



### 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:

**May 3, 2005**  
Gardening in Pimmit Hills by Horticulturalist Deanne Eversmeyer-Ellis

**June 7, 2005**  
Steve Dryden from Fairfax Trails and Streams talking about a new Pimmit Run Trail

No meetings in July & August

**IMPORTANT:** Please monitor our community website, [PimmitHills.org](http://PimmitHills.org) for news about the reorganization, including if/when we have meetings or publish the *Dispatch*



## How to Advertise

and reach 1,642 Pimmit Hills homes each month!

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

The 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. The cost for classified ads is \$10 per month.

- Great idea for your big or small business
- Say Happy Birthday or Congratulations to someone special
- Make an announcement
- and more!

For more information or to place an ad, go to our website, [PimmitHills.org](http://PimmitHills.org), and fill out the advertising form.



*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](http://www.PimmitHills.org)!



**Pimmit Hills Citizen Association**  
1927 Pimmit Drive  
Falls Church, VA 22043

PLEASE DELIVER WEEK OF MAY 9  
Address Correction Requested

PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit #6006  
Alexandria, VA



MAY/JUNE 2005

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

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



## Pimmit Hills Pooches page 17

### Also in this issue:

- PH Covenants Clarification, pg. 9
- Proposed reorganization of PHCA, pg. 14
- Monument Realty buys Commons of McLean for \$163.8M, pg. 19
- Ways to Promote Community Spirit, pg. 21

*Birdie, puppy of Rich and Deanne Ellis of Leonard Road, enjoys some Gatorade. This clever dog opened up the bottle all by herself!*



### Pimmit Hills Calendar

**Tuesday, June 7:** PHCA meeting with guest speaker Steve Dryden of Fairfax Trails & Streams to talk about the Pimmit Run watershed and our creeks, 7:30 pm, Pimmit Hills School on Lisle Avenue

### McLean Bible Church

8925 Leesburg Pike  
McLean, VA

WORSHIP SERVICES:

Saturday: 6:30p  
Sunday: 9:00a, 10:45a, 12:30p  
Frontline (20's & 30's) 5:30p

WEBSITE:

[www.McLeanBible.org](http://www.McLeanBible.org)

### Sarah's Caring Petsitting

Sarah Schultz, Owner & Falls Church resident  
*Individualized Care in Your Home for Your Pet!*



Reasonable Rates  
More than 10 years Experience  
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**703-560-5558**

[sarahspetsitting@pobox.com](mailto:sarahspetsitting@pobox.com)  
<http://www.pobox.com/~sarahspetsitting>

### POND ROOFING COMPANY



The roof doctor servicing Northern Virginia for over 40 years

**703-573-8000**

### Remodeling? Throwing out any original hardwood floor from your Pimmit Hills home?

I am looking for up to 500 sq ft of PH hardwood flooring to support my own whole-house remodel. No amount is too small. I will load and haul it away at no cost to you.

Please call A. Phelan at 703-734-0618

### McLean Presbyterian Church (Presbyterian Church of America)

1020 Balls Hill Road  
McLean, VA

WORSHIP SERVICES:  
9:15a & 11:00a

*(9:15 service is interpreted for deaf/hard of hearing)*

SUNDAY CLASSES:  
9:15a & 11:00a

PHONE:  
703-821-0800

WEBSITE:  
[www.McLeanPres.org](http://www.McLeanPres.org)



### 2005 Top 10 List of Home Improvements:

- New Vinyl Shed
  - New Kitchen Cabinets
  - New Doors
  - New Sinks
  - Faucets
  - New Ceiling / Attic Fans
  - New Windows
  - Drywall Repairs
  - Siding Repairs
  - Rotted Wood Repair
  - Siding Repairs
- Get started on this list TODAY by calling Doug Harnett!**

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FREE estimates, insured, local references, reasonable rates

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### Pimmit Hills Citizens Association

1927 Pimmit Drive  
Falls Church, VA 22043  
EMAIL: [PHCA@PimmitHills.org](mailto:PHCA@PimmitHills.org)  
WEBSITE: [PimmitHills.org](http://PimmitHills.org)

The Pimmit Hills Citizens Association is one of the largest and oldest community associations in Fairfax County and represents a diverse community of 1,642 homes in the Pimmit Hills area of Falls Church, VA. Pimmit Hills was first established in May 1950 (we're 55 years old and counting). The PHCA *Dispatch* newspaper has been published since 1952.



Annual 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* an unbelievable low \$12 a year!) and tell you what color to paint your door and shutters, what color of plants you can have in your front yard, and if you're allowed to fly your flag!

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 *Pimmit Hills Dispatch*. ■

***Renew your membership today!***



### 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

**\$12**

PHCA MEMBERSHIP YEAR: SEPTEMBER 2005 TO JUNE 2006



The Tyson Corner Host

### Lions Club

A local service organization is Reorganizing To better serve the local community

**Memberships are Available**

Ask how you can make a difference in our community

Please contact Kim Smith at 703-289-3177

# 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: DellScott@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  
(After June, see website for  
new officers for 2005-2006)**

### President

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

### Treasurer

Kim Rollen, Leonard Road  
Treasurer@PimmitHills.org  
703-761-7391

### Secretary

Sarah Rock, Peabody Drive  
Secretary@PimmitHills.org  
703-760-7181

### Three-Year Director

Pete Collat, Edgar Court  
Director@PimmitHills.org  
703-790-1487

### Immediate Past President

Joe Baker, Burfoot Street  
PastPresident@PimmitHills.org  
703-448-1392

### Pimmit Hills Dispatch

Newspaper Editor  
vacant



## Here is what happened at the March 2005 PHCA Meeting:

The Treasurer's report covered October through February. It was accepted as read. We are trying a new printing and mailing company for the *Dispatch*, Via Mailing. No progress has been made on the little house on Lisle. PHCA is soliciting volunteers for improving the condition of the PHCA house on Pimmit Drive. Volunteers were requested for a nominating committee for new PHCA officers.

