



NOVEMBER 2004

Pimmit Hills community monthly newspaper, published since 1952 by the Pimmit Hills Citizens Association (PHCA)

Pimmit Hills, Virginia
Established May 1950
"Our Neighborhood, Our Home"

Next PHCA Town Meeting:
Tuesday, November 5 at 7:30 pm
Pimmit Hills School, Lisle Avenue



A Look Inside the Most Talked About Home in Pimmit Hills

PHCA Bake Sale and Membership Drive



After you VOTE on Election Day, Nov 2 at the Pimmit Hills School, stop by our PHCA table. Homemade baked goods will be for sale. Also pay your PHCA membership dues for 2004-05 (*only* \$12).

Donate baked items Nov 2 at the school all day.

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Town Meeting Notes

By PHCA Secretary Sarah Rock

Hello neighbors, here is what happened at the October 5, 2004 Pimmit Hills Citizens Association town meeting:

The three guest speakers at the October meeting were Mrs. Beverly Wilson, the principal of Pimmit Hills High School; Mr. Chris Cole, Dranesville Representative to the Fairfax County Bond Referendum Committee; and Mr. Len Wales, Fairfax County Debt Manager.

Mrs. Wilson gave an overview of Pimmit Hills High School. Pimmit students represent 35 nationalities and speak about 60 different languages. Pimmit offers the students the flexibility to complete 8-10 classes a school year instead of the 7 classes offered by traditional FCPS high schools. Mrs. Wilson invited all residents to join her in the school's annual Volunteer Day on October 23.

Mr. Cole and Mr. Wales spoke about the 2004 Bond Referendum and answered numerous questions from residents. There will be 4 items on the

November ballot totaling \$325.

\$32.5 million is proposed for Human Services Facilities. The Human Services bond will provide for the renovation of numerous facilities in the county, including mental health centers and juvenile court facilities.

\$52.5 million is proposed for Library Facilities. The Library bond will provide for the construction of 2 new branches: the Burke Center Library and Oakton Library. As well it will provide for the renovation 4 libraries, including the Dolley Madison Library in McLean.

\$75 million is proposed for Parks and Park Facilities. Most of the funds will go to athletic fields, renovation, new construction, community parks improvements, and trails and stream crossings. Other renovations include parking improvements at recreation centers including nearby Spring Hill Recreation Center.

\$165 million is proposed for Transportation Improvements and Facilities. Most of the funds (\$110 million) will fund the county's share of the Washing-

ton Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) capital program. The remaining \$55 will fund pedestrian improvements, county roads and intersections. Nearby road improvements of interest to Pimmit Hills include minor improvements to the I-66 off-ramp at Route 7 and major improvements to the intersection of Route 29 and Gallows Road, including widening Route 29 to six lanes.

School bond referendums are on a two-year cycle so we can expect a school bond referendum next year. Additional information about the bonds is available online at:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/bond

Regular Business

The minutes from the September 2004 meeting and officer reports were held in abeyance till the November meeting so that residents could view the 2004 presidential candidate debate scheduled for October 5, 2004.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, November 2 at 7:30 pm and all homeowners and renters are welcome! ■



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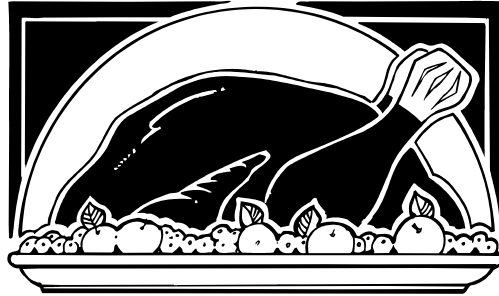
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Saturday, November 13

4:00 pm to 7:00 pm



HARVEST DINNER

Enjoy a turkey dinner with all the trimmings including side dishes, drinks and desserts for just \$10 (only \$5 for kids 12 and under!).

We welcome all our Pimmit Hills neighbors!



SILENT AUCTION

At the same time as our Harvest Dinner! Stop by and bid on great gifts for others or yourself. Last year's auction included handmade furniture; jewelry; luxury gift baskets; kids' new books and toys; gift certificates to popular restaurants; weekend getaways and more!

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Why are you Thankful about living in Pimmit Hills?



"The down to earth people who live around me. It is refreshing to reside in a community where people are proud of who they are, not what they have."



By Janice Kuch, Associate Branch Manager

Live Homework Help is an innovative internet-based tutoring program that connects students to real tutors and it is now available on the Fairfax County Public Library's web site. Students may connect to it using the internet computer stations at Tysons Pimmit Regional Library or through any personal computer that has internet access to the Library's home page.

After entering their grade level (fourth grade through twelfth grade) and the subject (math, science, social studies, or English), students are connected to expert tutors in the Online Classroom where they can exchange messages or drawings, literally speaking to each other in real time over the internet. They can also share documents, print out the session and complete an exit survey to rate their experience.

Live Homework Help tutors are certified teachers, university professors, graduate students, and professionals who are experts in their fields. All have passed a criminal background check and have been certified through the

Tutor.com Training Program. *Live Homework Help* is available every day from 2 pm to 10 pm. Tutoring in math or science is also available from Spanish-speaking tutors Sundays through Thursdays from 2 pm to 10 pm. We encourage students to try this new service by clicking on the link to *Live Homework Help* on the Fairfax County Public Library's home page at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library.

