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

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S14 P2 11 \*\*\*\*\*AUTOCR\*\*G019  
THE PIMMIT HILLS CITIZEN AT  
1925 CHERRI DR  
FALLS CHURCH VA 22043-1059



### Advertise in the *Pimmit Hills Dispatch* and reach 1,636 Pimmit Hills homes

Display ads: \$25 for ¼ page; \$50 for ½ page; \$75 for entire page, all per month. Ad designed for free. Classified ads: 40 words maximum; \$5 per month.  
Write check to: PHCA; Mail check to: Editor, Pimmit Hills Dispatch, 1925 Cherrri Drive, Falls Church, VA 22043  
Send news items, articles, ad copy, classified ads, etc to the *Dispatch* Editor via:  
email – dispatch@pimmithills.org; OR fax – 703-734-0779; OR mail – above address.

## January issue deadline: Dec 7

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

- |                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| December 4, 2001 | April 2, 2002 |
| January 1, 2002  | May 7, 2002   |
| February 5, 2002 | June 4, 2002  |
| March 5, 2002    |               |

PHCA meetings are at 7:30 pm the first Tuesday of every month at the Pimmit Hills School, 7510 Lisle Avenue. All Pimmit Hills homeowners and renters are welcome. Come to discuss important issues facing our community.

*Our Neighborhood,  
Our Home*

December  
2001



# The Pimmit Hills Dispatch

Courtesy of the  
Pimmit Hills  
Citizens Association

pimmithills.org



*Happy  
Holidays  
Pimmit  
Hills!*

PIMMIT HILLS, VIRGINIA ■ ESTABLISHED IN MAY 1950

# PIMMIT HILLS NEWS

This issue went to the printers on November 12.

The head of the PHCA Sunshine Fund Joan Naleppa reminds everyone to call her if you know of PH residents who are ill or in the hospital or just need cheering up. PHCA sends them well wishes through cards or flowers. Contact Joan at 703-893-7866.

The goods at November PHCA Bake Sale were all sold out by the afternoon. Thanks to all who baked items for the sale, bought items at the sale, and those who helped at the table selling the baked goods and PHCA membership. We made \$261.67 from the food as well as gained 150 new members!

PHCA Second Vice President Raymond Bernot is our official representative to the McLean Citizens Association (MCA) and the McLean Commons Citizens Association (MCCA). Our three area Associations are working together to deal with the problems and issues concerning the proposed redevelopment of the McLean Commons area and the negative impact to our areas. Ray needs people from Pimmit Hills to assist him in this effort. If you care about this issue, please contact him at 703-893-8433 to volunteer your help.

October's PHCA Community Clean Up Day was a success despite a last minute glitch when we thought the Fairfax County disposal trucks might not make it. But they

did! PH residents brought all sorts of their junk—old mattresses, washing machines, carpets, furniture, doors, etc. And amazingly, the Fairfax County trucks "ate" them all up (if you've never seen how one of these trucks "eats" a sofa, it's quite something). Thanks to all who helped out that day. If you missed this great opportunity and have junk laying around in your yard or house, don't worry, organizer Meredith Stewart says there may be another Clean Up Day planned for the spring. See the PH website for more photos.



**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

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

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

# BE A MEMBER



## of the Pimmit Hills Citizens Association



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

Yearly membership is only

\$5 per person per year; \$10 per couple  
(PHCA Year is: September 2001 to August 2002).

Members will receive the new PHCA Directory when completed.

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

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

*Mail form with your yearly dues to:*

Pimmit Hills Citizens Association, Inc.

1927 Pimmit Drive, Falls Church, VA 22043

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

Street Address

Falls Church, VA 22043

Home Phone

E-Mail Address

Amount Enclosed  
(\$5 per person)

I'd like to volunteer for PHCA activities

yes  no

# Pimmit Hills Community Events

Sponsored by the  
Pimmit Hills Citizens Association

## NEXT EVENT!

### Holiday Social :

Can you believe it? The holidays are here! This year, the PHCA wants to celebrate this special season with a time of fellowship and fun. We invite you to join us on **Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>** for some holiday cheer. We will hold a short (read very short) business meeting and then let the festivities begin. The Association will provide the coffee and punch and the holiday atmosphere, and we would like to ask you to bring a sampling of your favorite holiday goody to share. Our goal is to bring together a smorgasbord of sweet treats - from homemade cookies or a cake to sweet bread from a local bakery or a tasty pie from Safeway or Giant, whatever you want to bring will be appreciatively accepted. All are welcome, so please, mark the date and plan to join us at 7:30 pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December.

### Decorating Contest

See next page for details on the Pimmit Hills Holiday Decorating Contest.