PHCA President read from notices he received in the mail: Fairfax County Fire & Rescue will start billing for medical transportation (Ambulance). Joan DuBois will host a town meeting about the County budget on March 19.

Gerry Connolly, the Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors was the special guest speaker at the March meeting. His talk was highly informative and he summarized six priority areas:

**Crime** - Our homicide rates are low and have fallen. However we have a significant gang problem (although gang-related crime fell last year.) He emphasized the effort to reduce gang recruitment. Cox Communications contributed \$3 million for boys' and girls' clubs.

**Assessments** - They're high because we live in a desirable area. However, it's difficult for public servants to find affordable housing in the county. He emphasized the preservation of affordable housing because it's so hard to build more. This emphasis includes senior housing.

Every penny in the tax rate generates \$17.9 million.

**Education** - We have a very good and highly rated system. Test scores have been rising.

**Environment** - The board has

# March Town Meeting Notes

By Sue King filling in for PHCA Secretary Sarah Rock

adopted a 20 year plan of action. A lot of work is needed to deal with water and air quality problems.

**Transportation** - The board has adopted a 4-year plan. We cannot solve congestion, but it's important to provide choices (rail to Tysons, HOT lanes, telework, etc.) By the end of this year, 20% of county employees will be teleworking (defined as one day a week) which cuts down on the amount of cars on the road as well as pollution.

**Taxes** - Property taxes are the only tax in Virginia that's controlled by the locality; all others are set by the state. This tax provides 60% of the county budget. The board would like to diversify the revenue sources more; for example, by adding a meals tax. We have added a tax on hotel rooms, increased the tax on cigarettes, and slightly increased the recordation tax; this money will be used to decrease the property tax rate. The board is also trying to get more money from the state government.

In response to questions from the audience of about 25 people, he said:

There is not enough room in the center of the beltway to put Metro rail there.

The biggest demand for Metro is for rail to Dulles.

The other priority is out Rt. 66 to Centreville, but there are problems with financing and with where to put the stations. (There is not enough commercial business there to have a special tax district, as was done for the first phase of rail to Dulles.)

150,000 people commute to the Tysons area to work, but only 7,000 live there.

Sidewalks are being added where possible, such as wherever roads are

remodeled. A map of where sidewalks are missing has been made.

The county does not have the authority to regulate excessive idling of private cars.

It is difficult to get state permission for strong environmental measures.

Since the McLean Commons has been sold to a new owner, he thinks the nomination put in by the previous owner is null and void. The new owner will probably have the opportunity to put in a new nomination if they desire. The proposed development would have produced intolerable levels of traffic.

Re. Covanta Fairfax, Inc., the Energy Resource Recovery Facility on Route I-95, the contract calls for providing a minimum amount of trash to the facility. That has become difficult because recycling has increased and because some trash haulers bypass the facility in favor of places with more lenient environmental rules. However, we do have a long-term contract with D.C. to burn their trash.

There will be a task force to update the Tysons Plan, which was written in 1994, in light of the planned Metro extension.

Germaine Broussard has heard that Safeway will start the development they planned before the Dweck proposal; she is waiting for confirmation. ■

**NEXT MEETINGS:**  
**7:30 pm Tuesdays,**  
**May 3 and June 7**  
**Pimmit Hills School**

**ARADA SUWANDEE GRANTZ**  
*Your Neighborhood Specialist  
 and Resident!!*

Are you thinking about buying or selling a home? Do you have questions about your home's current value or a real estate related issue?

Contact Arada Suwandee Grantz, not only Pimmit Hill's & Olney Park's neighborhood specialist but also your neighbor!

If you've enjoyed my Pimmit Hills & Olney Park Quarterly Market Report but would also like to receive monthly reports with detailed information about each home sold in our neighborhoods, please email me at [arada@weichert.com](mailto:arada@weichert.com) with the subject line "Market e-Report". Your email will be added to my monthly Market e-Report list.

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**Arada S. Grantz**

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 703-556-0422 (FAX)  
[arada@weichert.com](mailto:arada@weichert.com)



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**ARADA SUWANDEE GRANTZ**

703-863-8842 (DIRECT) 703-556-0422 (FAX)

**ARADA@WEICHERT.COM**



**Adopt-A-Pet**



Adopt a needy dog or cat in the animal shelter and the love you'll receive will last a lifetime. To adopt pets, visit the Fairfax County Animal Shelter during the following hours:  
 Tuesday through Friday 10 am-5 pm  
 Saturday 10 am-4 pm



To see some of the animals available for adoption, watch "Adopt-A-Pet" on Fairfax County Government Cable Channel 16:  
 Sun/Mon/Wed/Fri: 2:30 pm  
 Tues: 10:30 pm  
 Thurs: 8:30 pm  
 Sat: 6:30 pm



**Neighborhood COMPLAINTS**

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, please call the phone number listed below. You will need to provide your name, address, phone number, and the best time to contact you, but your name is kept confidential. YOU have to be the one to call, not PHCA.

<b>PROBLEM:</b>	<b>CALL:</b>
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 1/2 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

# Dispatch Classifieds

**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.

**AVON**—Avon representative and recruiter: Dozens of beauty and wellness products to choose from. Call for a brochure. Recruiting anyone interested in starting their own home based business. Call Sonia at 703-893-5028 or 703-655-2402.

**CARPET AND 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**—Is your computer sick? Sluggish or crashing? You need the Computer Doc! Will go to your home: Diagnosis and repair, virus/spyware cleaning, upgrades, advice on new purchases, general questions. 10 years experience, reasonable rates. Call Moses, 703-901-5969.

