

St. Asaph Square Newsletter

March and April, 2014

Our Saint Asaph Square website has news and information for you. Check it out at <http://www.st-asaph-square.com>.

Board President's Report

Debbie Bowman, President



Hello Neighbors,

Now that we have sprung forward, hopefully spring is finally here to stay. The change of seasons means spring cleaning and improvements are in the air. You should already be getting into the garage easier using your new door opener remote. Serry's office has received a much needed facelift, and he also has a new computer. Our elevator project is moving forward even though the replacement will obviously not be completed overnight. Please bear with us through the renovation phase. We will provide as much information as possible so you will know what to expect as things progress.

If you have not already done so, please take some time to check out our Saint Asaph Square website (<http://www.st-asaph-square.com>) which has a lot of information you should find helpful. Our site works with the Firefox, Safari or Internet Explorer browsers. I hope you will start checking the online calendar on the "Owners/Residents" tab to keep up to date with things going on in our community. I'll be posting information like Serry's days away from the office, the dates of any major work being done on our property, community dinners out, and other events. Please let me know what else you would find helpful. You can even use the form on the "Contact Us" tab to do that. Thanks in advance for your suggestions!

A special thanks to Serry, Leo and Maria for working hard to keep Saint Asaph Square looking good when the winter weather added to their workloads both inside and outside our building. Here's to an enjoyable spring!

Welcome Wagon

*Debby Palmer-Mills & Shari Keefer,
Chair and Co-Chair*



Our wagon is on R&R for the time being.

Social Committee

Ginny Long, Chair



Our recent "Dinner Out" at the Del Ray Café on February 21st was both fun and delicious. Many thanks to Ralph Rosenbaum for organizing it for the group.

Happy Hour continues at about 5:30 p.m. every Friday in the Saint Asaph Street lobby – the more the merrier, so come to make new friends and meet old ones.

Landscape Committee

Bev Keane, Chair



Advantage Landscape will start our Spring cleanup next week. Plans are in place to weed, prune and mulch. The committee will be working to upgrade the contents of the pool planters this year as well as other areas of the property.

As always, the Landscape Committee welcomes volunteers.

Decorating Committee



Linda Burton, Chair

Mr. Serry's office has been "spiffed up" and it looks great! He and Leo did all of the electrical, painting, and shelf-building work themselves, and their expert workmanship shows itself in a beautiful new office.

Sometime in the next couple of months, the Decorating Committee will be meeting with several interior decorators to get their views on how they think we can update our common areas in cost-effective ways. Stay tuned!



St. Asaph Square is about to undergo a large elevator renovation project. There are many project types encountered by associations. Some projects are the routine type, such as maintenance of the building components, while others are larger in scope. The smaller projects usually afford residents the luxury of a predictable, even flow of work, shorter notification periods, completion in less than a week, and many residents and owners don't even know about them because site staff performs work during the day. Larger projects require more planning, usually in multiple phases, and take a longer period of time. The elevator replacement project falls into the latter category. This project will be disruptive to many, and it will be mid-December before it is completed. Please bear with the Association during this inconvenience.

The St. Asaph Square Board of Directors has retained *Atlantic Elevator Consultants* to perform quality control and quality assurance of the upcoming elevator renovation. TKE, (ThyssenKrupp Elevators) is the contractor of choice. There have been many meetings between the Association, the Contractor, and the Engineering Consultants. During the meetings, the Association has emphasized proper work ethic, minimal disruption, and open and constant communication with Management, the Board, and the residents of the buildings. The first elevator to go out of service will be elevator number 1 on the Pitt Street side of the building.

The construction and renovation process will disrupt and disturb some residents. Please bear with the inconvenience. Beginning March 24th, the construction crews will stage

equipment throughout the garage area. This may include, but is not limited to, toolboxes and other construction related materials.

In the upcoming months, there will be a crane on site, most likely on a Saturday, to lift the modernization equipment that will be used in the elevator control rooms into place on the roof. During this time the street will be closed for parking.

Please note that all contractors will be wearing identification badges while they are working in the building. Ingress and egress will be made from the parking garage and the loading dock. The contractors will not be using the lobby entrances.