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

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

## Mark Your Calendars!



# Did You Know?

By Jennifer Baker, PHCA Secretary

**H**ello Neighbors – Your Association has been busy since my last report. We held a members only **Clean-up Day** and our annual **Membership Drive and Bake Sale**. Both of these events were tremendously successful, and this success was due in no small part to the wonderful volunteers who gave their time to help out. Many thanks to all that have shared their time with the PHCA in October and November, including Amy Phelan, Jackie Allison, Martha Armstrong, Honora Daly, Mary Ellen Dick, Cindy Kwitchoff, Ann McDaris, Bill Niland, Pat and Phil Rogers, and Meredith Stewart. We also wish to thank all those who donated bake goods on Election Day. Even though it was an off-year election, we sold out fast – a tribute to the variety of yummy choices we had to offer.

You know, volunteering with the PHCA is a great way to meet your neighbors and serve your community. The time commitment isn't too great and the work is not too rigorous, and there are opportunities for all ages and abilities. We encourage anyone who is interested in getting involved to email or call

any one of the PHCA officers to add your name to our growing volunteer roster. We look forward to hearing from you!

Following are a few highlights from the Association's Election Day meeting. Before I begin, because a number of people asked me if we were going to have a meeting on November 6, I just want to remind everyone that our meetings are always held at 7:30 PM on the first Tuesday of every month from September through June. Rain or shine, whether it's Election Day or just a regular old Tuesday. So mark your calendar now and plan to join us.

If you didn't come out on November 6, here is just a sampling of what you missed...

First Vice President, Bill Niland responded to a concern about road-kill on our streets. He reported that after doing some research, he found out that VDOT is the group to call for assistance with this problem (see the PH Citizen Contact Information page in this Dispatch for the VDOT number).

Second Vice President Raymond Bernot seconded Bill's comment that residents need to keep an eye

*Continued on page 6*

**FOR SALE** – Color TVs-13" Panasonic and 19" Emerson and TV table – all three \$75. DP stationary bike w/odometer and speedometer, \$75. Debbie, 703-356-2656. Pimmit Hills.

**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 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.

**YOGA CLASS** – Relax. Reduce stress. Restore your body to its fit, flexible, healthy condition. Begin-

ners class, Mondays, 6 pm-7:30 pm at St. Luke's church. First class half price. For more info, call Kim, certified yoga instructor, at 703-760-0915. Pre-registration preferred. Drop-ins welcome.

**CLASSIFIED ADS** – Only \$5 per month with a 40 word maximum. Easy way to get the word out to 1,684 Pimmit Hills homes!

**Ads are due  
December 7**  
dispatch@pimmithills.org

## ADVERTISING in the Dispatch

**CLASSIFIEDS:**  
\$5 per month; 40 words max

**DISPLAY:**  
1/4 page = \$25  
1/2 page = \$50  
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@pimmithills.org  
fax: 703-734-0779  
mail: 1925 Cherri Drive

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 by Dec 7th to get your Cosmetics, Fragrances, Hair care, Skincare and Holiday gifts delivered to your door in time for the Holidays. Gift wrapping free of charge. Call today to get your free brochure. 703-790-5147 or donjuliatiff@earthlink.net.

☪

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

☪

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

**DAYCARE**—Licensed care provider with 15 years of experience. Takes care of newborn and up. CPR certified. Loving parents. Teaching children to develop social skills. Reasonable rates. Lives close to 495, Route 7 and 66. For more information, call Marliya at 703-356-3837.

☪

**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**—Craftsman 10" table saw, \$125. Fitness Flyer, \$100. Craftsman leaf "grinder" whacker, \$50. Gas grill \$50. Call Bob, 703-356-3946.

☪

**FOR SALE**—Sofa (daybed) and large comfy armchair with ottoman. Pinstripe light blue/white color. Good shape. Only 5 yrs old. \$200. Call 703-734-6699 or 703-287-8524 (work).

☪

**FOR SALE**—Microwave Kenmore 1400 watt, \$100. NordicTrac 500 ski machine w/odometer and speedometer, \$250. Sofa table-mission style, oak 50w x 18d x 30h, \$250. All in excellent, like-new condition. Debbie 703-356-2656. Pimmit Hills.

## Ready...Set.... Decorate!

It's time for the PHCA Annual Holiday Decorating Contest! Nowhere beats the Hills when it comes to holiday decorating and we want to honor the best of show. Do you think your twinkling lights, gift-wrapped door or other home holiday finery has what it takes? If you don't participate, you'll never know. Our 2001 contest has four categories and prizes will go to the winners in each.

The first category is the **Norman Rockwell Award**. This award will go to the house that best says, "Come Home for the Holidays."

The second category is the **Dr. Seuss Award**. This award will recognize the most creative and/or non-traditional approach to holiday decorating.

The third category is the **Over the Top Award**. We think this award is pretty self-explanatory - think National Lampoon.

