



# St. Asaph Square Newsletter

November & December  
2015



St. Asaph Square Website has lots of news and information! Just go to <http://www.st-asaph-square.com>

## **Board President's Report**

*Bev Keane, President*



Hello Neighbors,

Thanks to all for participating in the selection of the design for the Saint Asaph Square building renovation. A successful party was held earlier this month with the designers to kick off the project. Work started on the 4th floor with wall prep and trim painting and has moved quickly to the 3rd floor. The results are quite dramatic with lighter hallways and an airy feel.

We have much to look forward to in the new year and we appreciate your patience as we move forward with the renovation. We will do our best to keep you informed about all stages of the project. Updates related to the renovation and other announcements can be found at the Saint Asaph Square website at <http://www.st-asaph-square.com>. Please bookmark the address so you can stay as up to date as possible with building activities and other news. The website also provides other helpful information about Saint Asaph Square and Alexandria.

The Board wishes you all the best for a healthy and happy Holiday season.

## **Welcome Wagon**

*Debby Palmer-Mills, Chair*



*To our newest neighbors, welcome!*

William (Bill) Jackson and Michelle Atchison in #230.

Nicole Jolly, soon to move into #307

Ellen A. Nevieius in #206.

## **Landscape Committee**

*Bev Keane, Chair*

*and Barbara Ballentine*



Work on South Pitt Street will be completed next week by *Advantage Landscaping*. Due to ongoing renovations, the annual door decorating contest will not be held this year. It is time to put the garden gloves away and wish a Happy Holidays to all.

## Social Committee

Ginny Long, Chair



## *St. Asaph Square's Annual Christmas and Holiday Party*

**Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**

**7:30 p.m.**

**South Pitt Street Lobby**

Please bring an **appetizer** or **dessert** to share -- wine, mixers, and a special Holiday Cocktail will be provided.  
*Hope you can come!*



The Kick-Off Party was lots of fun and owes its success to **Kathy Helfert**, event coordinator. Her witty and funny table decorations really set the mood, and her super group of volunteers stepped right in to bring the food and make the party happen. A most sincere thank you to these very special contributors --

- ★ *Barbara Ballentine*
- ★ *Deb Bowman*
- ★ *Doug Clark*
- ★ *Donna Genovese*
- ★ *Danielle George*
- ★ *Pat Gonzalez*
- ★ *Marilyn Graskoviak*
- ★ *Bev Keane*
- ★ *Shari Keefer*
- ★ *Ginny Long*
- ★ *Ann Louise Mapes*
- ★ *Chuck Mills*
- ★ *Ralph Rosenbaum*



## Dinner Out

The Sonoma Cellar wine-tasting and dinner in October was a good time for all, and residents are looking forward to Ralph Rosenbaum's next **Dinner Out** plans. After the holidays and in the midst of the Winter Doldrums, count on him to cook up something fun. Watch for postings in the building and in emails that Serry will send out, and join in for a nice evening with your St. Asaph friends and neighbors.

**Happy Hour** meets at about 5:30 on Friday evenings in the St. Asaph Street lobby -- at least as long as the furniture is still there! (After the lobbies are newly furnished, it will be necessary to consider another site, especially for the cooler months when Happy Hour isn't on the patio.) Come for a relaxing time with friends and friends-to-be.



If you or you and a friend would like to be the new Social Committee Chair/Co-Chairs beginning the first of the year, please let me know and I can share some helpful information with you. (Unit #427 or email [vlongmath@aol.com](mailto:vlongmath@aol.com)).



## Design Committee

*Ginny Long & Shari Keefer, Co-Chairs*  
*Committee Members Deb Bowman, Kathy Helfert,*  
*and Celeste Johnston*



Do you kind of feel like this as you walk down the halls and know that our new look is right around the corner??!!! Committee member *Deb Bowman* is in close and regular contact with designer Nancy Colbert to make sure that any problems are addressed quickly and that residents are kept fully informed of upcoming work and schedules. It's a very important and time consuming job, and a critical one for making the whole project go smoothly and well. Thank you Deb, for volunteering to take on this job and doing it so well.



The Design Committee's work on the renovation project is ending, but there will always be things that need attention in the future. Please feel free to contact the committee if you notice any broken or worn items or things that could be improved, and we'll do our best to address any concerns.



