Sunday, April 13

Palm Sunday

11:00 am service features a procession with palms and a donkey. Great for kids!

Thursday, April 17

Maundy Thursday Service, 7:30 pm

Join us for a moving re-enactment of the Last Supper.

Friday, April 18

Good Friday Service, 7:30 pm

Saturday, April 19

The sanctuary will be open for private prayer, 9 am to Noon

Sunday, April 20

Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service followed by breakfast, 6:00 am

Easter Worship with children's sermon and children's church, 11:00 am

Easter Egg Hunt for children follows 11:00 am worship service



For God so loved the world...

St. Luke's United Methodist Church
6883 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA
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: Mon-Fri 8:00am & 12 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'is 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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Falls Church, VA 22043
Mon-Fri 9am-5pm
Sat-Sun: Closed



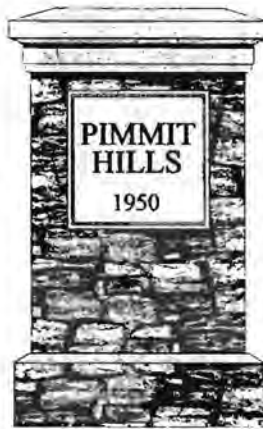
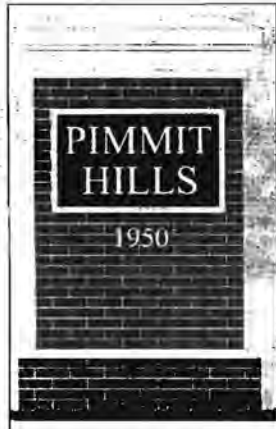
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(Fax) 703-442-9469

Pimmit Hills Neighborhood Entrance Sign Project



HOW CAN I HELP?

TIME – We need volunteers of all ages and size, especially those in construction, masonry and bricklayers.

MATERIALS – We need cinderblock, brick, stone, mortar cement, rebarb and related building materials and tools to complete the job.

DONATIONS – Join the Pimmit Hills Citizens Association for only \$12 or make a specific donation for this project.

We're counting on your help and support for this neighborhood-wide effort. Pimmit Hills was established in 1950 and yet there have never been signs at our main entrances to show the pride we have in our community of 1,636 homes. This great investment in the future can only happen with *your* assistance and skills put to good use for this special place where you live.

If you can donate time or materials for the Pimmit Hills Entrance Sign Project or if you know people or companies who could donate the above materials to our community, please contact Joan Naleppa at 703-893-7866 or devine.ed@cox.net.

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- Mulching and bed edging
- Spring clean-up
- Landscaping (Design & Build)
- Patios and walkways
- Retaining walls
- Irrigation
- Beautiful fish ponds and waterfalls

Weekly Mowing for Pimmit Hills Lawns
\$30.00

(Larger lots and corner lots \$5.00 more,
Bagging of grass clippings extra)

**Yearly contracts consisting of
mowing, leaf removal in the fall, snow
Removal of sidewalks and drives
during the winter, 4 applications of
fertilizer throughout the season.**

\$160.00 per month for 12 months
(Bagging of grass clippings extra)

Dream Lawns and its employees are fully insured.
We are a local company and have been in business
in Northern Virginia for four years. Our mission is to
provide you with the highest quality of service and
professional experience.

DreamLawnsInc.com

MyLawn@DreamLawnsInc.com

703-378-0006

The Value of Trees to a Community

The following are statistics from the National Arbor Day Foundation (www.arborday.org) on how important trees are in a community setting like Pimmit Hills:

The net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to ten room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day.

Trees can boost the market value of your home by an average of 6 or 7 percent

Landscaping, especially with trees, can increase property values as much as 20 percent.

One acre of forest absorbs six tons of carbon dioxide and puts out four tons of oxygen. This is enough to meet the annual needs of 18 people.

There are about 60- to 200- million spaces along our city streets where trees could be planted. This translates to the potential to absorb 33 million more tons of CO2 every year, and saving \$4 billion in energy costs.

Trees properly placed around buildings can reduce air conditioning needs by 30 percent and can save 20 - 50 percent in energy used for heating.

Trees can be a stimulus to economic development, attracting new business and tourism. Commercial retail areas are more attractive to shoppers, apartments rent more quickly, tenants stay longer, and

space in a wooded setting is more valuable to sell or rent.

Shade from trees could save up to \$175 per year (per structure) in air conditioning costs.

Healthy, mature trees add an average of 10 percent to a property's value.

The planting of trees means improved water

quality, resulting in less runoff and erosion. This allows more recharging of the ground water supply. Wooded areas help prevent the transport of sediment and chemicals into streams

In laboratory research, visual exposure to settings with trees has produced significant recovery from stress within five minutes, as indicated by changes in blood pressure and muscle tension

Nationally, the 60 million street trees have an average value of \$525 per tree. ■



Craig's Lawn Care, Inc.