The fourth and final category is the **Neighborhood Jewel Award**. This award will go to the house that nobody can forget, truly the best of show.

The Judging Committee, made up of PHCA volunteers, will be scouting the neighborhood in search of winners during the week of December 17. If you wish to participate, please make sure you have your decorations in place by then. Winners will be notified and prizes will be awarded during the week of December 24. We will announce the list of winners at the January meeting and have the list posted on the PHCA website.

Happy decorating!

Continued from page 4

out for dangerous or illegal activity in and around the neighborhood. He noted that there was lots of egg throwing in the Hills on Halloween night, as well as some wild driving that led to a number of parked cars getting scraped up. In this particular incident, because a resident was observant, the perpetrator may actually be caught.

Those in attendance were reminded not to miss the December meeting, which will consist of a very short business meeting and then a holiday social. All residents are invited to come out and join us for an evening of fellowship and fun.

The focus of the night's meeting was the response to President Joe Baker's request that we come to a consensus and develop an official position on the redevelopment plans for the Commons. Mira Awad, the Secretary of the McLean Commons Citizens Association, spoke to us and shared the information they have gathered on this project, which was very detailed, interesting and helpful. There was also a lively discussion in which many good points of view were shared. In the end, a motion was made and passed that the Association is in opposition to the redevelopment plans for the Commons as presented. This last piece "as presented" is important to note. As presented, the current development plan leaves room for some valid

questions that the developer does not seem either able or perhaps willing to substantially address. In addition, the Association has concerns about whether or not the developer has the experience to handle a development project with of this size and scope. We all know that change is coming to this area, heck - it's already all around us! What we want to do is be proactive, instead of reactive, and do all we can to ensure that change doesn't translate into a reduction in the quality of our lives here in the Hills.

So, now that we have our "marching orders" the officers of the PHCA will be working throughout the rest of the Association year to reach out to other citizen organizations to see how we can work together on issues of mutual interest, including the Commons Development. We are also going to work on connecting with our elected officials to make sure they know where we stand. In order for both of these efforts to be successful, we need your help. We are forming a Development Committee that will focus in on the Commons Development and lead the way in gathering information and making sure our voice is heard. We thank those who have already signed up to participate on this new committee. If you are interested in getting involved, please email or call PHCA President Joe Baker.

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## 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 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

# 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

☪

Space is available  
for your place of worship.  
Cost is \$5 per month.



# Celebrate Christmas with us!

## At St. Luke's United Methodist Church, "The Church on the Hill"

**December 16:** Join us for the 11 am service, followed by a pot-luck lunch and a play: "In Bethlehem's Inn"

### December 24: Christmas Eve

- Live Nativity with animals from 4 pm until 6 pm
- Experience what the shepherds saw on that first Christmas!
- Children's Worship Service at 5 pm followed by a birthday cake
- Candlelight Worship at 8 pm

For more information, please call  
703-893-9220 or visit our website,  
[www.stlukesva.org](http://www.stlukesva.org).

St. Luke's United Methodist Church  
"The Church on the Hill"  
7628 Leesburg Pike  
Falls Church, VA  
(across the street from  
Marshall High School)



Continued from page 6

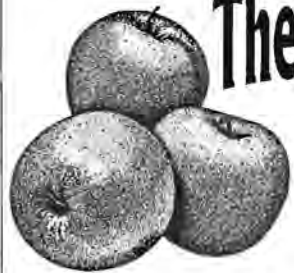
We are also posting information on the Association Web site ([www.pimmithills.org](http://www.pimmithills.org)) and including it in this issue of the Dispatch, so that you can contact key officials and let your own voice be heard on this issue. Your representatives want to know how you feel, not receive several hundred versions of the same form letter. For this reason, rather than provide a sample letter, we have provided instead some general tips on how to compose your

own message. If you do choose to contact your representatives, please let us know by calling or email President Joe Baker. Thanks in advance for your help with this important effort. Together, we really can make a difference! ☞

### Next PHCA Meetings:

December 4 at 7:30 pm  
January 1 at 7:30 pm (yes)  
February 5 at 7:30 pm  
Pimmit Hills School, Lisle Ave.

# pimmithills.org



## The Apple Orchard Preschool

Where Children Blossom and Grow

Opening January 2002

- ☛ Stimulating, Nurturing and Caring Home Environment
- ☛ Focus on Social, Emotional and Cognitive Growth
- ☛ Emphasis on Learning through Play and Exploration
- ☛ Dedicated teacher with Masters of Education Degree
- ☛ County Licensed
- ☛ Located in Pimmit Hills

Now enrolling 3 and 4 year olds; Class size limited to 5 children  
For more information, call Amy at 703-917-9165



## 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



REMOVAL ♦ FEEDING ♦ TOPPING  
TRIMMING ♦ PRUNING ♦ STUMP GRINDING

Free Estimates

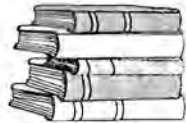
## 703-790-0651

### BAILEY'S TREE SERVICE, Inc.

A Full-Service Tree Company

LICENSED AND INSURED ♦ EXPERIENCED AND RELIABLE





## Tyson's Pimmit Regional Library News

If you always think "books" when you think "library", think again. This may be the month to launch a venture into new territory—the world of computers. And you can begin it right here, at the library. Tyson's Pimmit Regional Library offers an expanding menu of computer training which will take you onto the information super highway, and beyond.