Since 1919, educators, librarians, booksellers, and families have celebrated Children's Book Week every November to encourage literacy and the pleasures of reading. Our Children's Librarians will present four programs in conjunction with this year's observance of the 2004 **Children's Book Week set for November 15 through 21**. On Saturday November 13 at 2 pm Jerry Schneider offers "Going Batty," a program on the study of bats for children ages 6-12. Bring a clean tee shirt to decorate. On Wednesday November 17 at 11 am story time for ages 10-23 months (with adult) will be offered,

followed on Thursday November 18 by story time for ages 3-5 years (with adult) at 11 am. On Saturday November 20 at 2 pm our finale to Children's Book Week will feature "Storytelling and Mime by Elaine Murray" for children ages 6-12. Registration for Library Programs (by phone or in person) begins two weeks before the program date.

Our monthly calendar of November events at all Library branches is now available and we encourage you to pick up a copy or view the program information online at the Library's home page. ■

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BY DEANNE EVERSMYER-ELLIS
HORTICULTURALIST

PIMMIT HILLS GARDENER

Joe Gibbs is back. You can't drive two blocks without passing a dumpster parked in a driveway. The flower beds are fresh with recently planted fall pansies. Renovation does seem to be in the air, doesn't it? So how about your landscape? Does it need to be renovated? Fall is getting a bit long in the tooth, but, as long as you can get a shovel in the ground, you can plant. And planting now means fewer watering worries next summer.

Let's first consider what to remove. More than likely, those overgrown Azaleas and Ligustrums have to go. Maybe that old Maple that keeps its corner of the yard turfless should go, too. And those Burford Hollies that goose everyone who comes to the door really ought to be added to the compost pile. It might be worth it to transplant those old Kurume Azaleas out to the backyard and sometimes there are elements worth keeping like that big Japanese Maple or the Boxwoods that your father started decades ago, but usually it's best to do a clean sweep. Since the old shrubs were probably planted too close to the foundation, they can be cut off near the ground, their stumps spritzed with a little herbicide to keep them from resprouting and the new shrubs planted in front of the old. (It's so easy to plant the new little shrubs too close to the house; leaving the stumps in place to rot away will force you to leave plenty of room between the foundation and the landscape.)

Now that the old is out, it's time to go shopping! The nurseries and garden centers restock for the fall planting

season and often you can get some good deals now. There are so many varieties of plants available these days that it's hard to know what's best for your particular site. If the nursery signs don't give you enough information – size, habit, culture – ask to see Dirr's *Manual of Woody Plants*. This thick volume gives the low-down on all the trees and shrubs you'll find in the landscape – very handy! But, if you're in a rush, here's my list of top ten landscape plants.

#1) Japanese Hollies (*Ilex crenata*): with so many cultivars there's a Japanese Holly for every occasion. Look for 'Soft Touch', an improvement over the old 'Helleri', for a low (2' x 3') evergreen mound. Or try 'Sky Pencil' for a dark green column, 8 feet tall and less than 1 foot wide. Many, many others.

#2) Lilyturf (*Liriope muscari*): an evergreen groundcover that doesn't travel in leaps and bounds like ivy, that doesn't die out like periwinkle, that takes sun and drought unlike pachysandra, loves shade and produces spikes of purple flowers in late summer. What more could you ask for?

#3) Foster's Holly (*Ilex x attenuata* 'Fosteri'): the slender, conical, half-breed child of our native American Holly, but much smaller in size and leaf; this red-berried evergreen is ideal for our limited suburban lots.

#4) Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*): ya gotta love this small native tree that clothes its naked branches in early spring with flamboyant pinky-purple blossoms—a great addition to the wooded landscape.

#5) Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia*): dig out your October *Dispatch*.

#6) Robin Hill Azaleas (*Rhododendron* hybrids): hybrids of the glorious Japanese Satsuki Azaleas, except these are hardier and low and compact in habit. Look for 'Nancy of Robin Hill' for large semi-double flowers that repeat bloom (sporadically) in the fall. 'White Moon' is one that lights up a dark corner of my back yard.

#7) Glossy Abelia 'Little Richard' (*Abelia x grandiflora* 'Little Richard'): I met this little guy fairly recently and have since fallen in love! This low, mounding shrub (2 ½ to 3' tall) covers its bronzy foliage with loads of soft white trumpets throughout the summer and fall.

#8) Lacebark Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*): small, unrakable leaves, attractive bark, deep roots, disease resistance and high canopies make the Lacebark Elm a great replacement for the American Elm.

#9) Japanese Cedar (*Cryptomeria japonica*): so you're sick of Leylands and you want something different? Try this fast-growing, conical evergreen instead. Also look for one of the many and various dwarf varieties for something that I guarantee the Joneses won't already have.

#10) Japanese Maple (*Acer palmatum*): with at least a billion cultivars, you'll want more than one! Whether you choose a cut-leaf variety (var. *dissectum*), an upright, full-leaf type, a variegated form, or a red-leaf variety, you can't go wrong. Just keep the soil on the moist side and a little afternoon shade is appreciated.

