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Falls Church, VA 22043  
PimmitHills.org

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### 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 Cherri Drive, Falls Church, VA 22043
- Send news items, articles, ad copy, classified ads, etc to the *Dispatch* Editor via:
  - email—dispatch@pimmithills.org
  - fax—703-734-0779
  - mail—above address

## March issue deadline: Feb 7

### Pimmit Hills Citizens Association Meeting Dates:

Feb 4, 2003

Mar 4, 2003

Apr 1, 2003

May 6, 2003

Jun 3, 2003

No July or

August meetings

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!*

February  
2003



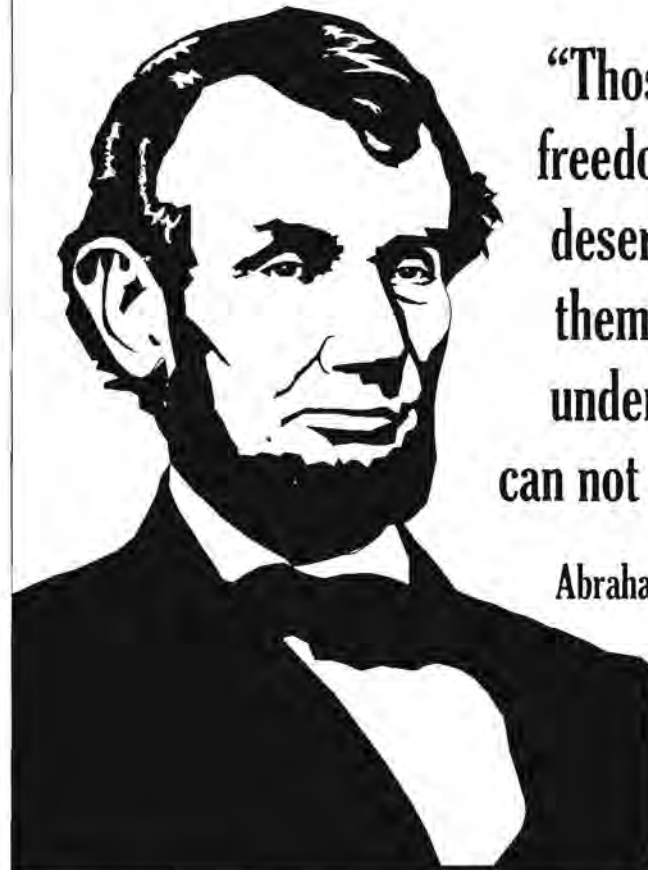
# The Pimmit Hills Dispatch

Our Neighborhood,  
Our Home

## PimmitHills.org

Published since 1952  
Courtesy of the Pimmit Hills  
Citizens Association

PIMMIT HILLS, VIRGINIA ■ ESTABLISHED IN MAY 1950



“Those who deny freedom to others, deserve it not for themselves; and, under a just God, can not long retain it.”

Abraham Lincoln, 1859

President's Day  
February 17

# PIMMIT HILLS NEWS

Here are the houses that won PHCA's annual Pimmit Hills Holiday Decorating Contest:

**The Neighborhood Jewel Award.** This award goes to the house that nobody can forget, truly the best of show.

Winner: 2018 Dexter Drive

**The Norman Rockwell Award.** This award goes to the house that best says, "Come Home for the Holidays."

Winner: 1905 Pimmit Drive

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

Winner: it was a TIE! 1925 Leonard and 7723 Fisher

Congratulations to all! They will be receiving gift certificates from Trader Joe's.

The *Dispatch* received word that 40-year Pimmit Hills resident **Joann Barsotti** died on December 27. She had served as Treasurer of the Pimmit Hills Citizens Association in the 1970s. Our condolences to her family.

Our annual **Pimmit Hills Community Yard Sale** will take place on Saturday, April 26th at the PHCA house on Pimmit Drive. All Pimmit Hills residents are invited to sell their stuff at this combined sale. Mark your calendars!

The PHCA officer positions of **President and Three-Year Director**

are up for election. President Joe Baker stated at the last meeting that he is not running for another term. If you are interested in serving in one of these positions, please contact the PHCA.

