The Eavesdropper
The bridge between your home and your neighborhood

Vol. XL  •  Issue I  •  January | February

Lex-Ham holiday carolers revel in the evening, enjoying melodies, warmth and friendship

Loving Every Neighbor

The Lex-Ham theme chosen for 2017 is “Loving Every Neighbor”. Lex-Ham is a neighborhood that values every person. We consider our community to be enriched by diversity and hope that each of our residents works to extend a hand of friendship to the people around them. Regardless of differences, we have the opportunity to care for one another and prioritize kindness.

This year, in addition to volunteering to help with Lex-Ham functions and committees, we will be encouraging residents to engage in service throughout the year. Watch for information via enews on purchasing a “Loving Every Neighbor” Lex-Ham yard sign or window cling for your home. Please join our enews list by contacting the office or through the link on our webpage to receive the most current information. A lot can happen between Eavesdropper issues.

Community Calendar

Western District Safety Meetings
• Tuesday, January 17
• Tuesday, February 21
9:30 AM or 6:30 PM
Western District Headquarters
389 Hamline Ave

Lex-Ham Community Council Board Meeting
• Saturday, January 28
(TIME TBD)
• Monday, February 27
7:00 – 9:00 PM
1216 Selby Avenue, All welcome!

Lex-Ham Theater Outing

Don’t miss the History Theatre’s production of “The Highwaymen” recounting the displacement of our neighboring Rondo community during the construction of interstate highway 94 through Saint Paul. Lex-Ham has vouchers available for any seat at any performance, but we are encouraging everyone to attend on February 18th at 7:30pm so we can experience the show together, learn more about this formative time in history, and wrestle with the impacts of racism. Student tickets are $10 and adults are $25.

Please contact the Lex-Ham office to purchase a voucher and invite a neighbor! (Not recommended for children under 7.) For information about the show, visit historytheatre.com.

2016 Neighbor Awards

During our annual meeting in October, neighborhood awards were presented to some special people in our midst. Read more on pages 2 and 3 to find out more about each one!

A Heartfelt Thanks to our Kind Neighbors

Thank you to the Penson family for hosting another delightful Lex-Ham Christmas party in December. Also, thanks to Katy Taylor and Emmy Treichel for a heart-warming night of caroling through Lex-Ham. Your generosity and initiative are such gifts to our neighborhood.

Information/Complaints/You-Name-It
City of St. Paul Information Hotline
651-266-8989
**Linda Feinberg Award**

**BILLY PETERSON**

The Linda Feinberg Award recognizes an individual who significantly contributed to the Lex-Ham neighborhood and to the community at large.

Billy was nominated for this award because of his meticulous care of our beloved Dunning Park as well as his decades of mentorship for young athletes in this community. Billy Peterson has influenced local heroes like Dave Winfield and Paul Molitor through his volunteer work with youth baseball and countless others who have gone on to apply what they’ve learned in other fields of work ... and perhaps they ride tractors on other ballfields in other cities for other people’s kids week after week because that is what they saw Billy do for them. Hardly a day goes by that you can’t find Billy tending the park, often on hands and knees: planting, pulling weeds, creating a new space to enjoy. Billy, thank you for all that you do for our community, it is the envy of parks for kids’ baseball thanks to you. Thanks for your investment in the generations after you and for modeling true service.

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**Betty Dean Award**

**GORDON PARKS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

The Betty Dean Award recognizes neighborhood youth with an exemplary service record.

The students of Gordon Parks High School were selected for this award because of their heartfelt advocacy for the new park space adjacent to their school property. Along with Margaret Jones and residents of Skyline Tower, Paul Creager and the Gordon Parks students were critical voices in convincing the city of the need for more green space in the north part of Lex-Ham. There is a memorable tale of the Mayor peeking out a window several stories up, taking in the field of concrete and seeing with his own eyes the lack of access to parks. The students would like to tell some of the story themselves and Paul has also created a video clip to summarize their work. We are also thankful to Margaret for her vision and persistence in seeing this project move forward while she was the Executive Director for Lex-Ham. Students and staff of Gordon Parks, thank you for your vision, your persistence, and your passion that has led to the identification of new park space on Griggs that will be developed into a place for all to enjoy. We anticipate with joy the many ways that your values, priorities, and perspectives that have been shaped at Gordon Parks High School will impact the world around us.

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**Good Neighbor Award**

**TRANSFORMING CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

The Good Neighbor Award is given to an individual or organization who played a major role in supporting the Lexington-Hamline neighborhood as a ‘great’ place to live.

As you undoubtedly have noticed, the grounds of Central High School have taken on a new look. This group of parents and volunteers have put in an immeasurable amount of time on this initiative. Not only has the surface been relandscaped to include a more friendly entrance, an outdoor classroom space, and an actual path to the bus line for students to use, the transformation is much bigger under the surface. Our high school now has a stormwater diversion system that is capable of filtering 1,434,000 gallons of water per year through the ground, alleviating the burden from our rivers and lakes. This effort required a mountainous fundraising campaign and now offers cross-curricular educational opportunities for studying storm water and environmental impacts. The work the Transforming Central Committee has brought national attention and accolades to Central High School and will uniquely set our community on a path to better stewardship. Thank you for sticking with this monumental task, for showing us what is possible, and for casting a new perspective on Central High School.