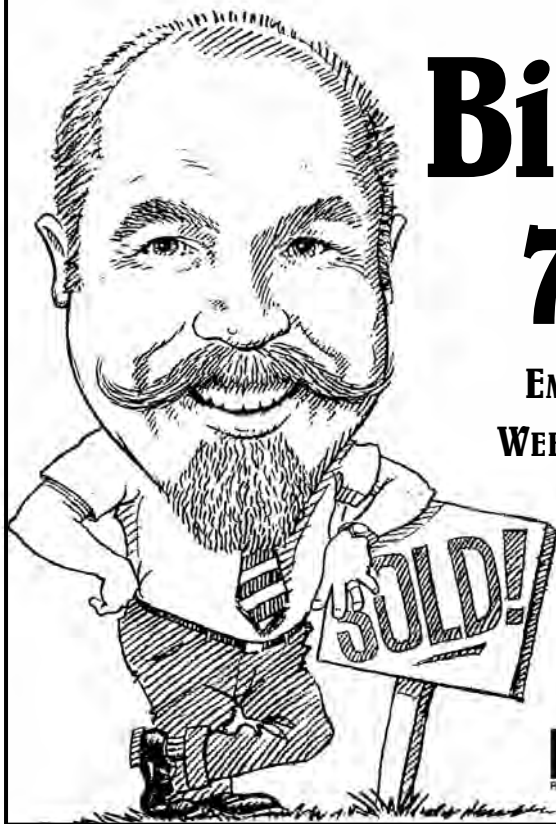
#11) 'Happy Returns' Daylily (*Hemerocallis* 'Happy Returns'): okay, so I can't count. This is the Daylily of the future: clear yellow trumpets over mounds of clean foliage all summer and fall. Leaves Stella in the mud.

So get out there, go shopping and then get planting! ■

Deanne Eversmeyer-Ellis
lives on Leonard Road

Bill Bolinger: Pimmit Hills Real Estate Expert

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A Look Inside the Most Talked About Home in Pimmit Hills

By Cindy Kwitchoff, Dispatch Editor



With home remodeling in Pimmit Hills at a high pitch, some people decide it's just better to start from scratch. We've seen many examples of what is called "tear-downs" where the owners tear down their entire house and build a new one. The tear-down that everyone has admired and talked about is the one on Griffith Road, 2025 Griffith. This new house has kept with the character of the Pimmit Hills community and has stayed proportional to the yard and surrounding neighborhood—it fits in perfectly. Plus, it has a fantastic architectural profile complete with a porch and two-car garage.

Many have wondered what it's like inside. I, along with PHCA Second Secretary Rich Ellis and his wife Deanne (PH garden columnist), went to find out. Rich is an accomplished remodeler whom I brought along to judge the quality and structure of the house.

We met with Ross Richmond of Harris Customs Homes of McLean, VA. He told us his company owned the property and was renting it out to one of their employees. They considered re-



The back of 2025 Griffith Road

modeling the house, but instead decided to build a new one on the site. The result turned out to be so great that the company, which builds custom homes in the area, thought other homeowners in Pimmit Hills who have considered remodeling or tearing-down their house might be interested in a home like they built. Currently, it is empty and is being used as a model home, with a company office in the basement. And let's first

forgo the main floor and talk about that basement! Basements are rare in Pimmit Hills as homes were built with only crawl spaces. This finished basement has eight-foot ceilings and is very expansive (see photo below) creating a great deal of extra living space PH homes normally don't have. The basement also has a walk-out to the back yard and has large windows.

The rest of the house was equally impressive. The entrance hallway rose two levels. There was a good size living room and dining room. The kitchen had nice cabinets and appliances and was open to a breakfast nook that had large windows on three sides (you can see the bump out in the photo above). There was a family room next to the kitchen that had doors leading out to the back deck. Upstairs there were three bedrooms plus the master bedroom, which was spacious and had a cathedral ceiling. The master bath had two sinks, a Jacuzzi-type tub and a separate shower.

What is nice about this house is that it's not one of those massive new houses



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

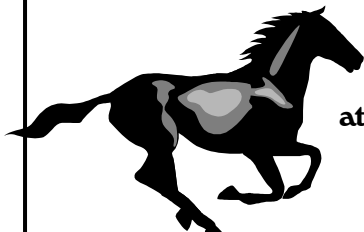


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Keeping Your Car SAFE and SECURE in Pimmit Hills

By Melissa Calkins, Pimmit Drive

Last spring, my car was broken into and my car stereo stolen in front of my house as I slept peacefully inside. This was the first time anything like this happened to me. The morning it happened, the first thing I did was call the police. The second thing I did was talk to my neighbors. This was a time that I was grateful to live in a real neighborhood. My next-door neighbor told me that a woman down the street had just had her car stereo system stolen too, along with speakers and amps; incredibly, a week later, the thief came back and stole the rest, a nice DVD system for the kids. I started to wonder if our neighborhood is a huge target because of the lack of garages. Just think of the thousands of cars that sit out in the open every night—it's a thief's paradise. And I had further reason to suspect that this was not "just teenagers," as some tried to convince me. This thief did a professional job on my car. The window was not even broken: the thief actually wedged it open at the window seal with a rusty screwdriver, pried the window far enough to unlock the door, then put the window back. I didn't even know that was possible.

Since this happened, I have learned a lot. I hope you can find some of this information useful so that you can prevent this from happening to you.

Car Stereos

Most after-market car stereos come with a detachable faceplate. This is a security measure: without the faceplate, the stereo is useless. When I first got the stereo, I faithfully took the faceplate with me, even if I were just shopping at the grocery store. After a while, this became tiresome and I decided to just hide the faceplate in the glove compartment. I assumed that if potential thieves

didn't see a faceplate, they wouldn't bother to break into the car. It seemed reasonable at the time—who would commit a crime and risk getting caught when they weren't even sure that there was anything worth stealing? Apparently, plenty of thieves take that risk every day.