■ ■  
Upcoming PHCA Meeting Date:

## Feb 4, 2003

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

■ ■  
Ads (classified and display), articles and other submissions for the *Pimmit Hills Dispatch* are due the Friday after the monthly PHCA meetings.

<b>PHCA Meeting</b>	<b>Dispatch Deadline</b>
Feb 4, 2003	Feb 7 for March
Mar 4, 2003	March 7 for Apr
Apr 1, 2003	April 4 for May
May 6, 2003	May 9 for June
Jun 3, 2003	July/Aug; <i>Dispatch</i> is not published

**PimmitHills.org**  
PIMMIT HILLS CITIZENS ASSOCIATION



**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:

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

## WHO TO CALL:

PHCA Chairman for Volunteers *vacant*  
 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



<b>Display Ad Rates:</b>	<b>Classified Ad Rates:</b>
\$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

**H**i neighbors!

Our January meeting was packed full of Association business. Here are some of the highlights.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Bill Niland alerted the group to recent articles about identity theft. Here are some steps you can take to minimize the risk. 1) Order a copy of your credit report from each of the three major credit bureaus once a year. Checking your report on a regular basis allows you to catch mistakes and fraud before they wreak havoc. 2) Deposit outgoing mail in post office boxes, rather than in an unsecured mailbox.

If you've been a victim of identity theft, call the Federal Trade Commission's Identity Theft Hotline toll-free at 1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338). More information can be found on the FTC's web site at <http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft/>.

The Shepherd's Center of Vienna contacted President Baker to see if there was interest in starting a group in the Hills. What is The Shepherd's Center? It is a not-for-profit interfaith organization serving older persons in Northern Virginia. More information can be found on their web site: <http://www.scov.org/>. You can also con-

tact President Baker for further information.

Did you resolve to clean out your attic as one of your New Year's resolutions? If so, you are in luck! The Pimmit Hills Community Yard Sale will be here before you know it. The Saturday after Easter, April 26, is the proposed date. More information will be available in the next *Dispatch*.

In development news, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted Jan. 6 to approve the West\*Group's re-zoning request mentioned in the last *Dispatch*. Germaine Broussard of the Commons Citizens Association summarized the heated debate that occurred at the meeting. Due to a legal loophole Dranesville Supervisor Stu Mendelson had to recuse himself from voting. It sounded more exciting than some of the reality shows on TV these days!

In Association news, the Bylaws haven't been updated in over 10 years. Some of the articles are woefully out-of-date. Proposed revisions of the Bylaws will be distributed and discussed at the February meeting. If you cannot attend the February meeting, they will also be posted on the PHCA web site.

*Continued on page 6*

Ads and Articles due  
**Feb 7**

[Dispatch@PimmitHills.org](mailto:Dispatch@PimmitHills.org)

Go to [PimmitHills.org](http://PimmitHills.org) website for an easy way to send in your classified ad!

**\$10 per month**



**ADVERTISING  
in the *Dispatch***

**CLASSIFIEDS:**

\$10 per month; 40 words max

**DISPLAY:**

1/4 page = \$30 per month

1/2 page = \$55 per month

1 page = \$80 per month

Ad designed for free

**Write checks to:**

PHCA

**Send checks to:**

1925 Cherri Drive

**Send ad copy to:**

email: [Dispatch@PimmitHills.org](mailto:Dispatch@PimmitHills.org)

fax: 703-734-0779

mail: Editor, 1925 Cherri Drive

~~~~~  
**MARY KAY** – What's on your wish list? Joy to us...your family and friends. Spread some joy with a gift, a thought or an act of kindness today. Call Martha Royce, your Pimmit Hills Mary Kay Beauty Representative at 703-442-8014 or [MLR1130@aol.com](mailto:MLR1130@aol.com).