**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..

**FOR SALE**—Exercise Equipment for Sale: DP Treadmill, Multi-Function Weight Bench and Stationary Bike. \$30.00 each. If you buy all three pay only \$75.00!! A great deal!! Call 703-893-7944.

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

**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](http://www.PimmitHills.org) and read entries on our website and/or in the *Dispatch*.

**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](http://www.novahandyman.com).

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

**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.

**YOUR AD HERE**—Only \$10 per month with a 40 word maximum. Easy way to get the word out to 1,642 Pimmit Hills homes! Go to our [www.PimmitHills.org](http://www.PimmitHills.org) website for easy way to send in your ad.



# April Town Meeting Notes

By PHCA Secretary Sarah Rock

**Here is what happened at the April 2005 PHCA Meeting:**

**Treasurer's Report:** Absent  
**Dispatch Report:** The May/June *Dispatch* will be Cindy's last issue as editor as she needs a break after producing the newspaper for six years. It will also be the last issue of the *Dispatch* unless a new editor steps forward!

**Director's Report:** Absent  
**2<sup>nd</sup> VP's Report:** Pimmit Watershed Cleanup for April 2 was rescheduled to April 9 due to rain. Land on the side of Pimmit Run opposite Pimmit Hills was slated for development, but the most recent proposal was rejected by the county.

There will be a Middle Potomac Watersheds Community Forum at Longfellow Middle School on April 16 from 12:30 to 4:30. Come learn how you can help improve the Pimmit Run watershed.

**1<sup>st</sup> VP's Report:** Officers for 2005-2006 PHCA Board are needed. Please contact a current officer if you are interested in lending a hand for one year.

**President's Report:** The guest speaker for May 2005 meeting will be Pimmit Hills resident gardener Deanne Eversmeyer-Ellis.

Gene reported he has received several complaints about "McMansions" in Pimmit Hills on Griffith, Storm and Pimmit. Per Fairfax County these houses do not violate any zoning regulations. However, houses over two stories above ground (basements are excluded) do violate Pimmit Hills covenants.

**Old Business:** The group discussed the current Pimmit Hills covenants. What can residents do about the "McMansions" in our neighborhood? Residents can personally or join together

and file suit against the offenders for violating Pimmit Hills covenants.

There was a question about the McLean Commons redevelopment. A recent flyer from the county shows an active request to rezone the Commons property.

**April 2005 Guest Speaker – Rich Ellis**  
 PHCA Second Vice President Rich Ellis, who is also a contractor, spoke about remodeling, shared some advice and answered questions from the group. His talk was very interesting and lively discussions ensued. Here are some things he talked about:

Your contractor will be late, if he says a week expect a week and a half minimum.

Hire a local contractor if you can, but always get references! Many local contractors don't advertise but rely completely on word of mouth.

Don't overbuild, build what you need.

Hire a qualified architect. They will handle such things as energy calcula-

tions required by the county and make sure your new design meets current code requirements.

Don't build a house behind your house. It may be a cheap way to get square footage but will create problems down the road with water and drainage.

A quality design and build has higher resell value and will be worth more in the long run.

Our houses were built for 1950 standards and aren't energy efficient. If you remodel you will likely need to gut and re-insulate.

Most interior walls in PH houses are not load bearing, instead they use rudimentary trusses in the attic and a main beam under the house to carry the load. Due to this fact you could remove and rearrange interior walls without significant impact. ■

## NEXT PHCA MEETINGS:

**7:30 pm Tuesdays,  
 May 3 and June 7  
 Pimmit Hills School**

*Reality Remodeling*

**Wouldn't You Love to Remodel  
 Your Kitchen or Bathroom?**

*Don't Just Dream About it, Make YOUR Dream a Reality!*

**Call Kenny Shrader today at  
 703-506-4532  
 to discuss your remodeling needs**



**Top quality services and very competitive prices. Give your house a new look and more value!**

# Concrete Driveways & Walkways

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Pimmit Hills resident \* Free estimates



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Sluggish or crashing?  
Can't get on the internet?*

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- ☞ General questions/training
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- ☞ Reasonable rates

**Moses Lei**  
Computer Consulting  
703.901.5969  
mlei3@paradoxia.net



## REGULAR MOWING SERVICES

**\$29 OR LESS\***

**Service includes mowing, trimming & edging**

**\*Price based on 1/4 acre lot size  
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**Dependable Service**

**Other services we provide include:**

**Yard Cleanup, Bed Preparation and Mulching**

**Free Estimates**

**CLC**  
INC.

**CRAIG'S LAWN CARE, INC.**

LAWN CARE SERVICE SINCE 1985

**703-385-1641**

The results of the survey help the board budget services. Go door to door, send the survey via snail- or e-mail, or conduct it on your association's Web site.

**Facilitate neighborhood block parties.** Use your newsletter to encourage each neighborhood in your community association to have an annual block party. It is a great way to meet new neighbors and foster community spirit. One or two families can be the "Block Heads" that coordinate the time and date; determine the needs for salads, entrees, and desserts; provide a few portable tables; secure the road from traffic; open their homes for restrooms; and dispose of trash. Potluck with a dish that serves six to eight usually works well.

**Choose a signature shrub or tree and celebrate each Arbor Day.** Each Arbor Day, a community in Virginia plants a dozen crepe myrtles in a ceremony keyed to our environment with adults and children participating. The association negotiated a price with a landscape company to install a six-foot crepe myrtle in resident yards on request.

All of the above-mentioned activities are great in theory, but how do you really get residents involved? Here are some tips.

**Hook them from the get-go.** When new owners move in, send over a board or committee member to welcome them to the community. Find out a little about the new residents and their interests. Let them know about the community and how it works. Don't just bombard them with copies of your community's regulations. Follow-up with a phone call approximately four- to six-weeks later just to check in and see if the residents have any questions. This is also a great time to have them fill out a questionnaire to find out the activities in which they would participate. Ask those who give you new and exciting ideas if they want to help organize the activity.

