

# Calverton Current



Newsletter of the Calverton Citizen's Association ♦ Silver Spring ♦ Beltsville, MD ♦ April 2015  
[www.calvertoncitizens.org](http://www.calvertoncitizens.org)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—Bernie Karns

There was a big snow storm on Thursday, March 5 so the CCA board meeting was cancelled. Since there are no minutes this newsletter will be short.

The **CCA General Membership Meeting is on Wednesday, April 15, 7:15 pm at Calverton Elementary.** So far Mary Lehman, District 1 Council Member for Prince George's and Tom Hucker, District 4 Council Member for Montgomery County are coming. We are planning on having representatives from Prince George's Department of Permitting, Inspection and Enforcement, Montgomery County Housing and Community Affairs, PEPCO, Washington Gas, BG&E and WSSC. Commander Jones from Montgomery County District 3 Police and Major Kara Lloyd from Prince George's District VI police will be there. The CCA has sent each of the companies and representatives a list of concerns or issues that we would like for them to address at the meeting. Please join us to hear some of the answers to our questions and concerns. **See you on Wednesday, April 15**

## DATES TO REMEMBER

♦ Wednesday, April 1 – CCA Board Meeting, 7pm at the PG Police Satellite Office in the Calverton Shopping Center. **PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN DAY**

♦ Thursday, April 9 – Volunteers needed for Emergency Preparedness Mass Dispensing Exercise. The site for the exercise to simulate a mass distribution of emergency medication will take place at Largo High School from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. The school is located at 505 Largo Road, Upper Marlboro, MD. Register to volunteer at: <http://mdchhs.com/volunteer-registration-april-9-2015-pg-county-open-pod-full-scale/> This is during spring break for PG schools. Lunch will be provided. All ages welcome.

♦ Wednesday, April 15 – CCA General Membership Meeting, 7:15pm at Calverton Elementary School. Please see president's message for the guests attending.

♦ Thursday, May 7 – CCA Board Meeting, 7pm at the PG Police Satellite Office in the Calverton Shopping Center

## BLOCK CAPTAIN VACANCY REPORT

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY.** Block Captains are needed for Blocks 40a and 40b. For more info, please call Donna Riley, Montgomery County Membership Chair at 301-572-5186.

♦ Block S-40a, on Summerwood Drive, has 10 homes

♦ Block S-40b, on Castleleigh Road has 10 homes

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY.** Block Captains are needed for Blocks 8, 14, 38, and 39. For more info, please call Nina Harley, Prince George's County Membership Chair at 301-572-7455.

♦ Block B-8, on Christine Drive, has 15 homes

♦ Block B-14, on Bellevue Street, has 26 homes

♦ Block B-38, on Wellford Drive, has 27 homes

♦ Block B-39, on Briggs Chaney Road, has 17 homes

You do not have to live on the block to be the Block Captain, although this is always preferable. Maybe you could partner with a neighbor to be co-Block Captains and split the duties—one person deliver the newsletter, and the other collect dues, or you could alternate months of delivering the newsletter.

Please volunteer to serve your community as a Block Captain! The residents on these blocks are not receiving this newsletter, paying their CCA dues, or receiving the Calverton Directory this year.

**Also, if you have not renewed your 2015 CCA membership, or if you want to join the CCA for the first time, please call Donna or Nina above.**

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## 30 Quick and Easy Cleaning Tips

*Send dirt and germs packing with tips your mother never taught you*

You love a spotless house—but you don't want to spend the bulk of your time *actually cleaning*. Well, fret no more. We talked to seven experts who gave us some of their best methods to make chores easier, more effective and much less time-consuming, so you can have a tidy, sparkling home in no time flat. Even Mom would approve.

### IN THE KITCHEN

**Circle Your Way Around:** Always begin on the right side of your stove, then move clockwise around the room. The stove is typically the dirtiest part of the kitchen, so ending with it keeps you from spreading dirt and grease. First, soak drip pans and knobs in warm soapy water. By the time you've worked your way around, they'll be easier to clean.)

