

LEGALS

David C. Hartly
8843 Greenbelt Road
Unit 125
Greenbelt, MD 20770
443-858-1335

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS**

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF
DAPHNE WHEELER

Notice is given that Karen Wheeler, whose address is 301 Dey Street, Apt 311, Harrison, NJ 07029, was on May 7, 2020 appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Daphne Wheeler, who died on February 27, 2020 without a will.

Further information can be obtained by reviewing the estate file in the office of the Register of Wills or by contacting the personal representative or the attorney.

All persons having any objection to the appointment (or to the probate of the decedent's will) shall file their objections with the Register of Wills on or before the 7th day of November, 2020.

Any person having a claim against the decedent must present the claim to the undersigned personal representative or file it with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before the earlier of the following dates:

(1) Six months from the date of the decedent's death, except if the decedent died before October 1, 1992, nine months from the date of the decedent's death; or

(2) Two months after the personal representative mails or otherwise delivers to the creditor a copy of this published notice or other written notice, notifying the creditor that the claim will be barred unless the creditor presents the claims within two months from the mailing or other delivery of the notice.

A claim not presented or filed on or before that date, or any extension provided by law, is unenforceable thereafter. Claim forms may be obtained from the Register of Wills.

KAREN WHEELER
Personal Representative

CERETA A. LEE
REGISTER OF WILLS FOR
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
P.O. Box 1729
UPPER MARLBORO, MD 20773-1729

Estate No. 116765
137704 (7-16,7-23,7-30)

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS**

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF
CHARLES SEINO

Notice is given that Joyce A Aseichek, whose address is 6509 96th Avenue, Lanham, MD 20706, was on July 9, 2020 appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Charles Seino, who died on February 11, 2020 without a will.

Further information can be obtained by reviewing the estate file in the office of the Register of Wills or by contacting the personal representative or the attorney.

All persons having any objection to the appointment shall file their objections with the Register of Wills on or before the 9th day of January, 2021.

Any person having a claim against the decedent must present the claim to the undersigned personal representative or file it with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before the earlier of the following dates:

(1) Six months from the date of the decedent's death, except if the decedent died before October 1, 1992, nine months from the date of the decedent's death; or

(2) Two months after the personal representative mails or otherwise delivers to the creditor a copy of this published notice or other written notice, notifying the creditor that the claim will be barred unless the creditor presents the claims within two months from the mailing or other delivery of the notice.

A claim not presented or filed on or before that date, or any extension provided by law, is unenforceable thereafter. Claim forms may be obtained from the Register of Wills.

JOYCE A ASEICHEK
Personal Representative

CERETA A. LEE
REGISTER OF WILLS FOR
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
P.O. Box 1729
UPPER MARLBORO, MD 20773-1729

Estate No. 116449
137722 (7-23,7-30,8-6)

LEGALS

The following vehicle(s) have been taken into custody by the Revenue Authority of Prince George's County Abandon Vehicle Unit for violation of County Code Section 26-162: Abandoned vehicles prohibited.

The owner(s) of said vehicle(s) have right to reclaim the vehicle within twenty-one (21) days after the date of notice upon payment of all parking violations and tow / storage charges. The owner(s) have the right to contest the validity of the towing and storage of said vehicle(s) at any time within twenty-one (21) days of such notice by filing a request for hearing with the Revenue Authority of Prince George's County.

Failure to reclaim said vehicle(s) within twenty-one (21) days of such notice waives the owner(s) right of title and interest in the vehicle and is consent of sale / salvage at public auction or salvage facility.

You must reclaim these vehicles by: **08/15/2020**

Please contact the Revenue Authority of Prince George's County at: 301-685-5358.

CHARLEY'S CRANE SERVICE
8913 OLD ARDMORE RD
LANDOVER, MD 207850
Phone: 301-773-7670

2006 BMW	325I	WBABV13506KX50263
2008 CHEVEROLET	IMPALA DC DN5716	2G1WT58K689241804

JD TOWING
2817 RITCHIE ROAD
FORESTVILLE MD 20747
301-967-0739

2006 BMW	325I	IN4AL3AP5DN502543
2008 CHEVEROLET	IMPALA	2D4FV48T55H514028
2013 NISSAN	ALTIMA	5NPD84LF5HH031552
2005 DODGE	MAGNUM	4JGAB57E64A465116
2017 HYUNDAI	ELANTRA	1FTDS3EL9BDA36751
2004 MERCEDES BENZ	ML 350	2T1BR18E0WC087563
2011 FORD	E350 MD 1CY7278	5NPDH4AE1GH702966
1998 TOYOTA	COROLLA	5N1AN08W95C633743
2016 HYUNDAI	ELANTRA	KL5JD56Z05K119907
2005 NISSAN	XTERRA	3GNFK16R2XG153878