**Create activities for new residents.** Create a Newcomers Club. Where new residents mingle each month with other new residents. Information is provided at each monthly meeting, with rotating subjects, to help indoctrinate the members into the area. Mostly it is a social opportunity for those with a common bond of being newcomers.

**Give away freebies.** Everyone likes to get something for nothing. Solicit a donation of goods, services, or the money to purchase give-a-ways for your next event. The sponsor will gain visibility within your community and you'll draw more people to the activity. When the residents do make it to the activity, they can mingle with each other and learn more about the association and its benefits.

**Send thank-you notes.** When someone volunteers—in any capacity—say thanks. Knowing that the board or manager appreciates their involvement goes a long way.

**Hold board office hours.** Have one or more members of the board available once every month to address residents' concerns or questions. With a five-member board, this is only about two nights out of the whole year for each board member. Publish the office hours and location—whether it is at the association's clubhouse or the board member's home itself. This openness counteracts the rumor that boards are not open to input. Have the association's governing documents, resolutions, and meeting minutes available just in case someone wants to see them. Again, this interaction shows residents that the board cares about the community and is open to new ideas.

**Look for a reason to celebrate.** Celebrate your association's success. Celebrate holidays—big and small, traditional and quirky. It's a great way to meet neighbors and get people enthusiastic about the community.

**Sponsor association participation in community-wide events.** Don't limit involvement to the boundaries of your association. Encourage resident participation in local organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club, the YMCA, or Rotary Club. Send local officials and organizations your association's newsletter and upcoming programs so that they know about your association—and that your residents are ready to participate in their events.

**Support community awareness in local politics.** Appoint a group of volunteers that are willing to rotate attendance at each local government meeting as liaisons for the association. The liaisons demonstrate your community's interest in governmental affairs, get early leads on issues, and report back to the board. The liaisons should also have direct relationships with the local government planning department for early warnings as well as feedback into the very important planning staff recommendation.

**Establish standing committees with meaningful responsibilities and clean charters.** If people have defined roles and responsibilities with a goal in sight, they're more apt to participate. ■

For more on Community Associations, see Community Associations Institute (CAIonline.org)

Washington Metropolitan Chapter of Community Associations Institute (CAIDC.org)

Fairfax Federation of Community Associations (FairfaxFederation.org)



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financial support to public and private school booster clubs, a humanitarian medical center, and an environmental monitoring group. In addition, the clubs in the neighborhood sponsor a charity of choice. The Craft Club makes booties, hats, and blankets for the hospital and nursing homes. The nature club, Trailblazers, support environmental monitoring and education in a critical wetland habitat. The Theater Club performs for the nursing homes. The Garden Club collects an extra dollar per person at the monthly luncheons for donations

**Recognize children.** Use your newsletter to note worthy accomplishments in academics and athletics for the teenagers in your community. Coordinate with high schools and your neighborhood parents to get a list of national honor students, first honor students, varsity athletes, and other special honors.

**Sponsor a safety seminar.** Coordinate a safety seminar with Emergency Services to educate parents and grandparents on child safety seats and other issues such as bicycle safety, Ident-a-Child, medical and medicine alert folders for 911 EMS responses to your home, and Neighborhood Watch.

**Promote health and well-being.** Use your community center to host a blood drive and/or blood pressure and cholesterol screening. Call your hospital for area coordinators and services. Provide lemonade and cookies as snacks. This is also a great time to pass out a resident survey or just meet residents and gauge their needs.

**Schedule a poolside movie night.** On Friday nights, the aquatic center at an association in Texas, is turned into a movie theater where people can relax on a lounge chair or float on a raft while watching a movie. [PH NOTE: We don't have a pool, but lots of open land to do this]

**Conduct a resident survey.** Conduct a survey of membership opinions on service and issues facing the community.



TYSONS-PIMMIT  
REGIONAL LIBRARY  
NEWS

By Janice Kuch,  
Associate Branch  
Manager

Baseball enthusiasts have been waiting a long time for a Major League team to come back to our National Capital region - 34 years to be exact.

To share the excitement of the national pastime's return with children and teens, the Fairfax County Public Library has chosen baseball themes for our 2005 Summer Reading Program.

For kids from preschool ages through sixth grade, the theme is "Be A Major League Reader" and for seventh through twelfth graders, the theme is "Catch A Good Book."

The Summer Reading Program begins on Friday June 24 and ends on Saturday September 3. To receive the coupon booklet containing free and discounted prizes donated by area businesses, children in the "Be A Major League Reader" age group will choose and read any 15 books, then record those titles on their reading log.

Children may also count audio books they have listened to or books that parents have read aloud to them. Teens will read their choice of any 8 books (including audio) to complete the reading log and receive the coupon booklet.

To encourage students to read for pleasure during their summer vacation, librarians from Tysons Pimmit Regional

will be visiting local elementary and middle schools in early June to preview a wonderful variety of new books. Studies have shown that kids who read while school is out do better at maintaining reading comprehension levels.

Be sure to pick up a copy of the Summer Reading Program brochure in the Library. In addition to suggested book lists for every age group, it offers descriptions of all free programs, including puppet shows, storytellers and educational entertainers, which will be presented at the Fairfax County Public Library branches during June, July, and August. Registration for Library programs (by phone or in person) begins two weeks before the program date.

So please plan to bring your children and grandchildren to Tysons-Pimmit to join our team of Major League Readers as they Catch A Good Book!