### WE RECOMMEND

**Sanitize the Sink:** It's hard to believe, but your dirty kitchen sink has more bacteria than your toilet seat. Use a product labeled as an EPA-registered disinfectant, or make your own. To disinfect, clean your sink with soap and water first, then spray a mist of vinegar followed by a mist of hydrogen peroxide, and let air-dry. (Don't mix the vinegar and hydrogen peroxide together—spray one after the other.) If your sink is stainless steel, make it sparkle afterward by putting a few drops of mineral oil on a soft cloth and buffing. This prevents water buildup, which deters mold and keeps the sink looking clean longer.

**Do Dishwasher Duty:** Once a week, shake baking soda on a damp





sponge and wipe around the machine's edges to remove stuck-on food or stains. To clean the inside, run an empty cycle with Dishwasher Magic, a product designed to kill bacteria like E.coli. "During cold and flu season, add a quarter-cup of bleach to the regular dish cycle to kill bacteria," says Laura Dellutri. The dishes will be safe and sanitized after the rinse cycle is finished.

**Love Your Oven:** Keep the heart of your kitchen clean by lining the bottom with a nonstick ovenliner. It can be wiped with a paper towel, put in the dishwasher, and reused over and over.

**Disinfect the Disposal:** To get rid of odors, drop in a cut-up lemon, some salt and a few ice cubes.

The lemon deodorizes, and the ice and salt clean away residue. Or try Disposer Care ([DisposerCare.com](http://DisposerCare.com)), which is specifically designed for the job.

**Crumple Paper Towels...Forever:** Use microfiber cloths instead. When wet, they sanitize and clean floors, counters, glass and tile, and eliminate the need for other cleaning products. They're reusable (machine-wash, hang to dry) and cost about \$5 for a two-pack.

**Clean as You Go:** Linda Cobb suggests filling your sink with hot soapy water as you start dinner. "Place used dishes and pans in the filled sink so they'll be soaking while you eat," she says. Also, wipe up any spills immediately—don't give sauces, oils or spices a chance to sit around.

**Zap the Sponge:** We all know that sponges can be a breeding ground for bacteria. Disinfect yours every night by squeezing it out and microwaving it on high for a minute. When it's shredded and smelly, replace it.

## BATHROOM BOOSTERS

**Make Doors Shine:** Rubbing a teaspoon of lemon oil on glass shower doors twice a month causes water to bead up and roll off. Or, try Rain-X Original Glass Treatment, a car-care product made to keep rainwater off your windshield. Use it twice a year.

**Get a Cleaner Liner:** Mold and mildew attacking your shower curtain liner? Throw it in the wash with a few towels, which will help scrub it clean, then hang it back up to dry.

**Tame the Toilet:** Drop a teaspoon of Tang Drink Mix in the bowl. The citric acid acts like a scrubber...and it's nontoxic, in case the dog takes a sip. Let it sit for a few minutes, then swish and flush. And if you cringe at the idea of getting splashed by toilet water (ugh!), Donna Smallin suggests pushing the toilet brush in and out of the trap before you begin. This lowers the water level, allowing you to safely swish away.



OUR HOUSE-ELVES  
ARE CURRENTLY  
ON STRIKE.

YOU WILL HAVE TO  
CLEAN UP YOUR  
OWN MESS UNTIL  
FURTHER NOTICE.

**Corral Strays:** Keep drains free of hair and clogs by using a product like Drano or Liquid-Plumr to make sure potential clogs are gone, then pour boiling water down drains once a week to keep problem-free. Get rid of those annoying stray hairs on the floor by sweeping them up with a damp wad of toilet paper every morning.

**Use Bedtime as Clean Time:** While the kids are washing up at night, wipe down the tub, toilet and mirrors, and toss out clutter. When they're finished, quickly wipe down the sink and floor. *Bathroomdone.*

## SWEEPING SOLUTIONS

Cleaning should always be done top to bottom. That way, any crumbs or dust that fall to the floor while you're working get picked up last. And believe it or not, there's a right way to sweep.