The thieves who broke into my car did so not knowing that the faceplate was in the car. It was only after they broke into the car that they could have discovered the faceplate hidden in the glove compartment and decided to proceed to steal the stereo itself. After talking about this with many people, I have



come to understand that practically no one has the patience to take the faceplate with them when they park the car. According to experts, almost everyone puts the faceplate in the glove compartment or the console, and thieves know this. In fact, I would bet that there is practically no risk of not finding a faceplate once a thief has broken in. And this renders the removable faceplate a completely useless security feature on car stereos. They know it's inside.

So here is my hard-earned advice on this: don't just take off the faceplate, take it out of the car. If it's not there, there's no use in stealing the stereo.

Car Alarms

My next thought was, why bother getting the stereo replaced when they can just come back and steal it again? It was obviously very easy for them to do the first time. I had always thought car alarms were a nuisance, since when people hear one, they are annoyed, not alarmed. But I could have used an alarm to wake me up when this thief broke into my car. At the very least, it may have caused the thief to target another vehicle. After all, the last thing a criminal wants is attention.

The basic car alarm is a door sensor that is connected to the same wiring system

that turns on the inside light when you open your car door. When someone triggers that response by opening the door, the alarm is activated. This system is easily defeated by thieves, so there are many add-on features to consider. Shock sensors detect someone hitting or moving the car. Proximity sensors will detect the presence of someone close to your car and can "chirp" to warn them to stay away. There are other sensors that can detect changes in air pressure (say from a window being opened) or the particular frequency of the sound of glass breaking. You can even add on a tilt sensor to protect your

Continued on page 15



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car from being towed away by thieves. (Who knew they were this determined?) Many thieves know how alarms work and how to disable them quickly and easily (by clipping the battery cables under the hood), so many professionals will advise that you add on a back-up battery that is hidden under the dashboard. Another feature is the piezo siren, the so-called "pain siren" that is installed inside the car and emits a sound that is so painful that anyone in the car must leave immediately. (Oh, how I wish I had been able to inflict that pain on my thief...) But my favorite feature of the newer alarms is the pager. The alarm comes with a keychain pager that displays a diagram of the car and alerts you (within a range of 1500 feet or so) when any security breach is detected. There are even systems with pagers that can send a signal across the country (when, for example, you are on vacation). You can get a basic security system installed for about \$200; with add-ons it can cost over \$500 and require a full day to install.

And one more thing I might recommend: when getting any work done on your car, give the business an address that is not your home address. Otherwise, a dishonest employee working on your car can look up where you live, then go there and steal it from you. The night my stereo was stolen, I had just taken my car for an oil change. While my car was being serviced, someone had time to see where all the components were located, and my address was conveniently listed in the computer. Someone told me about an investigation at a local store of a national electronics chain that was prompted by a pattern of car stereo thefts two weeks

after they were installed. Investigators wondered if the same employees who were installing the stereos were stealing them.

Security Cameras

Then I started thinking about the possible situation where a thief is trying to break in and the car alarm goes off. What am I going to do, go chase them and scare them away? It wouldn't help to put them in jail. I did a quick online search and found a plethora of security cameras available for purchase. There are external security cameras that you can mount on your house that will pan, tilt, and zoom when movement is detected. There are cameras hidden in kleenex boxes, cameras that are made for nighttime recording, and cameras you can hook up to monitors to watch from inside your house. You can even buy one to hook up to a VCR to record on tape, like the security systems you see at convenience stores. It's a sad day when we feel that we need to install cameras on our houses. But just today I learned that the woman down the street whose car was broken into twice in one week caught him because she recorded him on tape. Fairfax County Police found him and arrested him. Maybe that guy is my thief too. I'll probably never know.

If a security camera sounds a little too paranoid for your home, you can deter thieves in the first place by going to our Merrifield Home Depot to get outside lights that will turn on when they detect motion (say, in your driveway or on your porch).

The Cost

I had no idea how a seemingly minor and victimless crime could affect a person. I never thought of a car break-in

as a violation before, but it was. I spent two or three weeks lying awake at night, wondering if there were thieves lurking outside my house, fantasizing about sitting on my porch with a shotgun, and wondering when I would feel secure in my own home again. I had no one to be angry with and no one to confront—no name, not even a face. Maybe that's a good thing, but it was difficult not being able to place blame on someone. In all, the damages and repairs totaled over \$1200 (not counting the alarm system I purchased once my car was fixed), and my window wasn't even broken. For two months, my husband and I had to drop off my car countless times for estimate after estimate for my insurance company, the car dealership, the body shop, and the car stereo and alarm store. The phone calls, the faxes, the records I had to dig up...for a while there, I used to call it my new part-time job.

For me, things are back to normal now, but I will always be more aware of what's happening near my home. Please be alert and call the police if you see anything suspicious in our neighborhood. To report something or someone suspicious, use the Fairfax County Police Department non-emergency number, 703-691-2131. For events that are life-threatening or immediately damaging to property, call 911. Notify the police immediately of any suspicious people or vehicles in the neighborhood. Don't worry about being a nuisance. Our police department will welcome your call and the opportunity to prevent a burglary. For more crime prevention tips, visit www.co.fairfax.va.us/ps/police/police15c.htm. ■

Pimmit Hills has had a Neighborhood Watch since the 1960s. The members are YOU and your neighbors. Be alert to your surroundings and report suspicious activity or persons to the police at 703-691-2131.