~~~~~  
**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.

~~~~~  
**SPYCRUISE** – Cruise from San Diego to Hawaii on board Royal Caribbean's luxury ship, *Legend of the Seas*, March 27-April 9, 2003 with ex-CIA, FBI, DOD and KGB spies and spycatchers. Daily lectures on espionage cases by these retired intelligence professionals. Ship visits different islands. Prices start from \$1749. For more information, see [SpyCruise.com](http://SpyCruise.com) or call 1-800-741-1770

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

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

**DAYCARE**—Loving mom will care for infants and toddlers in my Pimmit Hills home. Experienced, with good references and licensed by the state. Near 495, 7 and 66. Call Malee for more information, 703-848-2371.

**FOR SALE**—CAPEL BRAIDED WOOL RUGS—Blue multi-color, \$450 OBO, VG condition, oval-11ft4in x 14ft4in, runner-9ft x 27in, 2 small ovals-38in x 24in. HARDEN SOLID CHERRY QUEEN ANNE

**FURNITURE**—VG condition, Highboy, 2 Rect. End Tables, Oval End Table, Tea Table, glass tops. All for \$1,250 OBO. Call 703-356-2235 or palemoon@erols.com.

**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.

**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.

## Baby Back Ribs



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

—Phyllis Richman, *Washington Post*



**THE THREE PIGS**  
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 resident for over  
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Continued from page 4

Speaking of Bylaws, our current Bylaws prevent a PHCA officer from serving for more than three consecutive years. President Joe Baker has tirelessly served for the past three years and will be stepping down in June. As well Director Martha Duggar's 3-year term is drawing to a close. Are you interested in getting to know your neighbors and serving Pimmit Hills? Join us at the February meeting where we will form a nominating committee to prepare a slate of officers to serve for the next Association year. ■

secretary@pimmithills.org



**Next PHCA Meeting:  
Tuesday, February 4  
7:30 pm  
Pimmit Hills School**

*Everyone is invited!*



**PimmitHills.org**  
PIMMIT HILLS CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

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## **Santa Comes to Pimmit Hills**

Every year Santa visits the house of Pimmit Drive resident Irv Poole. He and his neighbors light up the street with show-stopping holiday decorations. The bottom photo is Poole with Virginia State Trooper Mike Middleton, a former Hills resident.



# 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 Baha'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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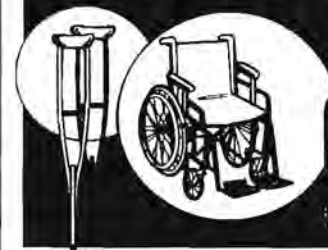
Open Saturdays 10 am to 4:30 pm  
Weekdays 8:00 am to 6:30 pm  
For help with any of your computing  
problems, give us a call!

**Rx Pc, inc., 2190 Pimmit Drive, #212, Falls Church, VA**  
**703-893-0034 or email rxpc@itoas.net**  
**Serving Falls Church and Pimmit Hills since 1992**

# PimmitHills.org

*Your Community Website*

## Personal Injury Cash



**Injured in an accident?**  
**Is your lawsuit still pending?**  
**Need money now?**  
**Call 703-448-1019 for help!**



# Curb Appeal

By Cynthia Bernat,  
Anderson Road

Have you ever heard of "armchair gardening"? It's what avid gardeners do when the weather is just too cold to be outside pattering in the garden. Instead, they're sitting inside in a cozy chair, reading books on gardening, pouring over seed catalogs and planning projects for when the weather warms up. Likewise, now's a good time to do some armchair planning for your home's curb appeal. Flip through some magazines



or just do some daydreaming, and you're sure to come up with some great ideas. By taking advantage of your time indoors, you can plan out your project, do any research you might need, get quotes from contractors if necessary, and budget for it!

My armchair planning this winter has turned to driveways. Our driveway is old and tired, and needs replacing. After all, the driveway is an important part of that first impression someone has when they look at your house. Even though our driveway is certainly functional, it's not very attractive, and as hard as we've worked to

make our home look good, we don't want anything to take away from our curb appeal. So, I've started taking a good look at different kinds of driveways. There are so many options to choose from!

Asphalt, concrete, chip-and-tar, gravel, paving stones, and stamped concrete – how will we decide?

Asphalt, or blacktop, is a great classic look. Made from a combination of

liquid asphalt, sand and gravel, an asphalt driveway requires some basic annual maintenance, but it's extremely durable. If you already have an asphalt driveway, you're just a few simple steps away from having a drive that's like brand new. Patching holes and filling cracks is relatively simple and can be done once the weather warms up. Afterward, a new coat of top sealer will finish the job, protect your work, and look great! Concrete is another popular choice that is also durable. If mixed and installed properly, a concrete driveway can last 25-40 years, at least!