What if you aren't even there yet—what if you still haven't conquered the mouse, or are still trying to make sense of the new and confusing vocabulary of computers? Are you thinking of putting a computer on your holiday gift wish list? Now is the time to learn what's out there.

You can be guided into the electronic realm with a personalized, one-on-one introduction by one of the library's corps of professional technology volunteers. Several times a week—on Sunday afternoons, Wednesday mornings, and Wednesday evenings, these volunteers

"train" library patrons in areas of those patrons' particular interests. At these half-hour sessions, a patron might have his or her first "hands on" experience with a computer, gain confidence in basic troubleshooting, or learn sharper web searching skills.

Tyson's Pimmit's tech volunteers are computer pros who combine specific expertise and interest in computers with enthusiasm for training. They are recruited and screened by library staff and offer a service which has become invaluable to staff and patrons alike.

One-on-one training is offered on Sunday afternoons, Wednesday mornings, or Wednesday evenings. Call the library's reference desk at (703) 790-8088 for more information and to register for available time slots. The only requirement is curiosity! ☞

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

  
**pimmithills.org**  
*Your Community Website*

## Take the High Cost Out of Selling Your Home: The 6% bite vs the 4.5% nibble

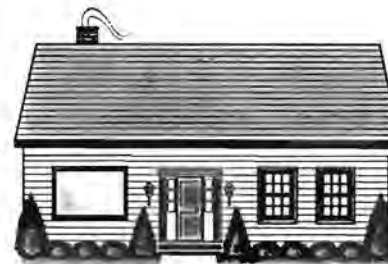


When it comes time to sell your home, you'll want to get as much as you can for it in the shortest amount of time. Now there's Fox Hunt Realty. We offer professional services at a reasonable fee.

Our sales commission is just a nibble: An easy-to-swallow 4.5%! That's a savings of \$3,000 on a \$200,000 home. We have an extensive network of potential buyers through the Multiple Listing Service (MLS).

There you have it. The 6% bite or the 4.5% nibble. Remember the Fox Hunt Realty name. You'll be seeing a lot more of us.

Call Doug Morris, Pimmit Hills resident since 1985,  
at 703-573-4300; residence 703-847-4658



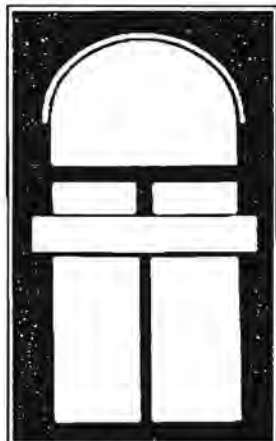
**Fox Hunt Realty**

2136-C Gallows Road  
Dunn Loring, VA 22076

703-573-4300

# Trees, Water and The Commons

By Mira Awad, Secretary,  
McLean Commons Citizens Association



**The Commons  
of McLean Proposed  
Redevelopment**

The redevelopment of The Commons of McLean into a high-rise apartment complex would adversely impact the surrounding communities in numerous ways. And the McLean Commons Citizens Association (MCCA) hopes to convince the Planning Commission of all of those deleterious effects. One issue that will be addressed is, of course, the environmental damage that a 10-fold in-

crease in density would cause. While in all development something ecological is lost and something economic and social is gained, the proposed plans for The Commons are especially detrimental. The consequences of replacing the trees and grass grounds of The Commons with concrete would be felt in Pimmit Hills as well as in McLean and Tysons Corner.

There are 455 trees in The Commons, excluding trees that are on Safeway's property, newly planted trees, and trees which lie outside of the fence that runs along the western and southern sides of the property. Further excluding ornamental

trees, trees in the section of The Commons that is on the east side of Anderson Road, and the willow oaks along Anderson Road and Colshire Drive that the developers have expressed a desire to preserve, 345 old growth trees would be torn down if the development plans were to proceed. The developers' plans necessitate the destruction of all of the property except the trees that line Anderson Road and Colshire Drive

because underground parking garages that are wider than the buildings that they sit beneath must be dug out before anything else can be built.