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

Redeemer Lutheran Church

1545 Chain Bridge Road
McLean, VA

WORSHIP SERVICES:
8:30a, 9:45a & 11:00a

SUNDAY CLASS:
9:45a

PHONE:
703-356-3346

WEBSITE:
www.redeemer-mclean.org

Garfield Memorial Church

(Disciples of Christ)

1731 Great Falls Street
McLean, VA

WORSHIP SERVICE:
10:30a

SUNDAY CLASS:
9:30a

PHONE:
703-356-7878



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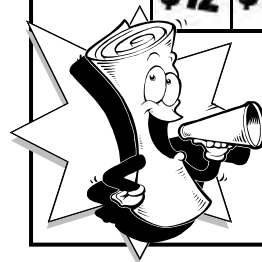
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New page layout equals nine squares. 1,2,3,4,6,9 combos up or down

Pimmit Hills Community Events



Olney Park Cleanup Day November 6

Pimmit Hills has a number of parks, with Olney Park being our crown jewel. Help clean up the park on Saturday, November 6 beginning bright and early at 8:00 am at the park's main entrance at the end of Olney Drive. The McLearn/Pimmit Hills Baha'is community leads the effort, which they have done for the past three years.

The group cleans up the park at least five times during the spring and summer as service to the community. This includes picking up trash, sticks and other debris around the athletic fields and the entire park area. They keep the brush

cleared on the beautiful walking paths through the woods and also try to keep them free of trash. They also periodically clean that portion of the stream that runs through the park. The park service and Fairfax County erected a sign last year at the entrance to the park recognizing the Bahai's "adoption" of Olney Park and their work in helping maintain and care for the park.

Next year's clean up program begins in the spring and to be a part of the Saturday clean up days, contact Pimmit Hills resident Ann Jones at 703-

448-6955 or ansjones@aol.com.

"Many people walking their dogs or playing with their children or using the ball fields have spoken to us while we work and we enjoy all the grateful smiles and kind words. It is our deepest wish that those who use this wonderful park will be as proud of its' beauty as we are," said Ann. ■

English Classes for Adults

The Lemon Road Elementary School PTA, in partnership with the Center for Multicultural Human Services, is sponsoring beginning and intermediate English classes for adults. The classes are free, and babysitting is provided for

children 4 years of age and older. The classes are held on Thursday evenings from 6:45 pm to 8:15 pm at Lemon Road Elementary School which is located at 7230 Idylwood Road. For more information and to register, call Gail Bejarano at 703-714-5418. ■

Area School Events

Pimmit Hills High School

Nov 1 & 2: Teacher Workdays
Nov 18: Honor Roll Assembly
Nov 24: 2 Hour Early Closing
Nov 25 & 26: Thanksgiving Holiday

Westgate Elementary

Nov 1 & 2: Student Holidays
Nov 10: Heritage Night
Nov 15: PTA Ledo's Night, 5-8:00 pm
Nov 24: Early Dismissal at 1:15pm
Nov 25 & 26: Thanksgiving Holiday

Community Concert December 21

The George C. Marshall High School's music department will hold a holiday concert on Tuesday, December 21 at 7:00 pm at the high school. Admission is free. For more information, call 703-506-4532. ■

Pimmit Hills Annual Holiday Decorating Contest

It will soon be that time a year again when PHCA holds its annual holiday decorating contest. We need judges from the community to choose the winners. Please contact a PHCA officer if you can volunteer for this FUN job! ■

www.PimmitHills.org

Dream

www.DreamLawnsInc.com

Lawns

13727 Flowing Brook Ct, Chantilly, VA 20151-3514
 Phone: 703-378-0006; Fax: 703-378-9006
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 Tree Removal

703-378-0006

***Dream The Life . . .
 . . . Live The Life!***

Why are you Thankful about living in Pimmit Hills?



“I am most thankful for my good neighbors here on Kilgore Road. Folks who care about each other are not hard to find on our street. I like knowing that we look out for one another during rough weather, power outages, etc. I am thankful that Pimmit Hills is home to such a rich diversity of people. We are blessed to have so many different cultures represented in our “Hills”. To me, one of the nicest things about Pimmit Hills is the dedication of those who care enough to give their time serving as officers on the PHCA. We often take for granted the neighborhood events, the monthly meetings, the attention to the aesthetics of our community AND...the wonderful and informative Pimmit Hills Dispatch which keeps us informed on everything going on here. I doubt if there is a community quite like ours in Fairfax County.”

where it takes forever to clean and everyone ends up living in only one part. This house was just the right manageable size with lots of rooms but still cozy.

The house comes completely painted in neutral colors, has trim, crown molding and baseboards throughout and the rooms are carpeted (except for the kitchen, hallway and basement—those come with a nice tile). Ross Richmond said the house can be customized. A Pimmit Hills resident who is having the house built on his lot decided to go with hardwood floors throughout the house. The not one but TWO car garage is another rarity in Pimmit Hills. The house

also has a covered porch in the front and a deck in the back. The windows are nice and large with panes and shutters. The laundry room is conveniently upstairs near all the bedrooms.

I asked remodeler Rich Ellis what he thought of the quality of the house and materials. He was impressed by everything—the attention to detail (like the trim), the layout, the windows, things like the large water heater and furnace in the basement, the size of the basement (!) and the structure of the building—it is a solid house.