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## Ways to Promote Community Spirit

To promote community spirit in your community, try one of these activities:

**Create a neighborhood assistance program.** An association in South Carolina established the Good Neighbor Connection. Residents volunteer to provide neighbors with all types of assistance and a monthly coordinator assigns volunteers to their respective jobs. Another association in Virginia, chartered Caring Neighbors under its Activities

Committee. These volunteers provide cards and personal calls, transportation for medical appointments and rides to the airport, meals for families with an illness or death in the family, loaner items for medical equipment such as canes and crutches, loaner items for grandparents with visiting grandchildren such as cribs and high chairs, handyman services for small jobs, and an extensive resource of those willing to discuss their

Community Associations Research Foundation,  
Community Associations Institute  
(caionline.org)

medical experiences with those facing these challenges. Volunteers coordinate each major service under an elected program director.

**Print a community T-shirt.** Print T-shirts with the community logo and sell them. Not only does this increase community spirit, but it also generates additional revenue for the association.

**Hold a clothing drive.** The board of Atrium in Arlington, VA, developed a program to support the work of the charitable organization, Unity Health Care. The organization put bins in Atrium's health club. Residents put items—both new and used—in these bins. Unity Health Care then distributes these items to other charitable organizations in the Washington, DC area.

**Build and install park benches along walking trails and ponds.** Find the craftsmen in your community and have them build community park benches with materials provided by the association. This saves money and is a great community spirit project both for the volunteers and the enjoyment of the residents.

**Discover ways in your community to support local charities and schools.** A measure of success and contentment can be evaluated in the level of dedication to giving back to the greater community. Sharing your time, talents, and financial resources as individuals, small groups, and as a corporate entity is a true reflection of community spirit. Examples of such efforts includes: collecting food at the community center each Thanksgiving for a local food bank and the Salvation Army; opening the community twice each year to a Walk/Run for Hospice and Housing Partnerships with corporate sponsors; sponsoring golf tournaments to support local schools and charities; and contributing direct



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## PH Covenants Clarification

By George d'Angelo, Howard Court

### STATUS

I have not had a chance to do a search of cases involving Pimmit Hills, if any. My understanding is that no legislation was passed to revoke the covenants. I doubt that a court knocked them out. That usually happens in cases where public policy or law are being violated. I think we are to assume that the covenants are in effect and will remain so.

### RELEVANCE OF THE COVENANTS

When Pimmit Hills was created, it was more than a series of real estate transactions. The grantors of the properties (the developers) created a subdivision by subjecting all deeds to certain standards and restrictions and thus creating a relationship between the properties of the subdivision, separate and apart from the relationship that each property has with the county. Without the covenants our subdivision would be no more than a piece of land in Fairfax County, a hard place of deals and wild speculations.

Pimmit Hills is currently zoned as R-4 which essentially means that it is a residential area where no more than 4 single family houses per acre can be built. But Fairfax county law provides that if you own a certain size lot (I believe the current size is 10 contiguous acres but that could change downwards) you can apply for rezoning. In some cases, through negotiations you can rezone with less than the prescribed minimum. That happened for example with the Goat Farm, the new development on Gallows Road and Idylwood.

At this time there are some investors who already own dozens of Pimmit Hills properties. The day they accumulate enough contiguous acreage, in the absence of covenants, they could take a

chunk of our neighborhood and in the blink of an eye wipe it all out to make room for some apartment building or "luxury" townhomes. If you ever wondered how your quality of life ranks on a developer's priority list just take a drive by the old Goat Farm and see what can happen to a piece of native Virginia forest in the wrong hands. As long as there is one resident of Pimmit Hills left, s/he could invoke the covenants to challenge rezoning and other similarly destructive ventures.

### AMENDMENTS

Personally, I tend to agree with those who think that some provisions of the covenants are out of date but consider the following. First of all, the idea of making certain standards permanent is to maintain the character and identity of the area. If you could change the rules at will then the covenants would be meaningless. The PH founding fathers understood that, which is why they required the consent of a majority of homeowners to amend the covenants.

Enforcement of the covenants is not automatic but left to the discretion of those who are affected by alleged violations. For example, in the case of someone erecting a back fence taller than 4 feet I suspect that a challenge would not be likely. But imagine a neighbor surrounding his property with a pink wall. In that case it's good to have a tool to stop that. Amendment of the covenants require over one half of property owners' consent. That means having a legal document signed and notarized by over 800 people and then recorded with the county. And that only to ELIMINATE restrictions. I don't think you can create new restrictions or modify old ones. The reason for that is that the original restrictions were placed in the deeds by the grantor and properties were taken by purchasers subject to the restrictions. You can't now impose new restrictions on those who do not agree to them. Bottom line: Count your blessings and leave well enough alone. ■

*George d'Angelo is a lawyer*

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**\$300M Buys Two Northern VA Apartment Communities**

*By Barbra Murray, GlobeSt.com*

Two Northern Virginia apartment communities totaling more than 1,000 units, Park Center Apartments in Alexandria and the Commons of McLean in the Tysons Corner submarket of McLean, have found a new owner in Monument Realty. The locally based real estate concern doled out a total of \$300 million to add the two properties to its growing portfolio. Changes are in store

for both sites. Monument purchased Park Center, a 574-unit complex of three 15-story high-rise and two four-story garden-style structures, from Park Center Apartments LLC for \$130 million. The seller was represented by Transwestern Commercial Services. Situated on a 10.5-acre plot of land directly off Interstate 395 and King Street, the apartments feature a three-level parking facility, as well as a fitness

center, community center, game room, business center, a deli and convenience store. Development of the property, which carries a current assessed value of \$108 million, was completed in 1979. Monument secured financing for the acquisition from Lehman Brothers and plans an upgrade to the property that holds a slight bit of irony; the company will convert Park Center Apartments to a condominium development, which is the condition in which the property started out in the 1970s. "[We view Park Center] as a great opportunity to target a segment of the market that is largely underserved by providing a first-class product at prices substantially less than those offered on projects with new construction," says Jeff Neal, Monument co-founder and principal.