### Silent Auction December 1-6

Want a memento of Saint Asaph Square's bygone days? *Here's your chance!* In anticipation of our lobbies getting a fresh make-over, our existing lobby furnishings will be sold in a **Silent Auction**. Sealed bids can be made in Serry's office from December 1-6. Check the fliers on the bulletin boards near the elevators for details.



Here's something you may want to try to spruce up your entry door and threshold to go along with our spruced-up new décor. Wood cleaners such as Scott's Liquid Gold Wood Cleaner and Preservative or Howard's Feed-N-Wax Wood Preserver with Beeswax and Orange Oil are good wood cleaners that will also give your door a nice luster. Buffing a little on the slate threshold will make it look better as well.



## Management's Corner

*Patrick M. Mazzei, CMCA, AMS  
Chief Human Resource Officer and  
Community Manager*

### *Season's Greetings*

From The Cardinal Management Group of Companies!



Water...great for hydration! A staple of life and without it the human race would most certainly perish from this earth. However, it is the single source of building damage at St. Asaph Square and the cause of

thousands of dollars in damages each year. This past year a resolution was adopted by the Board of Directors that will help mitigate these losses in the future; reference is made to the washing machine hose replacements. Thank you to all who have complied with the resolution and submitted their documentation. Those unit owners that have not will be notified by the Association in the near future.

Do you know how you can save the Association (you) additional expenses in water usage? Simply check your unit for dripping faucets and running (malfunctioning flush valves) toilets. Usually a minor repair can save thousands of gallons of water. This is a simple step to help keep the building utilities in check.

As a reminder, rock salt and table salt melt ice quickly when the temperatures are above zero. **HOWEVER**, they are a poor choice of product when applying them to concrete. Nothing will deteriorate mortar and concrete faster than the use of these products. There are specially formulated products to use on concrete. If you notice an icy patch on St. Asaph Square walkways, notify the office immediately and Leo (maintenance) will apply the correct product.

As many owners are aware, the restoration of the interior spaces of the Association is underway. It is Management's opinion that the palette that was selected (by par value ballot) will stand the test of time and provide the building with years of form and functionality without become prematurely obsolescent.

Best Regards,  
Patrick M. Mazzei



*Alexandria, Virginia Named  
One of Top Places to Live in the United States*

Alexandria, Virginia has made the list of the top 100 best places to live, coming in at 56 on the third annual rankings released recently by Livability.com. The list looks at factors that influence the livability of small to mid-sized cities with populations of 20,000 to 350,000.

More than 2,100 cities were evaluated and researchers analyzed more than 40 data points that were grouped in eight categories, including economics, amenities, infrastructure, demographics, social and civic capital, education and health care. The eight scores were weighted based on an exclusive survey conducted for [Livability.com](http://Livability.com) by Ipsos Public Affairs, a leading global market research firm. Respondents were asked about factors that make their city a better place to live, and what factors they would look for in choosing another city.

Livability.com explores what makes small to mid-sized cities great places to live, work and visit. It examines issues related to livability such as walkability, cultural amenities, transportation, urban planning, and sustainability through exclusive research and discussions on its blog. The No. 1 Best Place to live on the list was Rochester, Minnesota.

From an article in [RedBrickTown.com](http://RedBrickTown.com)



**The Scottish Walk** is Saturday, December 5.



What would the holidays be without some delicious fruitcake?

*(Don't answer that....now here's the recipe for you.)*

## *Holiday Fruitcake Recipe*

You'll need the following:

- 1 cup of water
- 1 cup of sugar
- 4 large brown eggs
- 2 cups of dried fruit
- 1 teaspoon of salt
- 1 cup of brown sugar
- Lemon juice
- 1 cup of nuts
- 1 bottle of whiskey.

Sample the whiskey to check for quality.

Take a large bowl. Check the whiskey again. To be sure it's the highest quality, pour one level cup and drink. Repeat. Turn on the electric mixer, beat one cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl. Add one teaspoon of sugar and beat again.

Make sure the whiskey is still okay. Cry another tup. Turn off the mixer. Beat two leggs and add to the bowl and chuck in the cup of dried fruit. Mix on the tuner. If the fired druit gets stuck in the beaters, pry it loose with a drowscriver.

Sample the whiskey to check for tonsisticity. Next, sift two cups of salt. Or something. Check the whiskey. Now sift the lemon juice and strain your nuts. Add one table. Spoon. Of sugar or something. Whatever you can find.

Grease the oven. Turn the cake tin to 350 degrees. Don't forget to beat off the turner. Throw the bowl out of the window. Check the whiskey again and go to bed.