137731 (7-30)

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF CHEVERLY, MD**

**CHARTER AMENDMENT TO
ALLOW NON-CITIZENS TO
VOTE IN TOWN ELECTIONS**

Pursuant to Maryland Code, § 4-304 of the Local Government Article, there will be a public hearing on a proposed amendment to the Town of Cheverly, Maryland's Charter to permit residents who are not citizens to vote in Town elections provided they are otherwise qualified.

A virtual Public Hearing is scheduled to be held at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, August 27, 2020. Those wishing to submit testimony / comments for the public hearing can email them to townclerk@cheverly-md.gov. Deadline for submittal of testimony / comments is 5:00 p.m., Thursday, August 27, 2020.

Residents may view meetings on Verizon channel 35 or Comcast channel 71.

137730 (7-30)

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**NOTICE OF INTENT TO DISPOSE OF
IMPOUNDED VEHICLES**

The motor vehicle(s) below have been impounded by Fastlane Towing for violation of the County ordinance prohibiting unauthorized parking on private property and remains unclaimed as of the date of this notice.

The owner(s) / lien holder(s) are hereby informed of their right to reclaim vehicle(s) upon payment of all charges and costs resulting from towing, preservation and storage. Pursuant to Sec. 26.142.10, vehicle owner has the right to contest the validity of the tow within (21) days of the date of this notice by requesting a hearing with the Director.

Failure by owner(s) / lien holder(s) to reclaim vehicle(s) within 21 days of the date of this notice shall be deemed a waiver of all rights, title, and interest thereby consenting to the disposal of said vehicle.

To reclaim your vehicle, please call (571) 991-4220.

The following vehicles are located at 4110 Suit Road, Lot 15, District Heights, MD 20747 or 14610 B Old Gunpowder Road, Laurel, MD 20707

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	VIN
1999	Ford	F150	1FTRX17W1XNA72132
2002	Chevrolet	Monte Carlo	2G1WX15K129319799
1991	Dodge	Dakota	1B7FL23X4MS291294

137728 (7-30)

**City of Seat Pleasant
Notice of Annexation Resolution and Annexation Plan**

The City Council of Seat Pleasant has introduced a Resolution to Annex certain land described as: Central Avenue between the Capital Beltway US 95 and the District of Columbia line consisting of approximately 41.7 acres consisting primarily of Central Avenue and more accurately described in the Description and Exhibits of the Resolution.

Said Resolution and Plan were introduced before the City Council on July 13th, 2020 and are available for review at the City Administrative Building.

The public hearing on the Resolution shall be held September 8, 2020 via Zoom Video Meeting at 7:00 p.m. Submitted by Chief Operating Officer, Devan Martin.

137709 (7-16,7-23,7-30,8-6)

LEGALS

**NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARING
THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL, SITTING AS THE
DISTRICT COUNCIL,**

AND

**THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PLANNING BOARD OF
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING
COMMISSION**

WILL HOLD A

JOINT PUBLIC HEARING

**ON THE PROPOSED MINOR AMENDMENT TO THE
2014 SOUTHERN GREEN LINE STATION AREA SECTOR PLAN
AND
SECTIONAL MAP AMENDMENT—D-D-O ZONE**

Pursuant to provisions of the Land Use Article of the Maryland Annotated Code, as well as Subtitle 27 of the Prince George's County Code, the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland, sitting as the District Council, and the Prince George's County Planning Board of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission hereby give notice of a joint public hearing in order to receive public testimony concerning the proposed Minor Amendment to the 2014 Southern Green Line Station Area Sector Plan and Sectional Map Amendment D-D-O Zone, to permit 'Nail Salon' and 'Beauty Supply & Accessories Store' uses with the Southern Green Line Station Area Development District Table of Uses Permitted, as approved within the 2014 Southern Green Line Station Area Sector Plan and Sectional Map Amendment.