Monument acquired the Commons at McLean in a \$163.8-million deal. The 577-unit complex, which consists solely of garden-style structures, occupies 33 acres. It was completed in 1973 and was financed for Monument's acquisition through Lehman Brothers. Amenities include a business center, swimming pool, basketball and volleyball courts, and a Safeway grocery store. Transwestern also represented the sellers—Commons Investors LLC, Circle Commons LLC and Park Center Commons LLC—in this transaction.

Monument hopes to develop the excess acreage to create a mixed-use community. Such a plan requires the approval of Fairfax County officials. "Our interest in the Commons of McLean was based on basic real estate fundamentals: an opportunity to acquire 33 acres of land adjacent to a future Metro." ■

For more information about Monument Realty, go to monumentrealty.com.

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*The Humane Society of Fairfax County depends upon the proceeds of our two thrift stores to assist with the substantial and ever-increasing costs of medical care for our rescued animals. Additionally, this funding helps support the general feeding and care of the animals while they await their new loving families. When you are in the mood for spring cleaning or if you have occasion to go through that attic or storage room, please keep us in mind and donate your wares.* Household items, toys, books and [clean] clothing that can be sold without repair are greatly appreciated. And when you drop off your donations, take a moment to browse the thrift store for fine collectibles, antiques, or other treasures. The HSFC truck is available for large item pickup when arrangements are made in advance, Please call 703-385-7387 for information or to schedule a pickup. *We hope to see you at one of our shops!*

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## Dig With C.A.R.E. Keep Virginia Safe!

*By Frank Hudik*

*Virginia's Underground Utility Damage Prevention Education and Awareness Program*

What outdoor projects have you planned for the spring? Do any of them involve digging or demolishing? If they do, please, take a moment to consider that underground utility lines may be located in your project area.

The underground utility lines (pipes, cables, etc.) provide service such as electricity, gas, water, sewer, telephone and cable television to your community.

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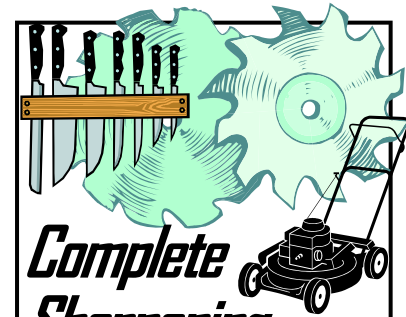
Additionally, persons responsible for damage to these lines may be further burdened with liability claims, punitive fines and civil penalties.

Damage prevention is a serious matter and a responsibility shared by all of us. Fortunately for the citizens of Virginia, a nationally recognized damage prevention program has been at work for more than 10 years.

Through a partnership between underground utility operators, professional excavators, local municipalities, Miss Utility of Virginia, and the State Corporation Commission a statewide education and outreach program has been designed to encourage safe digging practices all across our Commonwealth.

Additionally, educational literature, and trained professionals are available to answer you questions. You can even arrange for a damage prevention seminar or courtesy visit to your community or home. These services are free.

For more information on Virginia's damage prevention program contact the Virginia Sate Corporation Commission, Division of Utility and Railroad Safety at 804-371-9983 or [vadamageprevention@scc.virginia.com](mailto:vadamageprevention@scc.virginia.com). Please remember, Dig With C.A.R.E. Keep Virginia Safe!■



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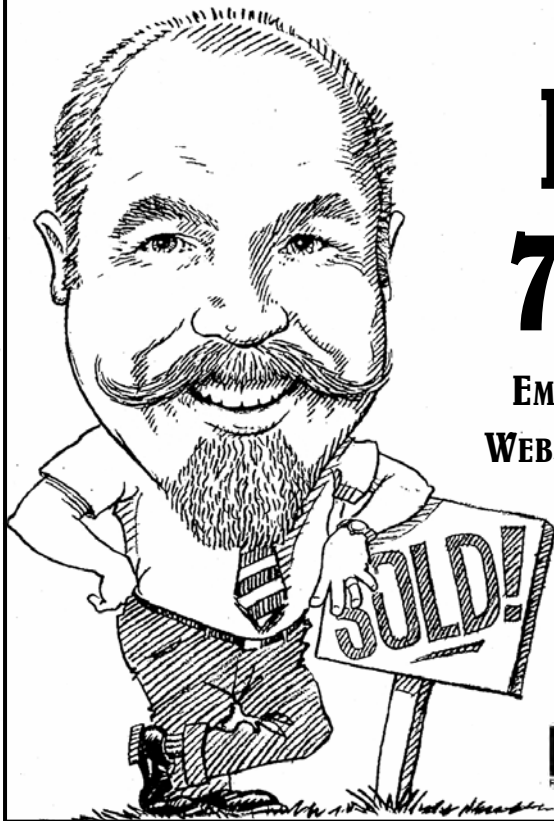
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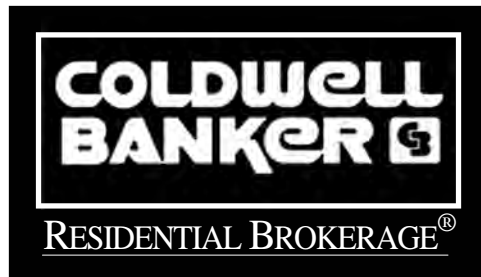
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## Pimmit Pooches

*By Sanya Weathers, Pimmit Drive*

Our vicious attack beagle is under the chair as I type these words. She's twenty three pounds of terror - death on four paws, I tell you. If someone broke into the house, she'd try to lick him to death. If that strategy failed, she'd do what she does whenever I'm trying to carry something heavy - she'd get right underfoot and stand there like a dummy until he tripped and hit the floor.

Then she'd return to the licking maneuver. My husband and I sure do sleep better at night, knowing our faithful dog is right there by the bathroom door snoring.