**Pick the Right Broom:** For indoors, choose one with finer bristles to pick up smaller dirt particles. For outdoors, go for stronger, stiffer bristles, which work better to clear porous surfaces.

**Get Swept Away:** To sweep, hold the broom like a canoe paddle, with one hand on top of the handle and the other toward the middle. Push your hands in opposite directions to get the most out of every sweeping stroke. Sweep from the outside in so that you don't miss any spots, and move the dirt to the center of the room, where it will be easy to pick up.

**Super Storage:** Store brooms with the handle down. It makes them easier to find and protects the bristles.

**Banish Dust Bunnies:** Pick the proper dustpan. Minimize that annoying line of dust by choosing a dustpan with a rubber edge.

## BEDROOM SECRETS

**Start with the Bed:** If your bed is made, your bedroom looks neat, says Marla Cilley. When you wake up, pull the covers up to your chin, then scissor-kick your way out of bed so it'll be half made. Finish the job before you walk away.

**Address Your Drawers:** Most women have drawers full of clothes they don't wear, and their dresser tops then become repositories for things they can't store. Get rid of things you haven't worn in a year and vow to put away your clean laundry each week.

**Keep Just the Essentials:** Have a "pamper basket" next to your bed with a book, some moisturizer, your knitting or something else you like to do in bed, says Cilley. Then keep your clock, a lamp and a box of tissues on your nightstand. That's it.

## CONQUER LAUNDRY

**Stave Off Static:** Since fabric softener and dryer sheets can strip towels of their absorbency, add ¼ cup white vinegar to the rinse cycle or throw two (new, clean) tennis balls in your dryer to get rid of static electricity, soften fabrics and eliminate the need for dryer sheets.

**Switch on the Cold:** Most everything can be washed in cold water (better for your bills and the environment). But use the hottest water possible for sheets, towels and underwear. Take special



care with undergarments, putting them in the dryer as soon as possible to stop bacteria growth while they sit damp in the washer.

## MESS-A-LANEOUS

**Time It:** If you actually time how long it takes to do certain chores, you won't mind them as much, says Cilley. Believe it or not, most chores only take 10 minutes.

**Multitask:** Sarah Aguirre makes tasks go faster by doing two things at once. While on the phone, she folds laundry, fluffs pillows, picks up stray magazines and books, does dishes, sweeps or dusts.

**Know the Hot Spots:** Papers, odd toys and other things usually pile up on the dining room table or kitchen counter. Once you've got your table cleaned off, file papers or toss them. "One piece of paper multiplies like rabbits," Cilley says.

**Go Corner to Corner:** When you're vacuuming, begin in the farthest corner and work toward the door, using slow, repetitive front-to-back motions in an overlapping sequence, says Julie Rosenblum. As you look over the freshly vacuumed floor, you shouldn't see any footprints.

**Velcro Away Clutter:** Label the bottom of each electronic game controller (Xbox, for example), and then Velcro it to the console, suggests Linda Cobb. You'll never search for them again.

**Make a Lost-and-Found:** Every house needs one. Use a cute vintage lunch box or lidded storage container to stash lost game pieces, stray screws and buttons, and similar small items. When you need the item, you'll know where to look first.

**Do Quick Rescues:** Do a 5-minute sweep through each room, taking a laundry basket with you. Place in it anything that doesn't belong in that room, then put away the stuff that does belong there.

**Stop Clutter at the Front Door:** Mount a plastic or cloth shoe rack inside your front entry closet door, and use it to stash all kinds of living room and family room miscellany—toys, hats, gloves, magazines. You can even designate one of the pockets for mail you're not sure whether to save or toss.