To view the Council Resolution (CR-083-2020) initiating the minor amendment and related materials, please visit the Legislative Branch website:

<https://princegeorgescountymd.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=8677739&GUID=E5627692-A1B6-4543-A973-C225A2C7A86D>

PUBLIC HEARING DATE/TIME: Tuesday, September 15, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING LOCATION: Virtual Meeting
View using the link provided at: <https://pgccouncil.us/LIVE>

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC HEARING: To give interested persons the opportunity to give public comment concerning the foregoing minor amendment to the 2014 Southern Green Line Station Area Sector Plan and Sectional Map Amendment D-D-O Zone.

Please be advised that the proposed minor amendments to the 2014 Southern Green Line Station Area Sector Plan and Sectional Map Amendment Development District Overlay Zone involve potential zoning intensification for the uses of certain land within the sector plan area boundaries. Therefore, if you intend to provide testimony at the joint public hearing on the minor amendment and / or file a statement in the record of joint public hearing testimony, and your intent is to request or support adding 'Nail Salon' and 'Beauty Supply & Accessories Store' uses, you must complete and return an affidavit in accordance with the State Public Ethics law for Prince George's County, set forth in Sections 5-833 through 5-839, General Provisions Article, Annotated Code of Maryland. **The completed affidavit must be received by the Clerk of the Council prior to the close of business on Friday, August 14, 2020 in electronic format, rather than by U.S. mail.** Kindly submit completed affidavits to: Clerk of the County Council, County Administration Building, Room 2198, 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772.

In accordance with the provisions of the State Public Ethics Law, above, **failure to file an affidavit before the close of business on August 14, 2020, may delay or prohibit consideration of your testimony by the District Council.** Affidavit forms for Prince George's County are available on the project webpage listed above, or for download on the Maryland State Ethics Commission website at:

For individuals: <http://ethics.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/filebase/local-gov/local-gov-forms/PGNO1.pdf>

For entities: <http://ethics.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/filebase/local-gov/local-gov-forms/PGNO2.pdf>

Given the current state of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and under the Governor's "Proclamation and Declaration of State of Emergency and Existence of Catastrophic Health Emergency - COVID-19," as amended, and the Prince George's County State of Emergency Declaration, as amended, the County Council is operating under emergency procedures.

The Prince George's County Council will meet virtually until further notice; however, public testimony is encouraged. To register to speak or submit comments or written testimony, please use the Council's eComment portal at: <https://pgccouncil.us/Speak>. Please note, that written testimony, comments and affidavits will be accepted in electronic format, rather than by U.S. mail. For those unable to use the portal, comments / written correspondence and affidavits may be emailed to: clerkofthecouncil@co.pg.md.us or faxed to (301) 952-5178. Written comments may be submitted through the close of business on Wednesday, September 30, 2020, when the record of public hearing testimony will close.

Registration should be completed by 3:00 p.m. on the day BEFORE the meeting. Testimony and comments will not be accepted via social media or by telephone / voice mail message.

These policies are in effect until further notice. Any future changes to them will be communicated on the County Council website, County Council social media channels, via Alert Prince George's, and will be shared with the press via a press release.

**BY ORDER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL,
SITTING AS THE DISTRICT COUNCIL,
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND**
Todd M. Turner, Council Chair

ATTEST:
Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the County Council

**THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION**
By: Asuntha Chiang-Smith
Executive Director

ATTEST:
Joseph C. Zimmerman
Secretary-Treasurer

137732 (7-30)

**NOTICE
IN THE MATTER OF:
Rashid Karim Ahmad**

**FOR THE CHANGE OF
NAME TO:
Brian Keith Thomas**

**In the Circuit Court for
Prince George's County, Maryland
Case No. CAE 20-12311**

A petition has been filed to change the name of Rashid Karim Ahmad to Brian Keith Thomas.

The latest day by which an objection to the petition may be filed is August 17, 2020.

Mahasin El Amin
Clerk of the Circuit Court for
Prince George's County, Maryland
137726 (7-30)

**NOTICE
IN THE MATTER OF:
Madison Vanegas**

**FOR THE CHANGE OF
NAME TO:
Madison Vanegas Piedrahita**

**In the Circuit Court for
Prince George's County, Maryland
Case No. CAE 20-12306**

A petition has been filed to change the name of (Minor Child(ren)) Madison Vanegas to Madison Vanegas Piedrahita.