The project status reports and Gantt charts will be available for viewing on the Association's web page. Please check that site often for updates and progress reports by Management and the Contractor.

If you have any questions regarding the construction process or procedure methodology, please contact me directly.



The Use of Barbeque Grills

Lots of questions have been asked regarding the use of barbeque grills. There is no better time to talk about it than now, when outdoor grilling is ready to go in full force.

In a memorandum by the then Chief Fire Marshall, Mr. Michael Conner, dated May 24, 1999, responding to a request for information for the use of barbeque grills on balconies in Alexandria, Mr. Conner stated in part:

.....In the event the cooking is done by Liquefied Petroleum Gas, (typically propane), the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard 58 is the reference standard governing the use of this product in all multi-family dwellings with three or more living units. NFPA 58, section 3-4.9.2 states that, cylinders having a water capacity greater than 2½ pounds shall be prohibited on balconies above first floor in all buildings above three or more balcony units. This requires that the cylinder is limited to 14.7 gallons of liquefied petroleum gas. The average barbeque grill normally comes equipped with a 20 gallon tank, thus prohibited in all multifamily dwellings as defined above.


Mr. Conner further more indicated that most multi-family dwellings in Alexandria, both rentals and condominiums, have complete prohibition of these types of devices because of their insurance carriers' regulations. I am hopeful that this

answers all the questions regarding the use the grills.

For the comfort of the residents, the Association has designated two areas on the deck plaza as grilling areas; the north and south ends of the plaza. It is a BYOG policy. Be sure to label your grill and most importantly, please clean after grilling.

Have a pleasant and smooth Spring to Summer.

AND NOW.....our newest column makes its debut! For each issue, editor Mary Ann Radebach will randomly select a lucky resident or staff member to interview so we can.....oh, wait...is that music I hear??? Why yes....it's Mary Ann's theme music

 *Getting to Know You...* 
by Mary Ann Radebach



Does this man look familiar? He should. He is **Leodan Reyes**. For the last nine months, Leo, a contractor, has worked as a Maintenance Repairer at St. Asaph Square. When asked what he likes best about working at St. Asaph's, his answer was, "Everything, especially the people I meet."

Originally from El Salvador, he and his family have made their home in the United States for over 10 years. Leo and his wife Roxanna are the proud parents of two daughters, Yasman, 10 years old and Keyri, 8 years old. His family is important to him and he spends much of his free time with them.

A favorite pastime is cooking beans. (His family loves his bean recipe 😊 !)

Welcome Leo to St. Asaph. When you see him in the hall, garage or office, say "hello" and thank him for the good service that he provides to St. Asaph's residents.

Our "Odds and Ends" is for all kinds of things...from thoughtful commentary, to recipes, to words of appreciation and more. Please feel free to join in.

Odds and Ends



Two Recipes...

...one for cherry-blossom time and one from St. Asaph Square's very own Master Chef.

Fresh Cherry Crisp



Preheat oven to 375°. In a 9 " pie pan, put in 4 cups of pitted fresh cherries and sprinkle with 2 T. lemon juice. In a bowl, mix very lightly $\frac{1}{4}$ cup flour, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup oatmeal, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup packed brown sugar, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup butter, $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt (if butter unsalted), and $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. cinnamon. Spread mixture over the cherries and bake for about 30 minutes. Serve hot or cold.

Special Occasion Dinner



*Grilled Sea Scallops on Rosemary Skewers,
Sautéed Broccoli and Buttermilk Mashed Potatoes
Assorted French Pastries & Chocolate Dipped Strawberries*

Put your keys in your pocket or purse, step out into the hallway and close your door. Walk to the corner of Jefferson Street and St. Asaph Street, and continue due north until you arrive at Jefferson Street. You will see stairs; make your way up the stairs until you come to a door that says "Balducci's". Your neighbor, Gene Poteat



Here's a lecture you might like to attend, sponsored by the Office of Historic Alexandria. "An Examination of the Causes of the Civil War" will be presented by Charles Poland, Ph.D., at the Lloyd House, 220 North Washington Street, on April 16th at 7:30 PM.