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Join the Lex-Ham Email Group!...

Join the enews list by emailing Amy at lexham@lexham.org and get more frequent updates on Lex-Ham news. Information included in enews is not the same as the Eavesdropper.

Just send an email to Amy at lexham@lexham.org
The Community Service Award is given to Lex-Ham residents whose outstanding activities have made the neighborhood a community of which we are all proud to be a part.

John was nominated for this award because of his reputation as the “Mayor of Portland Avenue”. He is known by his neighbors as Mr. Fix-it and always seems to have just the right tool and know-how to get things done. This kind of generous spirit is what makes a row of houses turn into a village. Small kindnesses add up to what makes deep connectedness. Thanks, John, for being a pillar of service, respect, care, and helpfulness in a way that impacts people of all ages around you. Thanks for noticing when someone is in need and tending to them.

The We Care Committee is developing a program to help seniors in our neighborhood clean out storage areas by providing support for sorting things, moving boxes, and delivering donations. If this is one of your New Years’ resolutions, watch for more information in the next Eavesdropper.

The purpose of the Lexington-Hamline Community Council is to improve the quality of life and bring about positive community change in the Lexington-Hamline neighborhood of St. Paul. This is done through the active involvement of neighborhood residents in community projects, programs, and direct action on issues which affect the neighborhood.

The Lex-Ham neighborhood in St. Paul is bounded by University Avenue, Lexington Parkway, Summit and Hamline Avenues. Since the Lexington-Hamline Community Council was established in 1969, it has been the cornerstone for organizing the 4000 residents living in this neighborhood. We continue to build a sense of pride and confidence in the community through a wide variety of activities and services ranging from cooperative home maintenance, crime prevention, energy conservation, recreation programs.

Mission Statement

Who We Are

Editorial Guidelines

The Richard Norris Award is given to someone who has made notable contributions to the musical and cultural life of the community.

Cate is a professor at Concordia University in the Department of Art & Design and was a key collaborator in our Community @ Work event in September. She energized the project through deepening her own understanding of our history and drawing students into the task of utilizing art to create community. Her investment in the concerns around the Lexington bridge was a gift that propelled our efforts forward as we looked for ways to communicate the community’s concerns and desires around the bridge. Thank you, Cate, for honoring the people in our community through listening, engaging, creating, and caring.

Save the Date... and lend a hand!

The 29th Annual Lex-Ham Spaghetti Dinner is coming up on the evening of March 19th and will be held at St. George Greek Orthodox Church (note the change in location).

If you would like to get in on the fun and volunteer, please contact our Executive Director Amy Gundermann at lexham@lexham.org or call 651-645-3207.

Sharon Fischlowitz, President
Faris Rashid, Vice President
Jennifer Adam, Secretary
Jeremy Lostetter, Treasurer
Paul Bakke
Larissa Kiel
Johnell Kolve
Emmy Treichel
James Zika

Save the Date... and lend a hand!

Embrace the Minnesota winter and play with snow in a new way!

Try playing with snow from a different angle: inside your room. Bring a bowl or tray full of snow inside and use your play-do supplies to explore new possibilities... with no gloves or mittens! Bring out the watercolors and see what it is like to paint the snow. Enjoy it while it lasts!

Lex-Ham WE CARE

John Garafola

Cate Vermeland

JoHN GARAFOLA

Richard Norris Award

Cate Vermeland

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Wheeled Cart Recycling in Saint Paul

You have likely already received your new single-sort recycling carts from Saint Paul. The blue carts have wheels and a lid to make it even easier for you to collect your recyclables. Continue using your bins until the January 16th start date. Have your cart out by 7am on Mondays in Lex-Ham. The old curbside bins are yours to keep. Use it to collect recycling in your home, or repurpose it for another use! Do not place your old bins in the new carts. From January 9-27, 2017, broken or unwanted containers can be dropped-off at these locations for recycling:

- Arlington Hills Community Center | 1200 Payne Ave
- Palace Community Center | 781 Palace Ave

All households will receive a 64-gallon cart. Please use this cart for 90 days while the City completes the cart transition. Starting in April, if you would like to try a smaller (32-gallon) or larger (95-gallon) cart you may request a switch by calling Eureka Recycling at 651-222-7678. One switch will be allowed at no charge.

For more information on carts and the other changes coming to Saint Paul’s recycling program please visit www.stpaul.gov/recycle or call 651-222-7678.

Be a Volunteer

Seniors in your neighborhood are in need of helping hands this winter! Could you help shovel out an older neighbor or salt some icy steps? You’ll make a huge difference in only a few hours a month. Some seniors are able to provide a small stipend. Perfect opportunity for teens.

Warm your heart and be a SNOW ANGEL this winter!

Call Neighborhood Network for Seniors at 651-646-2301 or visit the website at www.neighborhoodnetworkforseniors.org.