The latest day by which an objection to the petition may be filed is August 17, 2020.

Mahasin El Amin
Clerk of the Circuit Court for
Prince George's County, Maryland
137727 (7-30)

The Prince George's Post

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HOME AND GARDEN

It's Simple to Increase the Value of Your Home Quickly and Affordably With These Helpful Tips

(NAPSI)—When it comes to making your home more attractive to potential buyers, one of the most important considerations is right at your feet: the floor. According to Realtors and home inspectors, quality flooring is more likely to increase your home's value than the roof, windows, even room additions.

Fortunately, increasing the value of your home doesn't have to mean replacing your floors. The upside of flooring is that it can be one of the most valuable commodities in a house and one of the least expensive to maintain and improve. A few simple techniques suggested by the experts at the World Floor Covering Association (WFCA), that cost virtually nothing but your time, may help extend the life of your flooring:

Easy Care Advice on Hardwoods

- For natural flooring such as wood, never use ammonia cleaners or oil soaps. They will dull the finish and performance of the floor. These products will also affect the ability to recoat your floor at a future point in time.

- Since wood naturally expands when it's wet, never wet mop or use excessive water to clean a hardwood floor. Large amounts of water can make the wood swell and may cause planks or strips to crack or splinter. Be sure to wipe up any spills on hardwood promptly.

- Pets with long nails can cause dents and scratches on hardwood floors that are not covered by your warranty. Be sure to regularly trim your pet's claws to avoid damage.

Carpet Care

- You may not realize it, but carpet is the largest filter in a home. It filters soils, gases, allergens, spills and other pollu-



PHOTO SOURCE: NAPSI, CREDIT: US FLOORS CORETEC

Residential and industry experts agree that well-maintained floors add instant value to your home.

tants. With this in mind, vacuum it regularly.

- To avoid running into warranty issues with your carpet (and many other types of flooring), make sure you use cleaning products recommended by the floor's manufacturer.

Be Smart About Ceramics, Stone and Vinyl

- Try to clean up spills as quickly as possible on ceramic floors so the grout or tile doesn't become stained. Don't use bleach or ammonia-based cleaners, as these can discolor your grout. Don't clean glazed tile with oil-based cleaners. While ceramic tile is considered very durable, it's not indestructible

and may crack or chip under extreme force.

- With ceramic floors, after the installation process is complete and the grout has had ample time to cure, sealing the entire floor can provide protection from dirt and spills by slowing down the staining process.

- With vinyl floors, avoid using rubber-backed mats or rugs as they can damage and potentially discolor your floor. Instead, use mats or rugs made especially for vinyl floors.

- With stone floors, always blot spills immediately. A neutral-pH detergent or pure soap, such as Liquid Ivory and warm water, can be used for spills or periodic cleaning. Never use

lemon juice, vinegar, ammonia or other acids—or products that contain these fluids—on marble, limestone or travertine. Also avoid using scouring cleaning products or cleaners that contain abrasives on any stone as they will dull its luster.

Limit Sun Exposure

- Protect the finish of your laminate, hardwood, carpet and resilient floor from the harmful rays of direct sunlight by using window shades and closing drapes. It's also a good idea to periodically rotate rugs and furniture exposed to direct sunlight so your floors don't develop unwanted "tan lines" and discoloration.

When It's Time for New Flooring

Even the best care can't keep your floors at their best forever. If you're thinking of getting new flooring but are concerned about the possible cost, consider these two ideas:

1. You don't have to redo all your floors at once. Research shows that the first two areas of a home potential buyers look at are the kitchen and the bathroom. New floors there can make a powerful first impression.

2. It's a common myth that flooring needs to be expensive to add value. The truth is that kitchens can be patterned with inexpensive floor tiles for a customized effect. Similarly,

adding accent tiles in a bathroom can make it appear more finely detailed and attractive. If you do decide upgraded floors are in order, it's very likely your kitchen and bathrooms do not take up a lot of square footage, which means relatively small investments in actual flooring product. That translates into big impact for very little cost.

Expert Advice

"Money invested to upgrade replacement floor covering, particularly in kitchens and baths, prior to reselling a house can be expected to return substantially more than 100 percent of the cost of renovation," said Scott Humphrey, Chief Executive Officer, WFCA. "For example, if homeowners invest \$5,000 to replace worn-out floor coverings and then list their home on the market, they should factor in an extra \$10,000 to \$15,000 on the selling price. We've seen this time and time again for homes of all values in markets across the country."