I'm (mostly) joking; we love the spoiled beast. This is a great neighborhood for dogs, and she licks our ankles every day in appreciation for her big yard, incredible parks, and dozens of new friends - both two legged and four.

Want to join us out and about in the fresh air with our furry friends? Thinking about joining the leash brigade? Here's what the law has to say about dogs in Pimmit Hills:

Clean up after the dog, especially when you're out of your own yard on a walk. The neighborhood is chock full of kids, animals, and other life forms running barefoot in three out of four seasons. No one wants to step in a "gift" left behind by a dog! There are lots of ways to handle this smelly situation. I'm the squeamish woman carrying the giant spring loaded plastic contraption, but your neighbors also use plastic bags,

paper towels, or advertising mailers. (County Code Section 41-1-2, Section 41-2-6)

If you leave your property with the dog, he's got to be on a leash and under the control of a responsible human. You don't want your sweet puppy to be hit by a car, or get so excited about a cat, a rabbit, or a squirrel that he runs away.



Some dogs also get excited by joggers, small children, or in the case of our beagle, garbage trucks. (No, I don't understand it either.) Better to have a short leash and a safe dog! (County Code Section 41-2-4)

The dogs can't drive to the government center down in Fairfax, so it's up to us to make sure the dogs have licenses. This is just the county's way of making sure our pets have had their rabies shots. The shots protect our puppies in the

event of wild animal bites, and that in turn protects us, our neighbors, and our children. The little license tag has to be on the dog's collar whenever he goes for a stroll out of his own yard. (County Code Section 41-2-1, 41-2-2, and 41-2-3)

Dogs sometimes bark at invisible things. Sometimes they hear ambulances and they've just got to "sing" along. And of course, they're very territorial, and a dog in a yard sure does hate to see another dog walking by! You'll find your neighbors are very understanding, but it's against the law to let your dog bark "frequently and habitually." Take it from me, a dog that's been barking for more than ten minutes isn't going to stop, so you might as well let her back inside. I humbly apologize to everyone within two blocks of me in September 2003. (County Code Section 41-1-2, Section 108-5-2)

One final thing that's not in any law book: Your dog needs a tag with his name and your address or phone number, no matter how careful you are. Believe me, it only takes a few seconds to leave a gate unlatched or a backdoor open, and most dogs love adventures. That tiny scrap of metal (and most pet stores have a machine to engrave the information on the spot) is the difference between a night spent lying awake worrying and a night spent . . . well, lying awake because the dog's snoring again.

We'll see you on the sidewalks! ■

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## Area School Events

### Pimmit Hills High School

- May 16-27: SOL Testing
- May 23-27: Reading Week
- May 30: Memorial Day Holiday
- June 3 & 6: Student/Teacher Holidays
- June 22: Pimmit Hills Graduation at 7:00 pm at Marshall High School
- June 27: Summer School classes begin

### Lemon Road Elementary

- May 2-6: Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week
- May 4: K/1 Play - "Stone Soup", 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm
- May 10: PTA Meeting, 7:00 pm, "Raising and Enthusiastic Reader"
- May 18: Book Fair, 6:30 - 8:00 pm
- June 13-17: Artists and Authors Week
- June 14: Flag Day Celebration
- June 14: PTA Meeting, 7:00 pm

### Westgate Elementary

- May 10: Kindergarten Orientation, 9:00 am
- May 17-26: SOL Testing
- May 30: Memorial Day Holiday
- June 2: Field Day
- June 3: Student Holiday
- June 6: Student Holiday
- June 13: Rope Climbing contest, 9:00 am
- June 14: Band and Strings concert, 9:00 am
- June 17: Talent Show, Time TBA
- June 24: Last Day of School, Dismissal Time TBA



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- Leaf Removal
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# Proposed Reorganization of the Pimmit Hills Citizens Association

The Pimmit Hills Citizens Association (PHCA) has basically operated the same way for 50 years but our world in 2005 is a lot different than 1950. We need to acknowledge the reality of the 21st century and the way people live in today's world. Generally we are all too busy, both spouses work, we work late, spend hours fighting traffic congestion, often exhausted coming home from work, have too many busy kid activities, must maintain our houses and yards in our rare free time, etc. We don't live in a slower "Andy Griffith" world anymore.

This year PHCA had excellent guest speakers at our monthly meetings who were extremely informative on important local issues that affect us. US Congressman Jim Moran, our Supervisor Joan DuBois, the Fairfax County Chairman Gerry Connolly, and a representative from Fairfax County Zoning (not to mention our own 2nd VP Rich Ellis talking about remodeling), all gave excellent, interesting talks. Unfortunately, the attendance at these meetings were not what these speakers deserved.

We understand people are busy and don't always have time to come to the meetings. We also understand our community has become richly multicultural. So we think it might time for a change in the way PHCA operates to make it more relevant, more efficient and more adaptable to our busy world. Here are our "out-of-the-box" ideas and plans. We welcome you to add to them:

## MEETINGS

We propose that PHCA Town Meetings should only meet twice a year on a Saturday in April and in October on the lawn of the PHCA house on Pimmit Drive. We'll have a cookout/potluck and a special speaker. Afterwards, we'll have ice cream. Vendors are invited to promote themselves and you can bring a

table to sell things. Raindate is the next day.

## EVENTS

Various PHCA events will take the place of regular meetings: our popular and useful Clean-Up Day, Community Yard Sales, Clothing Drive, Community Flea Market, Wine Tasting Fundraiser, and other ideas for community events you may have.

## PH DISPATCH

We would love to continue publishing the *Dispatch*, but no one has come forward to take over what has been a very time-intensive one-person volunteer job.