Providing mowing, trimming and lawn cleanup services to many Pimmit Hills homes since 1985.

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Your home improvement is just a phone call away!

Citizens Contracting Company, Inc. is your community contractor. We offer complete remodeling services. CCC serves Pimmit Hills and Northern Virginia. Free estimates. Financing is available. Check any bureau or bank about our reliability. We want your business!

Call 703-536-6400 today



5072 North 27th Street, Arlington, VA 22207
703-536-6400
VA REG# 36527



Curb Appeal

By Cynthia Bernat,
Anderson Road

Hello Neighbors!

Well, it's been a tough winter for creating curb appeal. First there was snow everywhere, and now there's mud everywhere! My first project this spring is going to be taking care of the front lawn. You see, my sewer pipe collapsed and replacing it meant a lot of digging, and even the spots that weren't dug up took quite a beating from the backhoe. I know I'm not alone—I've seen a number of Pimmit homes with a tell-tale path of mud from foundation to curb.

It reminds me of those old Bugs Bunny cartoons—whenever he'd go tunneling underground, he'd leave a ridge of mud in his wake. The cartoons are funny, but what the digging has done to my curb appeal isn't!

So, my lawn has top priority for this spring. Even if you haven't suffered through sewer pipe replacement recently, your lawn should still be on your list for early spring—you'll want to take advan-

tage of the spring growing season! Once the weather gets hot, your lawn goes dormant and doesn't do too much growing until it cools off again in fall, so now's the time to reseed, fertilize, and treat with a weed blocker if you need it. A little bit of "TLC" now and in a few months, you'll have a lush green lawn.

If you're looking for specific how-to information on sprucing up your lawn or re-seeding, try the garden center over in Merrifield. I know I've mentioned them before—

it's because they really are a great source of free information, a lot of which is printed on handy sheets you can take with you. They also have grass seed that is custom-blended for Northern Virginia's climate, which I love, because I know for certain it will withstand our hot summers and cold winters!

In addition to reseeding and fertilizing, spring is also a great time to do some serious edging along the



Continued on page 12

next spring. Once they begin to yellow they can be removed. To avoid ugly foliage syndrome, plant Daffodils, especially the bigger varieties, towards the rear of the perennial bed. Here, the flowers will be plenty visible early in the spring, and then emerging plants will hide the foliage as it matures. A lot of the miniatures and fine-boned species seem to melt away without much notice and can be used towards the front.

These days there are so many more colors and shapes and sizes available to the home gardener. My side yard is a soft mix of white, peachy-pink and blue in early spring, thanks to some of the newer pink Daffodil varieties, including 'Reggae', 'Bell Song' and 'Palmares', and Grape Hyacinths (*Muscari*) and soft blue Glory-of-the-Snow (*Chionodoxa*). The rock garden out back houses the miniatures: 'Fairy Chimes' at 6"; 'Baby Moon' with tall grass-like foliage

and nickel-sized flowers; 'Kenellis', a white and yellow bicolor at 5"; and the tiniest of all, *Narcissus wilkommii*, at just 3 to 4" tall with dime-size flowers. The front yard meadow is populated with the species Daffodils *Narcissus pseudonarcissus* (a wind swept, long trumpeted Daff) and *N. x odorus* 'Plenus' (a very sweet-scented, multi-petalled naturally occurring hybrid). And then there is the Daffodil collection in the other side yard, a growing hodgepodge of whatever catches my eye as I peruse the numerous bulb catalogs each summer.

Oh, I can't wait for spring! But wait, I must. March, so far, is looking more like January than the beginning of spring. Maybe I should get out last year's bulb catalogs, make a fresh, hot cup of tea and dream the gardener's dream of an early spring. ■

Horticulturalist Dianne Eversmeyer
lives on Leonard Road



April 25 is Arbor Day

Trees can add value to your home, help cool your home and neighborhood, break the cold winds to lower your heating costs, and provide food for wildlife.

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more than one flower to a stem, a long tube behind the perianth and a sweet scent. The other divisions include five that are distinguished by their resemblance to an ancestral species, three that are sorted by the size and shape of their trumpets, a double division, a split corona (trumpet) division, a true species or wild form group and, lastly, a miscellaneous, catch-all division.

All Daffodils are spring bloomers, brightening gardens in our area as early as February and as late as May, depending on the variety. By the end of June their strappy green foliage has yellowed and withered away. Their onion shaped bulbs sit dormant throughout the heat of summer, until fall's cooler



weather signals new root growth and winter's freezes start flower buds forming again. Don't go looking for Daffodil bulbs in the garden centers now; these need to be planted in the fall. Do start looking for the bulb catalogs. The mail order companies like to get their beautiful catalogs out there while the garden is still in bloom -- inspiration for next year. The internet has made it quicker and easier to shop for all kinds of bulbs. Or, if

you're an old-fashioned gardener, shake some gardening magazine at the newsstand for the mail-in cards that drop out. The garden centers carry a pretty good selection, but I've found that you may not get what's pictured on the box.