# Reminders

- Shopping carts in the basement are the property of specific owners and are located at their respective parking spaces. Please respect the property of others. Please return all carts to their original location. They are for the sole use of the individual who owns the parking space unless otherwise authorized.
- Dogs should be kept on leashes in all common areas.
- Only newspapers are to be placed in the frames in the trash chute rooms. Items for recycling should be placed in the recycle bins in the trash rooms in the garage. Flatten boxes before placing in recycling bins. Note: Single stream recycling is in effect. Recyclable material can be placed in the marked bins and does not need to be separated by type.



- Here's an excellent website with lots of information about recycling in Alexandria:

<http://alexandria.gov/tes/solidwaste/info/default.aspx?>

- 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 their vehicles with the office. If the office is closed, please put a sign on the dashboard. The community reserves the right to tow non-registered vehicles.

- There is a 'NO SMOKING' policy in common areas of St. Asaph Square, including the garage and open air balconies.



- We have a little library on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the South Pitt Street side, organized and maintained by Van Keane. (If locked, your key to the building will open it.)

- Here's a handy link to the *City of Alexandria* site- you can submit online requests for the city to do something. Click here and let your voice be heard: <http://request.alexandriava.gov/CCC/#tab=Find>

- To minimize printing costs, our goal is to provide the newsletter electronically as much as possible. To receive a copy of the newsletters via email: please submit your email address to Serry at Stasaph801@verizon.net. To receive the newsletters using our website: log onto <http://www.st-asaph-square.com> and go to the *Owners/Residents'* tab where the newsletters are posted. (Please see Serry for the password you will need to access that page). Deb Bowman, creator of the website, will be happy to assist you if you have any problems or questions.

If you do not have a computer and would like hard copies of the newsletters to be delivered to you: please notify Serry.



Our monthly Board meetings are held on the  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7 PM  
South Pitt Street lobby.

**The next Board meeting is Tuesday, December 15.**

The meetings are the place for residents to learn  
all that is going on in the building and to voice questions,  
comments, concerns, complaints, and appreciation.

To submit an item for the  
**January/February Newsletter,**  
please send to [vlongmath@aol.com](mailto:vlongmath@aol.com)  
by January 15.

## *Serry's Office Hours*

Monday - Wednesday and Friday:  
8:30 A.M – 5:30 P.M.

Thursday: 10:30 A.M. – 7:30 P.M.

For emergencies during office hours, please contact Cardinal at 703-569-5797.

**For after-hours emergencies,  
call 1-866-370-2989**

## ***CARDINAL MANAGEMENT GROUP, INC***

4330 Prince William Parkway, Suite 201  
Woodbridge, VA 22192

Office Phone Number: 703-569-5797  
FAX Number: 803-866-3156

Office Hours  
8:30 am - 5:30 PM  
Monday – Friday

**EMERGENCY NUMBER: 1-866-370-2989**

## ***MEET THE TEAM***

### **Board Members**

*Bev Keane, President*  
*Deb Bowman, Vice President*  
*Shari Keefer, Treasurer*  
*Ralph Rosenbaum, Secretary*  
*Jack Burton, Member at Large*

Board email:

[saintasaphsquareboard@gmail.com](mailto:saintasaphsquareboard@gmail.com)

### **Cardinal Management**

*Patrick M. Mazzei, CMCA, AMS*  
Agent for the Association  
4330 Prince William Parkway, Suite 201  
Woodbridge, VA 22192  
[p.mazzei@cardinalmanagementgroup.com](mailto:p.mazzei@cardinalmanagementgroup.com)

### **Front Office Staff**

*Yahya M. Serry, CMCA*  
On-Site Manager  
St. Asaph Square Condominiums  
801 South Pitt Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
703-683-5858  
[Stasaph801@verizon.net](mailto:Stasaph801@verizon.net)

*Veronica Reyes, Housekeeping staff*  
*Leodan Reyes, Maintenance staff*

### ***Saint Asaph Square Newsletter team.***

*Ginny Long, Editor*  
*Yahya Serry, Production & Distribution*

*Please note:* This newsletter is for the purpose of disseminating information that may be useful, important to know, or interesting to residents; it is not the appropriate place to air dissatisfactions. The editor and Board reserve the right to control content of the newsletter. Residents with complaints or dissatisfactions should please direct them to the Board, either in person or in writing. Such issues are then brought up and discussed during the *Community Forum* session of every Board meeting.