(adapted from "Woman's Day", December 2013)

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## Top things to do in Washington DC

Spring is the prime season of the year to visit Washington, DC. Dozens of events are held this time of year throughout the city, including cultural events, spring garden tours, wine festivals, parades and more. Don't miss these top spring events in Washington, DC! (Here are a few in in chronological order)

### 1. National Cherry Blossom Festival

Washington, DC showcases its thousands of blossoming cherry trees with its annual two-week, city-wide event featuring more than 200 international cultural performances and over 90 other special events. Among the most popular events are the Blossom Kite Festival, the National Cherry Blossom Parade and the Japanese Street Festival. (March - April)

### 2. White House Easter Egg Roll

The annual family event invites kids of all ages to hunt for and race Easter Eggs on the White House Lawn while enjoying a morning of storytelling and a visit with the Easter Bunny. Free tickets are required. (Easter Monday)



### 3. African American Family Celebration at the National Zoo

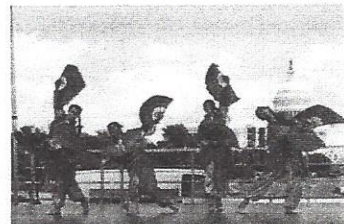
The annual multicultural tradition at Washington's Zoo includes an Easter egg roll/hunt, crafts, live entertainment, a food bazaar, and plenty of family-friendly fun. (Easter Monday)

### 4. National Cathedral Flower Mart

Washington Cathedral's annual outdoor festival for garden enthusiasts and families features annuals, perennials, landscape exhibits, Olmsted Woods and Garden Tours, and children's activities such as a rock wall, moon bounce, mini-Ferris wheel and a century-old restored carousel. (May)

### 5. Mount Vernon's Wine Festival & Sunset Tours

Celebrate the history of wine in Virginia with special evening tours of the Mansion and cellar, appearances by "George and Martha Washington", and live music on the east lawn of George Washington's Mount Vernon home overlooking the scenic Potomac River. (May)



### 6. Passport DC

Washington, DC's embassies open their doors to the public during a two week event called Passport DC, a new annual celebration of international culture presented by Cultural Tourism DC. Passport DC will showcase Washington DC's embassies and cultural organizations with a wide range of performances, talks, and exhibits. (May)

### 7. National Asian Heritage Festival - Fiesta Asia

The street fair in celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month showcases Asian art and culture with live musical performances, Pan-Asian cuisine, martial arts and lion dance demonstration, a multicultural marketplace, cultural displays and interactive activities. (May)

### 8. Memorial Day Parade, Concert and More

The Memorial Day weekend marks the beginning of the summer season and the Washington, DC region celebrates with wreath laying ceremonies, the National Memorial Day Parade, a special concert on the U. S. Capitol grounds, the Rolling Thunder Motorcycle Rally and more. (May)

### 9. Vintage Virginia Wine Festival

The event is one of the largest and longest-running wine festivals on the East Coast featuring tastings by more than 50 wineries including over 250 award-winning Virginia wines, educational seminars on food pairing, fine art exhibits, children's activities, food and live entertainment. (June)

**10. DC Jazz Festival** The annual event features more than 100 jazz performances at concert venues and clubs throughout Washington, DC. Celebrating musical styles from Bebop and Blues to Swing, Soul, Latin and World music, the DC Jazz festival includes performances at the Kennedy Center, the Phillips Collection, on the National Mall, and at more than 30 museums, clubs, restaurants, and hotels. (June)



(adapted from "Trip Advisor")





Health  
Education  
Community

**RUN**

**2015**

**WALK**

**5K**

**Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015**

**1:00pm - Sign-in and Registration**

**2:00pm – Run/Walk starts**

**Beltsville Community Center, MD**

**Register Now!**

**Registration fee: \$25 (includes t-shirt, goody bag, live music)**

**\*\*Discounts available for ALL students and parents\*\***

**Water and refreshments will be provided onsite.**

**For more information to register please visit:**

**[highpoint5k.squarespace.com](http://highpoint5k.squarespace.com)**

**Proceeds go towards a High Point College Scholarship Fund**