*Continued on page 10*

**Give-It** always feels good to give. Buy or make a card to give to someone. Send a care package. Reach out to a neighbor. Make a mix tape/CD. That contact will be an upper to someone else and you in turn.

**Self Treat**-Make a list of healthy treats that bring a smile. How about going to a movie, sitting and relaxing in a favorite bookshop, reading the entire newspaper, exploring the beautiful trails of the Pimmit Hills area?

**Visualize**-See whatever situation may be potentially stressful.

Recreate this situation and practice how you will react in a manner that will be beneficial.

**Positive Thinking**-As the saying goes, "Practice random acts of kindness and senseless acts of beauty!" Thinking this way will decrease stress for yourself and others.

Metro Run & Walk offers free weekly wellness clinics and walking club opportunities. Please register by calling 703-790-8452 or email TishN@runwalklive.com. ■



*Happy  
Valentine's  
Day*



## Westgate Elementary School February Activities

- FEB 13, 7:00 pm: Reading and Writing SOL Meeting in the Cafeteria
- FEB 17: Holiday – George Washington's Birthday observed
- FEB 21, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm: Family Fun Night in the Cafeteria
- FEB 22, TBA: Hoop Shoot in the gym
- FEB 28: Awards Assembly in the Cafeteria,  
Grades 1-3 at 8:45 am; Grades 4-6 at 9:30 am

For more information, please call 703-610-5700



Pimmit Hills  
**Wellness** 

Leticia Nordvall,  
Pimmit Hills Wellness Coordinator  
TishN@runwalklive.com

## Stress Management

How to do less so you can do more!



Has the New Year pace taken off and left you feeling behind? The number of people to contend with may be another stressor. Fairfax County is described as a "diverse and thriving urban county. As the most populous jurisdiction in both Virginia and the Washington metropolitan area, the County's population exceeds that of seven states."

This demographic information helps to understand one reason why stress levels in this area must "exceed that of seven states!" May I suggest the development of a strategy for dealing with those stressors? I have listed suggestions and encourage you to personalize this list and create your own.

**Exercise**-The American College of Sports Medicine states numerous clinical benefits of exercise. We should all be reminded that exercise will decrease anxiety and depression; enhance feelings of well-

being; enhance performance of work, recreational, and sport activities. A fun option is to participate in The Stroll For The Soul walking club at Metro Run & Walk. It's free! See [www.runwalklive.com](http://www.runwalklive.com) for schedule information.

**Humor**

Laughter has also been termed "Internal Jogging!" Try this-Check out a favorite comic book from the Tysons Pimmit Library. I must say the Peanuts and Calvin and Hobbes books are hard to put down.

**Letter**-Write a letter to a person, confidant, or the trash can. This is a great way to vent and see all sides of a situation.

**Sound Therapy**-Try relaxing, stimulating, or thought provoking music. This will give you new perspective on what you are facing and lower your blood pressure at the same time. Humming is another form of sound therapy that will lower your stress level as well.



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*Continued from page 8*

As with asphalt, occasionally small cracks will develop, but these are fairly easy to fix if attended to right away. If the top layer begins to chip off, repair becomes a bit more complicated, but it can be remedied by resurfacing. Other than that, the occasional power-washing is all you need to keep your concrete driveway looking brand new!

Chip-and-tar is similar to asphalt. If you don't like the flat-black look of asphalt, this might be the choice for you! Also, chip-and-tar driveways do not require the periodic liquid sealer that asphalt driveways do. Chip-and-tar is pretty simple—hot liquid asphalt is laid on a compacted gravel base, and chips of stone are embedded into it and rolled smooth. The rough surface provides great traction—a good idea if your driveway is on a hill! The color varies with the color of stone chips used, and different colors can be blended to create a custom look. Another similar look is a gravel driveway—easily maintained by adding more gravel as necessary. However, gravel needs to be kept in its place—ragged edges detract from the overall look, so you'll have to tidy up the edges periodically. Since it can't be swept clean, you'll have to pick off leaves and twigs by hand or with a blower. And of course, if you like getting your exercise by shoveling snow off the driveway, then gravel is not for you!