We are all familiar with the traffic congestion in and around Tysons Corner. Ironically, the more cars there are, the more trees are needed to convert carbon monoxide into oxygen. Denser development means fewer trees -but more cars. This scenario does not bode well for our air quality. Fairfax County predicts that it will not meet the federal Clean Air Standards within the required time frame, and we may lose some federal transportation funding as a

*Continued on page 12*

## Letter to the Editor

Rebuttal to Tim Kramer's November letter to the editor:

Dear Editor,

As I drive down Lisle Avenue and spot another dead cat (somebody's little friend?), I think how easy it is to approve of high-rise apartment buildings in the area if you don't live on Lisle, Griffith Road, Pimmit Drive or Margarity. These streets have become as busy as any County Parkway in the last few years, particularly with the increased enrollment at the Education Center.

Pimmit Hills, with its 1600 homes, already has the population of a small city. Adding to that traffic is the McLean cut-throughs and the Education Center. Since a rail system to serve this immediate area is not under consideration at the moment (thank goodness we are spared the curse of its construction in our front yards!), logic tells us that the more people brought in through development means even more traffic. More buses. And since the "suggested" 25 mph speed limit is scoffed at, we will be seeing more dead pets (my neighbor had lost two).

Mr. Kramer does not take into consideration the safety of other peoples' children and pets. Having lived here for 38 years, his children may have grown up here, but have long since moved on. When we moved here 12 years ago there were only a fraction of the children on this street that there are now. Yet traffic gets worse, people drive faster, neighbors grow more apathetic.

I learned one thing in the petition process for Traffic Calming last winter: it is difficult to convince our neighbors, who don't live on these busier streets, of

our plight. Putting high-rise apartments in this already densely populated neighborhood will make our traffic worse. Could it be the reason residents, who have spent lots of money fixing up their property, give up and sell out to landlords? I believe its called urban flight.

But I am convinced that few people are actually persuaded by our rhetoric. Most are motivated to action by money or emotion. We like our property values to go up, but at what cost? A cat? A dog? Someone's child? Does it have to be someone you know in order to matter? Urban sprawl is no respecter of people's quality of life. It may be on the outskirts today, and in your living room a year from now. When it has sufficiently diminished you property value, the County can claim Eminent Domain, pay you "market value," and leave you without a home!

Maybe you don't live on a busy street and have no traffic worries, but you do live on property that developers lust after, and they know how to get it at a price that serves *them* best!

*Liz Martin  
Lisle Avenue*

**What do you think of the proposed McLean Commons redevelopment? Send your thoughts to the Editor.**

**Two other letters to the editor, which could not fit into this issue, can be found on the PHCA website, [pimmithills.org](http://pimmithills.org)**

continued from page 24

the woolly adelgid. Fortunately, the dwarf and weeping varieties don't seem to be bothered, and these low-growing, graceful evergreens can be handsome additions to the landscape. Rhododendrons, which used to be limited to the large-leaf types, come in a variety of shapes, sizes and colors now. Look for the early-blooming "P.J.M." series for compact, upright form and 'Ramapo' or 'Purple Gem' for low, cushion habit. For a real miniature Rhodie, plant *Rhododendron impeditum*: clusters of tiny bluish-purple flowers sit atop even tinier evergreen foliage. Also in the less-is-more class are Sweet Box (*Sarcococca hookeriana* var. *humilis*) and the slightly taller Japanese Skimmia (*Skimmia japonica*). The Sweet Box eventually forms a lovely, foot-tall colony of dark green, while the Skimmia keeps to a neat, low, dome of leathery foliage. All of these evergreens, from the Hemlock on down, would prefer a fairly moist, protected site to be at their best.

For a sunnier site try the Russian Arborvitae (*Microbiota decussata*), a low, spreading evergreen that takes on a purplish hue for the colder months. Another spreader, this time upwards, is the Carolina Jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*). This twining vine, native to the Southeast, decorates itself with lovely evergreen foliage and lovelier yellow trumpets in early to mid-spring and often again in the fall. Another evergreen native, the Live Oak

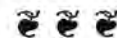
(*Quercus virginiana*) of Southern plantation and Spanish Moss fame, will actually grow this far north. There is one in Arlington that has been braving our winters for at least a couple of decades, maybe more. (It does look a bit worse for the wear come April, but then, who doesn't?!)

One of the prettiest sights in November and December is an Ackerman Hardy Camellia in full bloom. Dr. William Ackerman of the National Arboretum used the cold-hardy Tea-oil Camellia (*Camellia oleifera*) to produce a collection of fall and winter flowering trees with blossoms in shades of pink and white. These are not as big and gaudy as the old varieties, but, boy, are these guys tough -- a single-flowered pink called 'Winter Star' survived minus 16 degrees a few years back at Mom and Dad's with hardly a brown leaf.