If a Pimmit Hills resident wanted to have a house like this on their property,

Ross said that his company, Harris Custom Homes would completely tear down the existing house and haul everything away, excavate for that great basement, obtain all the required Fairfax County permits as well as do all the required engineering and site surveys. Because the yard would be dug up, the end result would be re-graded and new landscape installed. Plus they would put in an asphalt driveway. He said all of this would cost a homeowner \$329,000. This price is pretty reasonable because you couldn't buy a house like this in the area for that price if you decided to move. And, it would be interesting to see how much the Griffith Road house eventually sells for—a three-level, four bedroom, 3½ bath, two-car garage, huge walk-out basement, family room, kitchen with a breakfast nook—in Pimmit Hills. My guess would be double the price but any real estate expert who knows the Pimmit Hills market could tell you what a house like that would go for.

If you are interested in seeing the inside of this house at 2025 Griffith Road, Harris Custom Homes is holding an Open House on Saturday, November 6 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. No appointment is necessary, just stop by and see what you think if you might be interested in something like this or if you are just curious. At all other times, Ross Richmond said he would be glad to show the house by appointment by calling him at 703-448-1717.

Tear-downs in Pimmit Hills are inevitable, but we can only hope that homes that look as nice as this will be built in their place. There are many tear-downs in our community that people talk about, but this tear-down is always accompanied by favorable comments. It's important to respect the character of our neighborhood and our homes—to enhance the surrounding area and make it look like it was always there. The house on Griffith Road does just that. ■

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703-442-8777

(Fax) 703-442-9469

Dispatch Classifieds

ACCOUNTING/TAX PREPARATION—Accounting, bookkeeping, tax preparation, small business consulting and tax problem resolution services offered by CPA with 25 years experience. Reasonable rates. Call Mike at 703-893-0810.

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 & FURNITURE CLEANING—Plus carpet/furniture protection, pet problems. Also pressure washing and auto detailing. 15 years experience, no gimmicks. Call now for free estimate. Bill Gentzler at 703-847-9741 or 703-963-4905.

COMPUTER HELP—Need help with your computer? 10 years experience. Diagnosis and repair, virus cleaning, upgrades, advice on new purchases, general questions. Reasonable rates, free quote. Work done at Pimmit Hills home on Nigh Road. Call Moses, 703-761-1214.

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

DAYCARE—In my Pimmit Hills home. F/T, P/T, before and after school. I care for children 6 weeks and up. I have 30 years experience and great references. Close to Rt 7, 66 and 495. Reasonable price includes lunch and snack. Call Edna at 703-821-8366.

DAYCARE—In my home in Pimmit Hills. I can take care of babies ages three months old and toddlers, F/T or P/T. For more information, please call Connie at 703-288-0229 or 703-609-0194.

DAYCARE—Pimmit Hills stay-at-home mom looking to provide F/T, P/T, hourly, before/after school care in her home for your children. Experienced teacher/nanny. CPR trained. Reasonable rates, excellent references, Fairfax County licensed. Please call Lisa at 703-893-7192..

DAYCARE—Tyson's, Falls Church and McLean area, new born and up. Fairfax County Child Care Certified Provider. Experienced mother with early childhood education. F/T or P/T openings. A loving and caring environment with a playground park. Non-smoking household, very convenient location. Please call Marliya at 703-356-3837 or 703-314-2656.

FOUND—Female cat, no collar, 1-2 years old. Gray coat with black stripes. Unique black markings on back of legs, looks somewhat like boots. Green eyes. VERY affectionate and friendly, very talkative, and completely comfortable around people. Seems to have had a loving family but has been spending all of her time with us since around October 1st. Please call 703-848-8963.

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

HANDYMAN—Roof and gutter repairs, hauling and general home maintenance. Gutter cleaning special \$35 (with gutter screens extra). Power washing fences, decks, siding. Call Steve at 540-718-4120. Free estimates. 24-hr emergency roof repairs.

HANDYMAN SERVICE—Handyman Service Reasonable Rates - shed installation, pet doors, drywall & rotted wood repair, ceiling & attic fans, window & screen replacement, storm doors, toilet repairs, caulking, dryer vent cleaning, outdoor lighting, power washing +. Free estimates, insured. Call Doug at 703-556-4276. See our website at www.novahandyman.com.

LAWN SERVICE—Reasonable prices. Lawn mowing, edging, gutter cleaning, leaf removal, trimming, snow removal and other services upon request. I will provide you with excellent service and unbeatable rates. Call Eduardo at 703-442-9633 for a free estimate.

PERSONAL CHEF—No time to cook? Healthy and delicious dinners cooked and delivered to you by a member of the Personal Chefs of America. Your calorie/diet needs as well as personal taste met. Saves lots of time and money. PH delivery every two weeks. Call Deborah at 301-922-1174.

SNOW REMOVAL—Snow removal private/commercial driveways, sidewalks, salt/sand no job is to big or to small insured call Gleason Snow Removal at 571-722-3906 for more information.

WANTED—Loving care 2/3 days/wk for 7-mo old. Requirements: Positive attitude, non-smoking, English-speaking. Call Emily or Chris 703-761-0789.

WANTED—I buy Pimmit Hills houses! Get a great price for your house with no realtor commissions. Any condition. I pay all case in 3 or 4 days. Very flexible. Also, I pay \$1000 for successful referrals. Call Evan at 703-281-4201.