Paving stones or blocks are by far the most durable and long-lasting type of driveway. Think about it—the ancient Romans used pavers for their roads—and some of those roads still exist!! Pavers also provide endless design possibilities—from size, shape and color of the blocks themselves to the pattern in which they're laid out. Unfortunately, beauty and strength have a price—pavers are also one of the most expensive options for your driveway. But there is a less expensive option—stamped concrete! This kind of driveway is installed in the same way as a traditional concrete driveway, but is then stamped with a mold to look like individual paver blocks. A wide variety of patterns and block shapes and the fact that the concrete can easily be colored to mimic natural stone or brick make stamped concrete a good choice if you like the look of pavers but your wallet doesn't.

Whatever we choose, our new driveway will certainly add to the value of our home. Not only will it provide off-street parking, a beautiful new driveway—or a well-maintained one—shows pride of ownership and boosts a home's curb appeal. Well, time to get back to my armchair!■

*Cynthia Bernat is a licensed realtor*

dark green glossy leaves, perfuming the air with the sweetest scent. And if you're short on space, try planting the down-sized variety,



rare, small tree reminds me of a miniature Saucer Magnolia in leaf and form, and the flowers are more like smaller versions of the Southern

'Little Gem', which eventually tops out at 20 feet. Or you might try the Southern Magnolia's little brother, the Sweetbay Magnolia (*M. virginiana*). This small, multi-trunked tree offers a much smaller, more open habit than its relative and smaller, but just as fragrant, white flowers. The Sweetbay will do well in average soil but really loves wet feet. Less than five years ago I planted one of each of these Magnolias (they were three feet tall, at most) in a low spot in the yard; today both of them tower over me and bloom in early summer.

I do have one more Magnolia: an Oyama Magnolia (*M. sieboldii*). This

Magnolia's but with an eye of red stamens and a nodding habit. This one is planted in the shade of a giant Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) and next to an Adirondack chair -- for ease of viewing when it hangs out its beautiful blossoms overhead in early summer.

Hobbies are good for you, right? Some people collect stamps, others collect baseball cards. I collect Magnolias. I also collect Dogwoods and Maples and . . . ■

*Horticulturalist Deanne Eversmeyer lives on Leonard Road*



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continued from page 14

years hybridizers have brought other species into the mix to reduce the size to a shrubby tree and, more importantly, to delay the bloom and often avoid brown-outs (when freezing temps of early spring turn flowers to mush). An even earlier blooming species, the Star Magnolia (*M. stellata*) can often be saved from devas-



tating freezes by siting this smaller shrub-like tree in a cold, shaded spot such as the north side of a building to delay full bloom. The most common selection is 'Royal Star', a lovely sight when covered with pure white, spidery flowers. Pink forms, such as 'Rosea', are also available though these tend to fade out to just a blush of pink in full bloom. I grow both of these at my parents' house.

The latest craze among plant nuts partial to Magnolias (though I must admit that I don't have one of these yet) are the yellow-flowered hybrids, such as 'Butterflies', 'Elizabeth', and 'Yellow Bird'. These April to May bloomers get their lovely soft yellow color from our native Cucumbertree (*M. acuminata*), a 50 to 80-foot giant that blooms in late spring. These dwarfed hybrids bloom before the leaves emerge but after the late

freezes, making them much more of a sure thing for spring display.

Also leafless in winter and grown more for the shock value of its oversized foliage, is the Bigleaf Magnolia (*M. macrophylla*). With hound-dog-ear leaves in the 12 to 32-inch range, this Southeast native lends a tropical atmosphere to the

landscape. For the smaller garden search for the closely related Ashe Magnolia (*M. ashei*), another native topping out at only 20 feet (I have one just off the patio). Both of these big-leaf trees produce big (up to a foot across) white blossoms in June reminiscent of the Southern Magnolia (*M. grandiflora*). You may have to search the specialty catalogs or native plant sales to find these beauties.

And speaking of the Southern Magnolia, no other plant reminds me of the South like this one. This stately evergreen tree does not venture much farther north than our area, at least not willingly. Selections have been made to extend the range of the Southern Magnolia, but to grow a really grand tree, one must live here in the South. And, as the Latin name suggests, this grand tree has grand flowers -- big, white, fleshy blossoms held against the