And last but not least, the Christmas and Lenten Roses (*Helleborus* hybrids) are the best bet for beating off the mid-winter blues (aside from a couple of months in the Caribbean). These foot-tall, herbaceous evergreens brave the January chill to open beautiful burgundy to pink to white and even green, single "roses" that last well into spring. Reserve a spot by the door for one of these so you won't miss the display as you dash off to the airport for your flight to Jamaica! ☺

Horticulturalist Deanne Eversmeyer  
lives on Leonard Road.

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Continued from page 10

result. Eliminating 345 mature trees in one of our most congested areas will further impair our ability to meet the Clean Air Standards and erode the quality of the air we breathe.



The Commons' location and geography also make it a particularly bad parcel of land to pave over from the standpoint of run-off. The ground elevation drops 90 feet between Magarity Road and Route 123 (Dolley Madison Blvd.), precisely where The Commons sits. In other words, The Commons is on a hill, and Route 123 is at the bottom of that hill.

We have already seen a problem caused by some trees being removed to accommodate the widening of Route 123. On August 11th, Route 123 flooded between Anderson Road and Colshire Drive due to heavy rains. Scott's Run, one of the six major streams in McLean Planning District, runs under Rt. 123 only a quarter of a mile from The Commons. It also flooded its banks on August 11th due to the unprecedented volume of water flowing into it so quickly, temporarily engulfing the surrounding trees in 2-3 feet of water in swamp-like fashion. Imagine the quantity of water and the speed with which it would flow into Route 123 and Scott's Run if the 40 acres behind those now-treeless embankments on Route 123 were paved over. Two of the pri-

mary hindrances to good water quality are excessive sediment in our streams and too much water flowing too fast into those streams. Land use is the single most important factor in

protecting water quality. Paving over 40 acres on a hill, with a major stream within a quarter of a mile no less, is bad planning. Replacing trees and grass with impervious surfaces will leave nothing to absorb rainwater, to filter it, or to slow it down before it reaches Scott's Run. This will cause erosion downstream, as well as a virtual lake along Route 123. The developers have not publicly addressed the issue of run-off, so we do not know what water management plans they may have. Keeping large quantities of water off of the sidewalks and roadways can be accomplished with engineering. Slowing that water down presents a more stubborn problem.

Those of us who live at The Commons enjoy the beautiful scenery and the wildlife habitat (25 species of birds spotted from my apartment!) that the 400+ trees in our community provide. But those trees benefit many more people than live at The Commons. With all the congestion and impervious surfaces of Tysons Corner so nearby, the trees in our area are especially valuable for the roles they play in providing us with cleaner air and water. ☺



## Pimmit Hills Senior Center

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

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

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

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# The Pimmit Hills Gardener

By Deanne Eversmeyer,  
Horticulturalist

Winter's moving in. You can't see it yet, but it's out there ... just waiting to catch us without our snow shovels handy, without our boots, mittens and long johns out of storage, without our Narcissus bulbs in the ground! Aaaaugh! But this also means that Christmas is almost here! Aaaaugh! No, wait, **Christmas**: stockings hung from the mantle, fancy tree ornaments, brightly wrapped presents, hard ribbon candy that shortly after opening becomes one big, multi-colored rock. Christmas! Freshly cut Firs and Pines! Berry-laden boughs of Holly! Wreaths of Spruce, Boxwood and Southern Magnolia! ... Mistletoe...! At the time when the earth is at its barest and the days are at their shortest and the sun is at its weakest, we decorate with ribbons and glass balls and evergreens, lots of evergreens. Evergreens are a great reminder of the longer, warmer, greener days, and every garden should have plenty to get us through the bleakness of post-Christmas winter.

Most everyone is familiar with the usual evergreens: the Pines (*Pinus*), the Spruces (*Picea*), the Hollies (*Ilex*), the Rhododendrons and Azaleas, etc. But there are tons of

other evergreens that are rarely seen in our gardens. Next time you are looking for a fairly fast growing, upright evergreen try the Japanese Cryptomeria (*Cryptomeria japonica*). This tall, flame-shaped tree with short, green, awl-shaped "needles" makes a great choice for screening and Christmas decorations. Another lovely, columnar evergreen is the Arizona Cypress (*Cupressus arizonica*) called 'Blue Ice'. Native to the Southwest, but thriving under our East Coast conditions, this wispy, steel-blue tree rivals the bluest of the Blue Spruces without taking up nearly as much space in the garden. If you are really cramped for space but still need to screen off your neighbor's trash cans, try the extremely narrow 'Sky Pencil' Japanese Holly (*Ilex crenata*). All of the Japanese Hollies are great Boxwood substitutes, especially if you're gardening under less than ideal conditions, and 'Sky Pencil', at less than a foot wide and eight feet tall, is great in tight spots.