What's more, for every \$1,000 spent on upgraded flooring and financed into the mortgage, the buyer's payment typically increases by less than \$10 a month. The new floors can usually be written off during the first few years of the mortgage.

Learn More

For further facts and tips on caring for all types of fine flooring, go to www.WFCA.org. There, you'll find an overview of each flooring category including the pros and cons, a product catalog, varieties and styles available, cleaning tips, things to consider before purchase and how to prepare for installation. There's also a searchable database of reputable WFCA retail members across the country.

Smart Ways to Keep Your New Home Safe

(NAPSI)—Home buyers rejoice—spring is here! Time to dig into the competitive real estate hunt and discover the home of your dreams.

ADT, the leading provider of home security and automation, works with new home owners throughout the year, and has shared a check-list to make sure your new home is both safe and smart.

Protect Your Investments

In the excitement of finally moving into your new home, two factors many new homeowners forget to consider are carbon monoxide and fire detectors. Be sure to work with a home security and automation provider who connects these monitored devices with your home security panel to get alerts when carbon monoxide levels increase or smoke occurs. Your family's safety shouldn't depend on just hearing and responding to an alarm; be sure to get 24/7 professional monitoring by real people.

Embrace Complete Home Automation

Wireless home automation systems have many benefits. Not only can you check in on your home from a remote location, you can manage everything from your home security: lights, locks and more. If you're an ADT Pulse customer, home automation is at your fingertips ... and your voice. The system is compatible with Amazon Alexa Skills, which make controlling your home's functionality simple and efficient, so you can focus on more



PHOTO SOURCE: NAPSI

It's wise to live in a smart home.

important things—such as how to furnish your new space.

Note Your New Territory

One of the easiest and most helpful items on your checklist should be to use identification stickers. Stickers for children's rooms and pets' favorite places can help first responders find your loved ones quickly, so everyone can be safe and secure in an emer-

gency. If you're an ADT customer, these stickers are available to you at no cost. Put them to good use on your new home so you're prepared in advance of any emergency.

Learn More

For further facts about your range of options from ADT, the leading provider of home security and automation, go to www.adt.com.

Assess Your Environmental Impact

(NAPSI)—Whether it's Earth Day or any other day, it can be a good time to ask just how "earth minded" your household is. Many of our daily activities such as driving a car, using electricity, or disposing of waste can cause greenhouse gas emissions, which in turn create a carbon footprint. The question is, what does that footprint look like for you?

By taking the new Think Earth online Environmental Survey, families can assess their environmental habits and get practical tips on how to conserve energy, save water, and reduce waste and pollution.

The free survey can be taken in just a few minutes on a computer, smartphone or tablet. Once it's completed, respon-

dents receive personalized recommendations specifically targeted to their survey answers. These recommendations can help families reduce their environmental footprint and, in some cases, even save money. Home and school versions of the survey can be found at www.thinkearth.org/surveys.

The Environmental Surveys were created by the Think Earth Environmental Education Foundation. Founded in 1988, the nonprofit organization developed comprehensive lesson plans to teach environmental awareness to elementary and middle-school students. Educators can download these free lesson plans at www.thinkearth.org.



PHOTO SOURCE: NAPSI

Recycling is just one good way to reduce your family's carbon footprint.

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HOME AND GARDEN

Easy Decluttering Tips to Help Tidy Up Any House

(NAPSI)—Even the cleanest home will look messy if it's not properly organized. Jule Eller, director of trend and style at Lowe's, says there are a few simple ways to declutter your home and make your space look tidy.

Start by assessing each room. Every home and family is different but kitchens, garages and closets tend to get the messiest the fastest.

A kitchen is a gathering place for everyone in the family, so it can become cluttered with everything from backpacks and junk mail to cereal bowls and pizza boxes. Cabinets and pantries can also become cluttered with too many dishes, utensils and spices, but installing a Rev-A-Shelf basket from Lowe's makes it easy to keep things neat.

If you have a garage, you know it's tempting to simply stash away bulky or rarely used items in it, rather than find a space inside your home. But if you make a habit of doing this, you could eventually run out of room to park your car. To avoid that from happening, put a Kobalt cabinet or rail system in your garage to transform it into a functional storage space.