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# Tyson-Pimmit Library News

By Chris LaMarca  
Associate Branch Manager



Although it's hard to believe, springtime is just around the corner, and that means the library is brimming with good reading and activities for everyone.

Like most of the Fairfax County library branches, Tyson-Pimmit is a distribution point for common federal tax forms and instructions. These will be available for free pickup near the front door. Due to state budget reductions, Virginia forms will not be as plentiful as in the past, but a few will also be offered at libraries. Reproducible forms and instructions (Federal and Virginia) will also be available, and if you can't find the one you need, ask at the information desk; library staff may be able to download a copy for you from the internet.

Tyson-Pimmit also hosts volunteers who provide free tax counseling on some Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. Currently, sessions are offered through February; check with the library for exact times and locations. Assistance is limited to those with basic tax returns, to those with limited income, and/or the elderly, disabled, or to those with limited English language skills. For information on tax assistance at other branches, check Fair-

fax County Public Library's web site at <http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/library/> and click on its "tax" link.

**Other events to watch for at the library:** on February 5, a free program will be offered introducing the internet to web "newbies". The program begins at 10:30 a.m. — bring your questions! The sequel to this program, scheduled for March 5, is the very popular "Finding it on the Web" program, at 2 p.m. A variety of children's programming is also planned, including a puppet show on March 15, plus other activities that you can learn more about in the library's monthly calendar, available at all branches. Remember to register for any programs by stopping by, or calling the information desk at (703) 790-8088.

**Tyson Pimmit Regional Library**  
7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church

**HOURS:**

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

**PHONE:** 703-790-8088

**WEBSITE:**

[www.co.fairfax.va.us/library](http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/library)

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Virginia

Established  
May 1950

**PimmitHills.org**

# The Pimmit Hills Gardener

By Deanne Eversmeyer,  
Horticulturalist

I have one question: will this winter ever end? I know, I know, by the calendar it's only a few weeks old (as I write this), but I'm sick and tired of winter. We've had enough snow and plenty of cold already. I want spring and I want it now!

There, I feel better already. I should go look for Crocuses in the front yard. Crocuses always help beat back the winter blahs. And the Magnolias help, too, especially the Star and Saucer Magnolias with their fat fuzzy buds promising the biggest and earliest spectacles of spring.

The Magnolias are a fantastic group of trees. They have inhabited the earth for millions of years. Evolving before traditional pollinators such as bees, wasps, butterflies and moths, Magnolias still rely on their ancient partner, the beetle, to pollinate their magnificent flowers. And most produce a powerful scent and plenty of pollen to draw the beetles in. Native to southeast Asia and the



southeastern U. S., the various species and hybrid Magnolias are right at home in our mid-Atlantic landscapes. Most prefer a moist, organic soil and some will be right at home in wet, even swampy situations.

The deciduous, spring-blooming Magnolias are the showiest of the lot. Most of these are the result of the hybridizing of Asian species that began almost two centuries ago

when a Frenchman named Soulange-Bodin crossed the white-flowered Yulan Magnolia (*M. denudata*) with the purple Lily Magnolia (*M. liliiflora*). This resulted in the Saucer Magnolias (*M. x soulangiana*), a group of trees in the 20 to 30-foot tall range with flowers appearing on bare branches in early spring and ranging from white through the pinks into wine purple. I have the ivory-white 'Lennei Alba' and the deep wine-purple 'Burgundy', they bloom their heads off each spring despite their young age. In recent

*continued on page 18*

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The spring market is almost here - now is the time to get the house in shape for what looks to be another booming market for Pimmit Hills! Interest rates remain at record lows, so if you don't plan to sell, you should look at refinancing if you haven't done so in the past three years. Call me with any questions you may have.

Did you know that the average price of Pimmit Hills homes has now reached OVER \$200,000? Please contact me if you're interested in a free market analysis of your home.



**Bill Bolinger,  
Pimmit Hills  
Real Estate Expert  
703-229-1300**

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