WANTED—Help installing donated double-hung windows in the PHCA House on Pimmit Drive. Also help in cleaning and painting the interior of the house. The PHCA house is the “headquarters” of the association, but hasn’t been updated since the 1960s. PHCA is gathering a list of people to work on this project in the near future. Contact a PHCA officer if you’d be interested in helping.

YOUR AD HERE—Only \$10 per month with a 40 word maximum. Easy way to get the word out to 1,637 Pimmit Hills homes! Go to our www.PimmitHills.org website for easy way to send in your ad.

FREE—Lost & Found classifieds are FREE! Found or lost an item or a pet in Pimmit Hills? Submit it on our Lost & Found page on www.PimmitHills.org and read entries on our website and/or in the *Dispatch*.

Neighborhood Concerns

Fairfax County has adopted regulations to promote public health, safety and welfare. Listed below are the most common neighborhood problems and the agencies responsible for addressing them. If you are affected by one of these problems, and wish to register a complaint, please call the phone number listed below. Be prepared to give your name, address, phone number, and the best time to contact you. Please only call in complaints that directly affect you.

Type of Problem	Phone
Construction without required permits; Illegal removal of trees & clearing of land	703-324-1937
Too many unrelated people living in a home; Apartments in a single family home	703-324-1300
Inoperative vehicles on residential property – 5 vehicles or less	703-280-0587
Inoperative vehicles on residential property – more than 5 vehicles	703-324-1300
Vehicles parked on front lawn for longer than 48 hours	703-324-1300
Noise complaints (normal business hours 8:00 am – 4:30 pm)	703-324-1300
Noise complaints/Barking dogs (late night/early morning)	703-691-2131
Businesses conducted from a home	703-324-1300
Commercial vehicles parked in residential areas on street	703-280-0550
Commercial vehicles parked in residential areas on private property	703-324-1300
Junk and debris in yards	703-324-1300
Grass in excess of 12 inches on residential lots of less than ½ acre	703-324-1950
Abandoned/blighted properties	703-246-5179
Dilapidated, unsafe, unsanitary properties	703-246-2300
Improper disposal of household garbage	703-246-2300
Rats	703-246-2300
Snow removal on public streets	703-383-8368
Building code violations	703-324-1937
Illegal Signs in the public right-of-way	703-383-8368
Illegal Signs on private property	703-324-1300
Drainage: New construction	703-324-1937
Drainage: Ponding of water on a residential lot	703-324-1300
Flooding	703-934-2800



See back cover for more info on how to advertise or go to www.PimmitHills.org

Ads & Articles

DEADLINE

**for December 2004
Pimmit Hills Dispatch:**

November 6

Citizen Contact Information

Government

Dranesville Supervisor Joan DuBois

McLean Governmental Center
1437 Balls Hill Road
McLean, VA 22101

PHONE: 703-356-0551

FAX: 703-821-4275

EMAIL: dranesville@fairfaxcounty.gov

WEBSITE: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/gov/bos/dd/dd.htm

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

WEBSITE: www.JanetHowell.com

Congressman James P. Moran

Reston District Office

1760 Reston Parkway, Suite 312

PHONE: 703-481-4339

Alexandria District Office

5115 Franconia Road, Suite B

Alexandria, VA 22310

PHONE: 703-971-4700

WEBSITE: www.moran.house.gov

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

Beverly R. Wilson, Principal

PHONE: 703-506-2315

EMAIL: beverly.wilson@fcps.edu

FRONT OFFICE PHONE: 703-506-2344

FAX: 703-506-2397

To report safety, parking or behavioral concerns: 703-506-2318

Useful Numbers

Police (non-emergency) 703-691-2131

Dominion Virginia Power,
1-888-667-3000

Miss Utility, 1-800-552-7001

Gas Leaks, 1-888-223-9452

Cox Cable, 703-378-8422

Animal Control, 703-830-3310

VDOT Maintenance,
703-383-VDOT (8368)

Dept of Motor Vehicles, 1-800-435-5137

Fairfax County Government

Area Agency on Aging, 703-324-5411

Athletic Service, 703-324-5533

Clerk-Board of Supervisors, 703-324-3151

Consumer Affairs, 703-222-8435

Courts, 703-691-7320

Dept of Health, 703-246-2411

Disabilities Svc Board, 703-222-0880

Fairfax County Public Schools,
703-246-2502

Family Services, 703-324-7500

Office for Children, 703-324-8000

Office for Women, 703-324-5730

Park Authority, 703-324-8700

Pimmit Senior Center, 703-734-3338

Planning Commission, 703-324-2865

Public Works/Environ Srv, 703-324-5033

Site Inspections, 703-222-0455

Tax Administration, 703-222-8234

Trash Collection/Recycling,
703-802-3322

Voting Information, 703-222-0776

Fairfax County Zoning Enforcement

Investigates complaints of alleged violations of the Zoning Ordinance and the Noise Ordinance

PHONE: 703-324-1300

FAX: 703-324-1343

WEBSITE: <http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/dpz/faqs/concerns.htm>

NOTE: If you find a phone number is incorrect or has been changed, please let the *Dispatch* know.