In the past Hemlocks (*Tsuga canadensis*) were widely planted for screening purposes. Unfortunately, they are now being destroyed by a tiny, cottony, sucking insect called

*continued on page 26*



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# Get Involved

## Contact Your Representatives

Next Spring, the Fairfax County Planning Commission will decide whether or not to allow an amendment to the county's Master Plan which would pave the way for The Commons to be torn down and a high-rise development put in its place. If the Planning Commission passes the amendment to the Master Plan, it will then go to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for approval.

Our representatives to these decision-making bodies need to hear from us now, so that when it comes time to vote they will know without question where we stand on this issue. If you are in opposition to the redevelopment plan as presented,

please write, call or e-mail the following people to voice your opinion - even a short message expressing your concerns will help!

Following is the contact information for the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors, as well as some general tips.

### General Tips

Always use the proper form of address. Each member of the Plan-

ning Commission should be addressed as Commissioner and each member of the Board of Supervisors should be addressed as Supervisor. So, for example, you would begin your letter, email or voicemail with Hello Commissioner Dubois, or Hello Supervisor Mendelsohn.

In your letter, email or voicemail, be sure to provide specific con-

cerns. For example, you may be concerned about the impact the development is going to have on the environment, or the significant increase in cut through traffic the development will bring to the Hills, or the potential for negative impact on the learning environment at Westgate Elementary.

Whatever your areas of concern are, while you do not need to write a book on the subject, you do need to be sure to clearly articulate your objections.

Always be respectful. We are not against the developers themselves, but rather their current plans.

### Contact Information

"The Planning Commission ad-

○  
**FAX**  
 ○  
**EMAIL**  
 ○  
**PHONE**  
 ○  
**LETTER**  
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*Continued on next page*

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Cheryl, Falls Church, VA

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Joe, Falls Church, VA

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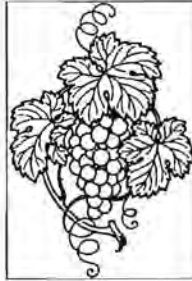
William, Falls Church, VA



## Donnie Dick's Heard Through the Grapevine

The October Citizens Association meeting was a lively one. The presentation on The Commons redevelopment plan brought out a large number of our neighbors. It appears there is little support for the grand scale plan for the high-rise development and reconfiguration of the Safeway Shopping Center. The plan is a long way from receiving zoning approval and there will be much discussion and maneuvering before this matter is settled.

One thing I do know is that the traffic gridlock will only get worse whether this proposal is approved or not. The Governor's election is now over and as I am preparing this article, the outcome is not known. In any event, our new Governor must deal with transportation problems in this area or we will come to a stand-



still and so will the weakening economy.

Is it only me or does anyone else know where the state lottery funds go? Is there an annual report that shows the amount collected by county and amount returned by county and what is spent per county? Could we get a lottery official to come to an Association meeting to inform us of the lottery funds and expenditures?

I was doing my annual leaf removal the other day and it is time for the annual admonition: Do not rake or dump your leaves at the curb. We do not have leaf collection in Pimmit Hills and your leaves will clog the storm drains and harm the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay. So please bag or mulch your leaves and save the crab harvest. ☞

*Donnie Dick lives on Nigh Road*



## Mary Zembruski, EA, CFP

Tax Consultant—Certified Financial Planner

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vises the Board of Supervisors on all matters related to the orderly growth and development of Fairfax County, including applications for rezoning, special exceptions, conceptual/final development plans, proffered condition amendments, and all associated amendments to such applications, as well as any amendments to the County's Comprehensive Plan. The Commission also reviews all public facility applications to ensure that they are compatible in location, character and extent to surrounding neighbors. Further, the Commission provides citizens with an opportunity to voice their support for or concerns with an application for development in and around their community" ~ Copied from the Planning Commission Web page

**Your representative to the Planning Commission is Joan DuBois.** She represents the Dranesville District, and her contact information is below. There are also three At-large Commissioners: **Walter Alcorn, Ilryong Moon, and Laurie Frost Wilson.** It would be helpful if you contact them as well. They may be reached at the same place as Commissioner Dubois.

Ms. Joan Dubois  
Planning Commission  
12000 Government Center Pkwy  
Suite 330  
Fairfax, VA 22035  
PHONE: 703-324-2865  
FAX: 703-324-3948  
E-MAIL: plancom@co.fairfax.va.us

**Your Supervisor is Stu Mendelsohn.** His contact information is as follows:

Main Office  
(Open Mon-Fri, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm)  
McLean Governmental Center  
1437 Balls Hill Road  
McLean, VA 22101  
PHONE: 703-356-0551  
FAX: 703-821-4275  
E-MAIL: dranesville@co.fairfax.va.us

Herndon Office  
(Open Mon-Thur, 8:00 am to Noon)  
730 Elden Street  
Herndon, VA 20170  
PHONE: 703-471-5076  
FAX: 703-437-3210

The Commons is actually in the Providence District. For this reason, it would be good for us to contact the Providence District Representative - **Mr. Gerald Connolly** as well. His contact information is as follows:

Supervisor Gerry Connolly  
8739 Lee Highway  
Fairfax, VA 22031  
PHONE: 703-560-6946  
FAX: 703-207-3541  
E-MAIL: provdist@co.fairfax.va.us



**Pimmit  
Hills**  
Our Neighborhood  
Our Home

**PIMMIT HILLS**


## Remember When...

Looking back at old issues of the Pimmit Hills Dispatch, we continue to look at PH 50 years ago in 1958 and 1959.