The lecture is free of charge and light refreshments will be served afterwards.



If you happen to have a mini-refrigerator or microwave that you're not using, the Decorating Committee would very much appreciate the donation for Mr. Serry's closet area. Please contact Mr. Serry at Stasaph801@verizon.net or call 703-683-5858. Thank you!



What is the History of the Freedmen's Cemetery?

by Barbara Ballentine

The Freedmen's Cemetery served as the burial place for about 1,800 African Americans who fled to Alexandria to escape from bondage during the Civil War. They found a safe haven in Alexandria because of the Union occupation, but their large numbers resulted in a refugee crisis. While many found employment, other contrabands, as the freedmen were officially known, were destitute after fleeing slavery, and arrived hungry and in ill health. Many were housed in barracks, and disease was rampant. In 1864, after hundreds had perished, the Superintendent of Contrabands ordered that a property on the southern edge of town, across from the Catholic cemetery, be confiscated for use as a cemetery.

In the first year, burials included those of black soldiers, but African American troops recuperating in Alexandria's hospitals demanded that blacks be given the honor of burial in the Soldiers' Cemetery, now Alexandria National Cemetery. The soldiers' graves were disinterred and moved to the military cemetery in January 1865. The last military burial in Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery took place in January 1869 but private burials could have continued.

The cemetery fell into disrepair, and a brickyard and railroad cutting encroached on its edges. The cemetery appeared on maps until 1939, but by then there would have been little remaining above-ground evidence of the burials. In 1955, a gas station was built on the property, followed by an office building. More than 30 years later, historical research revealed the presence of the long-forgotten cemetery, and plans for rebuilding the Woodrow Wilson Bridge along the cemetery's southern edge focused attention on it. The Friends of Freedmen's Cemetery was formed to advocate for preservation of the site as a memorial. The layout of the cemetery, revealed by the archaeological work, will be reflected in the design of a memorial park. *Tentative dedication date is Saturday, September 6, 2014.*

For more information, please call 703.746.4554 or visit www.historicalexandria.org.

Reminders



*Our Monthly Board meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 PM in the South Pitt St. lobby. **The next Board meeting will be Tuesday, April 15.** The meetings are the place for the unit owner to voice questions, comments, concerns, criticisms and complaints.*

- As noted by Management in the Jan/Feb 2014 edition of the newsletter, residents are reminded that *no resident is authorized to alter the temperature settings of ANY common area heating or cooling element.* Violators will be sanctioned.



- *We have a little library on the 3rd floor of the South Pitt Street side.*
- *Residents are requested not to use the entryway rugs to keep the door open while checking their mailboxes.* Doing so causes unnecessary wear on the new rugs. Your cooperation is appreciated.
- *Residents are reminded not to park in designated parking spaces unless they have the owner's prior approval.* Visitors who use the outdoor visitors' parking spots need to register these vehicles with the office. If the office is closed, please put a sign on the dashboard indicating which unit the car is visiting. The complex reserves the right to tow non-registered vehicles.
- *There is a NO SMOKING policy in common areas of Saint Asaph Square, including open air balconies.* Violators will be fined.
- *Please ensure that all trash and recycling is placed in the receptacles in the trash rooms and that trash chute rooms are kept free of non-bagged waste.* Boxes should be flattened before placing in receptacles.
Note: Single Stream Recycling is in effect. Recyclable material can be placed in the marked recycling bins and does not need to be separated by type as before.
- Mr. Serry is collecting donations of used clean clothing, shoes, and canned goods to send to needy people in his homeland of Sierra Leone. Any contributions will be greatly appreciated.

If you'd like to submit an item for publication
in the upcoming May/June issue, please send to
SaintAsaphSquarenews@hotmail.com
by May 15.

To receive an electronic version of this newsletter,
please submit your current email address
to the email address above.

Newsletters are also posted on the
Owners/Residents' tab of our website.

*Your St. Asaph Square Newsletter editors,
Van Keane and Ginny Long*

MEET THE TEAM

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Bev Keane, Secretary
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