For Sept 2004-June 2005

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Gene Lesser, Fisher Drive
President@PimmitHills.org
703-356-4117

First Vice President

Joan Naleppa, Griffith Road
703-893-7866

Second Vice President

Richard Ellis, Leonard Road
SecondVP@PimmitHills.org
571-220-0469

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Treasurer@PimmitHills.org
703-761-7391

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Secretary@PimmitHills.org
703-760-7181

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Director@PimmitHills.org
703-790-1487

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PastPresident@PimmitHills.org
703-448-1392

PH Dispatch Newspaper Editor

Cindy Kwitchoff
1925 Cherri Drive
Dispatch@PimmitHills.org
703-734-0402
703-734-1574 fax

Neighborhood Watch

Rick Marcos, Anderson Road
Neighborhood-Watch@PimmitHills.org
703-790-3397

Pimmit Hills Citizens Association

1927 Pimmit Drive
 Falls Church, VA 22043
 EMAIL: PHCA@PimmitHills.org
 WEBSITE: PimmitHills.org

The Pimmit Hills Citizens Association is one of the largest and oldest community associations in Fairfax County and represents a community of 1,637 homes in the Pimmit Hills area of Falls Church, VA. Pimmit Hills was first established in May 1950. The PHCA monthly *Dispatch* newspaper has been published since 1952.

PHCA Membership is open to all owners and renters living in Pimmit Hills. Please note that we are a **CITIZENS** association, **not** a HOMEOWNERS association, therefore we don't make you pay \$169 each month in association dues (our are **ONLY** \$12 a year!) and tell you what color to paint your door and shutters, what kind of plants you can have in your front yard and if you're allowed to fly your flag! We're a 'property-rights' neighborhood whose only covenants/regulations are those imposed by Fairfax County. What we do is represent your concerns/interest to Fairfax County officials, hold useful events like the popular Clean-Up Day, put up entrance signs to our community, run monthly citizens meetings where anyone (owners/renters) living in PH can attend and participate, create a PHCA Membership Directory, be a member of the McLean Citizens Association to have a stronger voice in the County, and print/deliver the monthly *Pimmit Hills Dispatch*. ■

PHCA Treasurer's Report

Date: October 5, 2004

PHCA Total Assets from Prior Meeting	\$9,322.10
Checking account opening balance (from Sept 7 report)	\$1,190.85
Income	
Pimmit Hills Dispatch Advertising	\$280.00
Membership Dues	\$320.00
Total Income	\$600.00
Expenses	
Treasurer of Va.—State Corporation Commission	\$25.00
Dominion Virginia Power for PHCA House (Aug)	\$12.62
Direct Development—address/mail October Dispatch	\$674.77
Kwik Kopy—printing October Dispatch	\$774.00
Total Expenses	\$1,486.39
Checking account closing balance	\$304.46
PHCA CD balance (from Sept 7 report)	\$8,131.25
United Bank CD interest	\$0.00
PHCA CD balance	\$8,131.25
<small>CD automatically renewed February 13, 2004 and will mature November 13, 2004</small>	
PHCA Total Assets at Current Meeting	\$8,435.71
PHCA Operating Expenses at Current Meeting	\$304.46

**Membership Form**

Enclose your yearly membership dues of \$12

and mail to:

Pimmit Hills Citizens Association (PHCA)

1927 Pimmit Drive
 Falls Church, VA 22043

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ Falls Church, VA 22043

Home Phone: _____

Email: _____

(only used to contact you; will not be listed in directory)

- I'd like to volunteer to help at PHCA events/activities
 I do not want to be listed in the PHCA Membership Directory

PHCA MEMBERSHIP YEAR: SEPTEMBER 2004 TO JUNE 2005

\$12



PHCA Town Meetings

Our community meetings are a way to air your concerns, bring your suggestions and ideas, rave about good things, rant about frustrations, hear from relevant speakers, and a great way to meet your neighbors. We meet the first Tuesday at 7:30 pm at the Pimmit Hills School on Lisle Avenue:

November 2, 2004

December 7, 2004

Representative from Fairfax County Zoning Enforcement; Holiday party

January 4, 2005

February 1, 2005

Congressman Jim Moran

March 1, 2005

Fairfax County Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Gerry Connolly

April 5, 2005

Remodeling in Pimmit Hills by remodeler Rich Ellis

May 2, 2005

Gardening in Pimmit Hills by Horticulturalist Deanne Eversmeyer-Ellis

June 7, 2005

PHCA board elections

No meetings in July & August



How to Advertise

and reach 1,637 Pimmit Hills homes each month!

\$12	\$12	\$12
\$12	\$12	\$12
\$12	\$12	\$12

The new advertising format of the *Pimmit Hills Dispatch* is divided into 9 equal squares—each square costs only \$12 per month. Buy them in 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 or 9 combinations horizontally or vertically. We'll design your ad for you.

To easily place an ad, go to our website, **PimmitHills.org**, and fill out the advertising form. We'll email or fax your bill to you.

■ *Great idea for your big or small business*

■ *Say Happy Birthday or Congratulations to someone special*

■ *Make an announcement*

■ *and more!*

FOR CLASSIFIED ADS:

The cost is \$10 per month. Make your check out to: "PHCA" and mail to Editor, 1925 Cherrri Drive, Falls Church, VA 22043. Use the advertising form on our website to submit your ad or fax to: 703-734-1574.



Dispatch articles, news, meeting dates, announcements, Pimmit Hills weather, useful area & govt links, advertising information, past *Dispatch* issues, PH history, etc. It's all here on your community website: **www.PimmitHills.org!**



Pimmit Hills Citizen Association

1927 Pimmit Drive
Falls Church, VA 22043

PLEASE DELIVER BEFORE NOVEMBER 2

Address Correction Requested

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #6221
Merrifield, VA