No matter where you get them from, Daffodils are easy to grow. They are much more tolerant of shade than Tulips and, when happy (which is most of the time), they will quickly become thick clumps of flowers that beg to be thinned out

and brought inside to fill a vase. They do fine in our Virginia clay as long as it is not waterlogged. Plant Daffodil bulbs in individual holes three to four times their height (of the bulb, that is). After flowering, remove any seed pods that develop but leave the leaves ALONE. Do not cut them off. Do not braid them. Do not rubber band them. Just let them photosynthesize as much as they can during their brief life. This ensures a big flower display for

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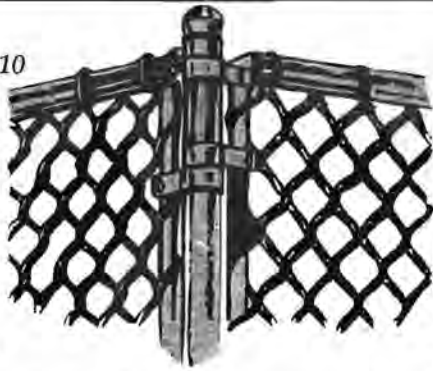
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sidewalk and driveway. My husband likes to use a power edger he borrows from a friend. If you don't know someone with an edger, you can rent one, and there are also hand tools that do the job. If you don't want to or can't do it yourself, try a lawn service company. Sometimes, power edgers can cut a gap that might be wider than you'd like, but it will quickly fill in as your lawn grows. Trimming the edges now makes it easy to keep things neat for the rest of the year, and when it comes to curb appeal, neatness counts!

After tending to the lawn, we'll have to take a look at our home and see what repairs need to be made. After all, a well-maintained home is always worth more than a neglected one! Our fence is one thing we'll be carefully considering. If you have a fence, now is a good time to take a long, hard look at it and determine if it reflects the same care and atten-



tion you put into the rest of your home. Sunny spring days are perfect for replacing broken or missing pickets, and for repainting too! Even chain-link

fences can benefit from a coat of paint—a little silver grey and it could look brand new. Of course, if your fence is badly rusted or damaged, you may have to just remove it altogether, but look at the bright side—with the fence gone, there will be less weed-whacking to do when you mow your beautiful green lawn!

And for all your hard work, I'd like to thank you! I really enjoy taking walks through our neighborhood and seeing the great curb appeal you create. Each home is different and personal, and that's part of what makes Pimmit Hills unique. I'm looking forward to seeing what you and spring have in store for our neighborhood! ■

Cynthia Bernat is a licensed realtor

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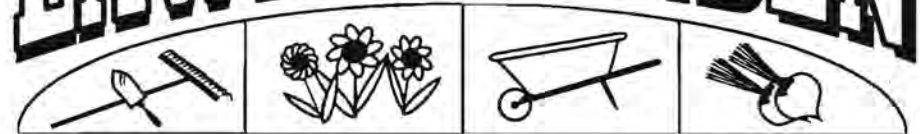


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Pimmit Hills Senior Center

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
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The Pimmit Hills Gardener

By Deanne Eversmeyer,
Horticulturalist

February first, 2002. That was a record breaking day, at least in the ten years that I've been keeping records of the first Daffodil bloom of the season where I work in Arlington. The record-breaking Daffodil is an aptly named variety, 'February Gold'.

It is planted in a bed that has a southern exposure and is protected by a brick wall and, consequently, heats up quickly in the spring. Last winter's unwinter-like demeanor knocked 2 1/2 weeks off the previous early-

bird record. Perhaps it'll break another record this year -- latest first bloom.

I do love Daffodils. I moved into my house in September of 1997 and that fall planted a beautiful and fragrant white flowered variety, 'Thalia', across the front border of dark green Cherry Laurels (*Prunus laurocerasus* 'Otto Luyken'). These have developed into large clumps,



sporting clusters of papery-white, small cupped flowers in April. Five and a half years later, the yard is full of daffodils every spring -- 33 varieties at last count.

Every Daffodil is, technically speaking, a Narcissus. This member of the Amaryllis family is characterized by a trumpet or cupped shaped corona and a subtending ring of petals called the perianth. There are over two dozen species of Daffodils, most native to Spain, Portugal and southern France. And, as a

result of years of hybridization, there are an estimated 13,000 varieties out there. The American Daffodil Society and the Royal Horticultural Society separate all these into 13 divisions according to flower size and shape.

The term "Jonquil" comes from one of these divisions, the Narcissus jonquilla group, characterized by

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April 7: McDonald's Night 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm at McDonalds located at 8111 Leesburg Pike, Vienna (next to Jared Jewelers)

April 8: Cultural Arts show K-6 at 9:30 am "Ben Franklin"

April 14-18: Spring Vacation

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