We propose the *Dispatch* will consist of a flyer mailed out to citizens when needed to let them know of community events. Postcards may also be sent occasionally. The ads in the present form of the *Dispatch*, while great and useful, don't actually earn revenue for PHCA, they simply pay for only *part* of the cost of printing and mailing the newspaper.

Note: If someone is interested in coming forward to do the desktop publishing, advertising and collecting/writing articles necessary to volunteer to produce the *Dispatch*, we would love to continue publishing the paper every two months.

## WEBSITE

The 21st century reality is that we will now depend more on the website and email to post community events, reports, news, articles etc. It will be the primary communication vehicle in the community and we will build up our citizens email list so people can be kept informed of things immediately. For those without computers, as Gene Lesser says, go to Tysons-Pimmit Library.

## DIRECTORY

No directory will be published but the membership information will be collected for the board members to use to contact people and to verify people are paid members to participate at events like Clean-Up Day. In this day of privacy concerns, many did not wish to be listed in the directory. We also were not able to gather the address/telephone of every PH citizen. Did you know that information for the directories in the past were gathered by combing the phone book? Phone books today are way too big to do this, plus so many have unlisted numbers. There are also frequent moves in and out of the neighborhood, and many renters. The directory would not be complete therefore not useful, and plus it is a very time-intensive job to create the directory. Again, we live in 2005, not 1955.

## PHCA BOARD OFFICERS

The PHCA Board will change. The positions of Second Vice President, Three-Year Director and Past President would be eliminated (there is really no current purpose for these positions). The President's position will be to lead and direct (i.e., the vision thing). The First Vice President title will change to just Vice President and will serve as the backup to the President. The Secretary will take notes of what decisions were made at board meetings. The Treasurer will keep track of all funds coming into PHCA and write checks but not handle membership.

The Board will expand to include officers and team leaders. Board members will have occasional dinner meetings at someone's house to discuss plans and events, approve expenditures, etc. New board members will include:

**Membership Director:** Leads a team of people to come up with ways to in-

crease membership, creates and delivers welcome to the neighborhood packets, recommend amount of annual dues for houses (not per person), ideas for membership benefits, communicates with members on behalf of the board, tabulates votes we'll send out to members, etc.

**Environment Coordinator:** Works with Fairfax Trail & Streams to clean-up our parks, create the Pimmit Run Trail, enhance our existing park trails, fix (with help of Fairfax County or not) playground equipment, hold community nature walks, garden club, etc.

**Events Coordinator:** Lead a team of people organizing and staffing community events; gets special speakers for two town meetings, comes up with fundraising ideas, etc.

**Community Service Coordinator/Ombudsman:** Point person to handle complaints/concerns in neighborhood and works with Fairfax County Zoning to get them taken care of. Also has different teams of people focused on various community issues like organizing a Christmas in April for a needy PH homeowner and other community services that citizens want to do.

**Animal Welfare Coordinator:** Interesting in creating a dog park in PH? Getting feral cats neutered to curb the feral population? This person leads a team of people who love animals.

**Communications Coordinator:** Gets the word out to everyone on what is happening in the community via website, flyers, postcards, email, etc.

**Neighborhood Watch/Community Safety Coordinator:** Leads team helping to make our community safe, liaisons with Fairfax County Police, reports on incidents.

**Pimmit Hills Representative to MCA:** Attends McLean Citizens Association meetings and reports back on issues.

MCA is a powerhouse in the County and we would like to help with its mission.

**Pimmit Hills Representative to the Fairfax Federation of Community Associations:** Attends meetings and reports back on issues.

**Flea Market Manager:** Yes, we think it would be fun to have a monthly flea market at the PHCA house, but does anyone know how to start one? This person leads team of people organizing a monthly PH Flea Market, raises funds for PHCA by selling space to vendors, advertises for vendors (this includes PH citizens wanting to sell stuff).

**Are there any other positions you can think of?** If a PH citizen comes up with a new idea they would like the PHCA to pursue and fund, they can bring it to the appropriate board member or if there is no appropriate person, we may create a new position.

We will actively solicit people's ideas on what they would like to do in the community and help them/advertise the initiative/fund the initiative if appropriate. If no one volunteers for a position, it goes vacant until some comes along to fill it.

The board members (officers and team leaders) will occasionally meet for dinner to discuss plans, ideas and decisions, such as how PHCA funds will be used to support the different initiatives of these teams. If any funding is over \$500, board members will notify *paid* members that there is an official vote on the funding on our website, Pimmit-Hills.org.

Only paid members will be able to vote. Because of the tendency for people to ignore or not care about voting, PHCA will go on the basis that if citizens don't respond, we'll take it as approval of our decision. The discussions and decisions made at the board meetings will be posted on the website after the

board meets. Essentially, this means that if someone wants a hand in a community decision, they should become an officer or team leader.

To enable more people to become involved and give a limit to how much they have to serve so they're more inclined to help out if it's only for a short time, board members (officers and team leaders) will only serve one year (or two) in a position. Hopefully team leaders will have recruited enough people for their team for someone on that team to volunteer to lead for a year. No elections will be held unless we are lucky enough to have two people vying for the same position. If someone comes forward willing to serve in a board member position, they're hired!

Soooooo: PHCA becomes an organization focused on community events/service and helping citizens fund community initiatives. Only two big meetings/cookouts a year at the PHCA house; *Dispatch* is just that—a flyer notifying of events when needed (unless someone volunteers to be the editor of the present *Dispatch*); if you want a voice in the community and to make a decision then become a board member on our expanded board; each member recruits a team to help with their particular mission; term limits on serving; website/email will be the primary form of communication in the community.

What do you think? Are there any areas you would like to help out with? We will be discussing these changes at the June PHCA meeting on Tuesday, June 7 at 7:30 pm at the Pimmit Hills School on Lisle Avenue.

Also, stay tuned to our community website, Pimmit-Hills.org for updated information.■