While closets aren't rooms, they can definitely become a cluttered nightmare. Some people think if the door can close, there's still room for storage. Don't let closets get

to that point—you'll be a better person for it.

Here are a few additional tips for sprucing up your home while keeping it functional and orderly:

1. Rearrange furniture to maximize all of the space in each room.

- The sofa in the living room, the bed in the bedroom and the desk in the office demand the majority of space available. Arrange these pieces first.

- Don't place too many pieces of furniture in a small space. A love seat may work better than a full-size sofa depending on the size and shape of the room.

- When creating areas for conversation, keep furniture pieces within eight feet of each other so people can talk comfortably when seated. If possible, keep these pieces facing each other instead of side by side.

- With seating used for reading, remember to incorporate a light, whether it's a floor lamp or an end table with a lamp on it.

2. Create the illusion of space by adding lighting and mirrors.

- Lighting is a key element in opening up a space. If you're lucky enough to have natural light, let it shine in.

- Recessed spot lighting is visually appealing and is perfect for a small space.

- A torchère lamp is great for bouncing light off the ceiling and back down on the room.

- Skylights and solar tubes are natural alternatives for adding light to a space.

- Increase the appearance of the size of the room by adding mirrors. They not only reflect images, but also reflect light and color while adding a decorative element to the room.

3. Use storage products to help you get organized.

- If shelving and closet organization kits aren't enough, keep clothes in storage bins. If you have too much, you can hold a garage sale or donate items to charity. A good rule of thumb is if you haven't worn it in two years, it's time to let it go.

- Store your utensils in an orderly fashion. Inexpensive baskets and bins work for oddly shaped items or small appliances. Keep stemware, plates and bowls grouped by function, style and shape. This will not only create a uniform look, but save time when meal prep is in full swing.

- You always have the option to build custom solutions, but sometimes that forces you to choose between style and functionality. If you'd rather not sacrifice one or the other, Lowe's offers a wide variety of products that allow you to have both.

Ultimately, it's important to remember to not bite off more than you can chew. One of the biggest mistakes people make when decluttering is not setting



PHOTO SOURCE: NAPSI

You can save time and trouble when your home is neat as well as clean. A few simple steps and inexpensive items can help.

realistic goals on the front end. Come up with a plan before diving in. Look at the room as a whole and then focus on

one corner at a time. Once you see that progress is being made, it will help motivate you to keep going.

Learn More

For more organizational ideas, tips and product solutions, visit Lowe's.com.

For a Lovelier Laundry Room

(NAPSI)—While most people think of the laundry room as pretty utilitarian, an increasing number of savvy homeowners have found a way to make it pretty attractive.

Here Are Six Tips and Tricks That Can Help:

1. Let the sun shine in: Increasingly, builders and homeowners are moving laundry areas from the basement to higher-traffic areas as such as the master suite, kitchen or mudroom. This allows for more natural light, which is always welcome in any workroom.

2. Save space: Laundry rooms are still pretty small, so maximizing space is key. With that, compact appliances and accessories are very popular, as are bold and bright colors.

3. Old is new: In addition to efficient modern dryers, many laundry rooms today feature good, old-fashioned drying racks for the things that shouldn't go into the machine.

4. Enjoy yourself: For those who do have the available space, the laundry room can be a place to relax with a TV and a wine rack.

5. Be "counter-productive": If your washer and dryer are front loading, top them with a counter for folding and storage space.



PHOTO SOURCE: NAPSI

Kitchen sinks—the workhorse of the kitchen—are now in demand in the laundry room.

6. Give the laundry room everything including the kitchen sink: A beautiful and durable laundry sink can add functionality in a small space while at the same time, adding elegance and complementing a finished laundry environment.

What to Look For In a Laundry Room Sink

Durable materials. For example, BLANCO laundry sinks are available in either sturdy stainless steel or SILGRANIT®, which is a granite composite material that uniquely resists

stains, scratches and household acids.

- A deep bowl design that's perfect for soaking.

- Low maintenance.

- Accessories made for the laundry space. BLANCO'S LIVEN™ sink comes with an integrated basket to hold cleaning tools or to dry small delicates. The basket cleverly fits inside the sink so it doesn't use valuable counter space.

Another good fit for small spaces is the BLANCO QUATRUS™ R15. Built for convenience, it has an extra-deep 12-inch bowl and generous corners to make cleaning up closer to carefree. It's built to fit within a variety of cabinet sizes and has a versatile dual-deck design, so it can be installed as a drop-in or undermount.