The November 1958 issue of the Pimmit Hills Citizens Association newsletter had an ad from St. Luke's Methodist Church announcing worship service in its new building on Leesburg Pike.....The Pimmit Hills Christmas Decoration contest had four categories: religious, door, window and overall display.....The December issue had an article called, "Sports in the Hills," by Floyd Flasher. He talked about PH'ers out deer hunting, a new bowling center on Shreve Road, and he put out a call for duckpin bowlers needed for a league.....The newsletter reported the comings and going of PH residents, including a Navy family who were being transferred to Germany. Prior to moving to PH, they lived in Cuba.....The Pimmit Run Unit of the League of Women Voters held a November meeting and the article listed the "girls" who attended..... There was an ad for Walters Majorette School on Broad Street with a drawing of a baton twirler....Trying to finance and build curbs, gutters and storm drainage continued to be an issue in the late 1950s.....The February 1959 issue reported in its Youth News section that some teenagers riding school buses to McLean have been "using offensive language" and were put on notice.....

The issue of school integration—a hot topic in Fairfax County and in Virginia at the time—was discussed at a February 1959 meeting.....The Lemon Road PTA held a "Card Party" (Bridge, Canasta, Pinochle) and the Jubstones Barber Shop Quartet sang at it.....Dances galore—there was a PH Community Valentine dance, a Spring dance in early May and an Inauguration dance in June "in honor of its newly elected officers" (!).....Some adult male drivers were caught drag racing on Pimmit Drive and had their kids in the cars.....1959 prices at Pimmit Drug Center: half-gallon of ice cream was .79 cents, shampoo was .84 cents, gallon of paint was \$5.49, tooth brushes were .9 cents, an umbrella was .87 cents, and whatever "isopropyl alcohol" was, was only .13 cents. Also when you bought something, you received free "King Korn stamps" (?).....A local Girl Scout troop was named "Cookie Champs of 1959" for selling 1000 boxes of cookies.....Members of the PH Teen Club appeared on WTTG-TV's "Milt Grant's Record Hop".....1000 polio inoculations took place in Pimmit Hills during the summer of 1959.....*More next month!*

— Dispatch Editor

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# Route 123 Widening

By Mira Awad

Route 123 is being widened between the beltway and the entrance ramp to I-66. There will be six through lanes (three on each side) for the length of the widening project. However, because numerous turn lanes are also being added, the road will be at least eight lanes wide (four on each side) for the entire length of the project.

The center of the road will be shifted slightly southward, toward us, and the median strips will be replaced. The median strip that runs between Anderson Road and Colshire

Drive will be wider than the current strip. But all of the other medians will be narrower than they are now and entirely concrete—no grass.

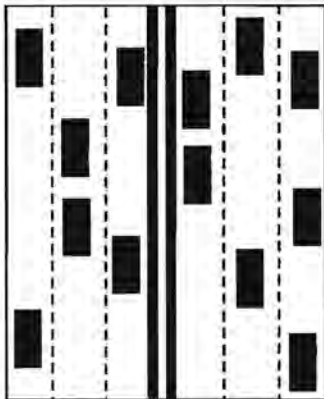
The only wall that will be built is the short wall that you can see now next to the West\*Group parking lot near the base of Anderson Road. That big bank of dirt where trees were removed between Anderson Road and Colshire Drive will not be replaced by a wall; it has simply been graded. The new Route 123 will have 5-foot-wide

sidewalks on both sides of the road. Two bus shelters will be installed at Colshire Drive and two at Old Meadow Road. When completed, Route 123 will be nearly twice as wide as it is now between 495 and I-66. Past these points, it will return to a four-lane road.

The Route 123 project was originally scheduled to be completed in October 2002—if all things went perfectly. At this point, it does not appear that it will be finished quite that soon. Utility conflicts (i.e. utility lines not located where they should be, problems

in distinguishing active from abandoned lines) have slowed the project down. A mild winter would help the project make up for lost time.

Mr. Sam Lim is the engineer in charge of implementing the Route 123 widening. He has been very generous with his time and expertise in providing us with this information. Thank you, Mr. Lim!☞



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