Drop-ins go over the counter and undermounts are under it. Undermounts tend to be more stylish and easier to wipe down from the counter—into the sink. Which one you need depends on which countertop material you have. An undermount works well with stone, quartz or granite countertops. A drop-in is better with less expensive materials.

Learn More

For further facts and to see a wide variety of available sinks, go to www.blancoamerica.com.

Get to the Bottom of Water Waste

(NAPSI)—Have your water bills started creeping up? Or, if less than five people live in your home, does your winter water bill exceed 12,000 gallons per month? Then it's no mystery; you probably have a water leak.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the average American household wastes more than 10,000 gallons of water each year from easy-to-fix leaks. That's enough water to wash 270 loads of laundry! EPA's WaterSense® program has announced March 20 through 26 as its ninth annual Fix a Leak Week, a time to search out water leaks and stop them in their tracks.

Become a leak detective and follow three simple clues—check, twist, replace—to solve the mystery of water waste in your home.

Check: Examine your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the number changes, you probably have a leak and should investigate further. Check for silent toilet leaks by adding a few drops of food coloring to the tank, then wait 10 minutes; if some color sneaks into the bowl before you flush, the culprit is likely a worn toilet flapper that needs to be replaced.

Twist: Next, snoop around for dripping pipes or fixtures. Just one showerhead that drips 10 times per minute can waste more than 500 gallons of water

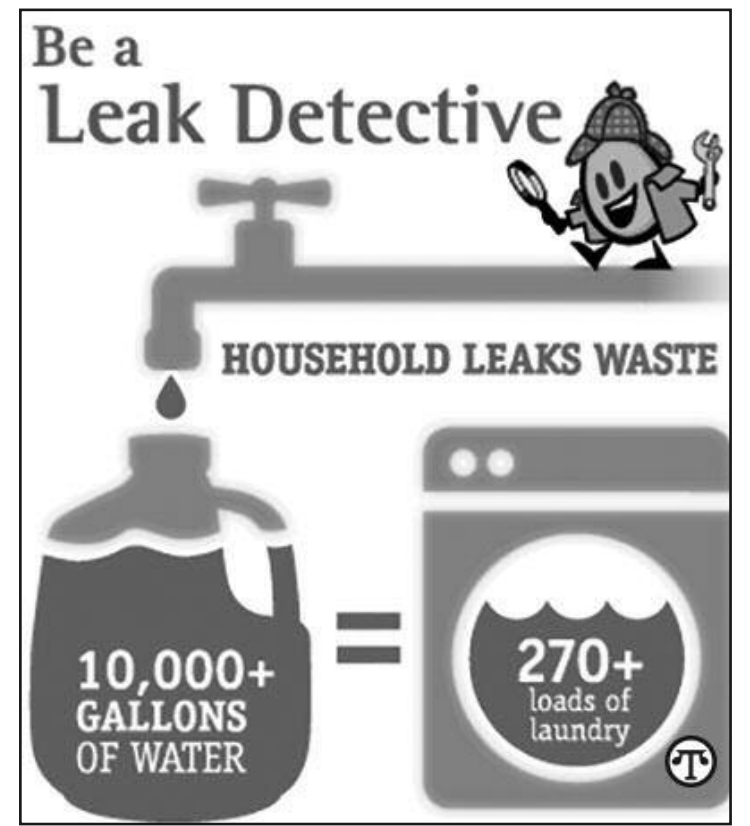


PHOTO SOURCE: NAPSI

Leaky plumbing fixtures in your home can waste the amount of water it takes to wash 270 loads of laundry.

per year. Stop that drip by tightening the connection between the showerhead and the pipe stem, and use pipe tape to secure it. To save even more, twist a WaterSense labeled aerator on your bathroom faucet, to use 30 percent less water without a noticeable difference in flow.

Replace: If you suspect that one of your leaky fixtures is beyond repair, it may be time for a water-efficient replacement. Consider a WaterSense labeled

toilet, faucet, or showerhead that has been independently certified to use less water and perform as well or better than standard models. You can find a lead on products that meet EPA's criteria for efficiency and performance using the Product Search Tool on the WaterSense website at www.epa.gov/watersense.

Get the facts on leaks and other water-saving tips at the website www.epa.gov/watersense/fixaleak.

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