Annual Meeting & Silent Auction
~ Celebrating 2017 ~

Neighbors filled the room to celebrate this past year in Lex-Ham at the Annual Meeting. Special thanks to our event volunteers, especially Ashley Rashid who coordinated another successful silent auction! Please watch for more information about the neighborhood award recipients in the next Eavesdropper. Times when our community comes together face-to-face is so valuable as we continue to build toward a vibrant future, grateful for the people that we get to call ‘neighbors.’

Please join us in thanking all of the auction donors listed below for their generosity and Thrivent Financial for sponsoring our event through an Action Team Grant from Margaret Jones.

- A. Johnson & Sons Florist
- Arthur Murray Dance Studio
- Bibelot
- Cadenza Music
- Café Latte
- Chris and Johnell Kolve
- Commonwealth Properties
- Dunn Bros
- Eugene and Lynne Heuton
- Grande Jeté
- Karen Randall
- Kowalski’s Markets
- Linda Lease
- Lucas Riley
- Margot Galt
- Nina Sherburne - Mighty Oaks
- O’Garas Bar & Grill
- Paul & Ellen Bakke
- Salon Ori - Becky Barger
- Salon Ori - Taylor Randle
- Sarah Murphy
- Saint Paul Saints
- Steve Freeman
- The Guthrie Theatre
- Three River Parks District
- Tin Whiskers Brewing
- Vertical Endeavors
- Wabasha Brewing
- Wet Paint
- Zilmen & McGuiness PLLC

Welcome, New Board Member!

We are pleased to welcome a new member to our Board of Directors! Dawn Puroway moved to Lex-Ham last summer with her husband Drew and three young children. She is eager to get involved and help strengthen our community.

Gone over the holidays?

Don’t forget St. Paul police will keep an eye on your house.

If you’re interested, call 651-266-5485
President’s Report

The Lexington Hamline Community Council is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all residents of the Lexington-Hamline Neighborhood. This year, our work to strengthen our quality of life has included a wide variety of projects, events, and campaigns.

No small part of our work involves maintaining continuity. Through the work of our Committees and staff, we organize and host traditions and events like this Annual meeting, the Spaghetti Dinner in March, the Ice Cream Social in July, and support resident-led activities such as National Night Out in August and caroling in December. Watch the LHCC enews and the Eavesdropper for dates and information, and consider serving on the Lex-Ham Events Committee to keep our neighborhood engaged and thriving.

The Lex-Ham Community Council Board thanks Johnell Kolve profusely for her many years of service to Lex-Ham. Johnell has been a stalwart board member, giving Lex-Ham time, counsel, and advice, humor and friendship. She will be missed!

All board members serve on Lex-Ham committees and often on a task force. The Lex-Ham Outreach Committee was formed this year to continue and strengthen our community engagement and to be responsive to new issues. Our Community Fund Task Force expects to conclude early next year and recommend a service provider for our ongoing stewardship of the fund. Our Events committee supports our ongoing traditions, celebrates our volunteers, and provides leadership and support to bring our community together to discuss, solve and resolve, celebrate and more. Our Finance Committee ensures that we steward our resources responsibly and well.

We work to improve our quality of life by being aware of and responsive to issues impacting the Lex-Ham neighborhood. In 2017, this meant, in part, continuing our community engagement around LED street lights and forming a task force to address the Emerald Ash Borer. We celebrated a significant milestone this summer with the Griggs Party in the Park when we hosted a gathering for the community to have a preview experience of our new park space. Lex-Ham continues to partner with the Trust for Public Land who is taking the lead on community engagement around the new park including the park-naming process and input on park elements.

Thank you to all the volunteers, committee, task force, and board members who help to make Lex-Ham a wonderful place to live. Your priorities and contributions are a vital part of Lex-Ham - we look forward to serving with you this year. Finally, please join me in thanking our Executive Director Amy Gundermann for all she does - we couldn’t do this without her!

Respectfully, — Sharon Fischlowitz

Events Committee Report – Lucas Riley

The goal of the Events Committee is to plan events that bring neighbors together while celebrating and supporting the Lex-Ham community in which we live. 2017 saw the return of some traditional favorite Lex-Ham events as well as some completely new events that addressed the needs of the neighborhood. None of them could have happened without the amazing support of not only the LHCC, but also scads of incredible neighbors who pitched in to help.

Our major events for the year included:

- The Spaghetti Dinner - we served over 200 neighbors with a warm meal and fellowship.
- The Griggs Party in the Park highlighted the space that will become a new park in our neighborhood and gather input as to how best use the space
- LED Streetlight Events that gathered feedback from neighbors regarding the LED lights. Together we are working with the city to encourage an acceptable outcome for all.
- Ice Cream Social - A favorite tradition since 1973.
- Food Drive - An effort coordinated with National Night Out to gather food for the Second Harvest Food Shelf.
- Dunning Safety Meeting - to address concerns over several violent incidents that have occurred at Dunning Park.
- Block Leader Celebration - to thank our volunteer block leaders for all they do, we gathered at Axel’s on Grand and shared laughter and appetizers while getting to know one another better.
- National Night Out - Saint Paul has one of the highest percentages of participation of this event in the nation! Many of our blocks have parties to address neighborhood safety, spend time with our local law enforcement and further improve their relationships with the neighbors on their street. LHCC made activity bags and Cub gift card available to block leaders this year.

In the coming year, the Events Committee is dedicated to continuing our work connecting residents and investing in this close knit community of ours.

Community Fund Task Force

—Jeremy Lostetter

The Lex-Ham board appointed a task force last year to review the state of our community fund and make a recommendation as to whether the status quo should be maintained or changes should be made. The task force consists of four board members: Board President Sharon Fischlowitz, Treasurer Emmy Treichel (soon to be Ashley Rashid), Paul Bakke, and Jeremy Lostetter (chair); and community member Karen Minge. Executive Director Amy Gundermann also attends all task force meetings.

The task force reviewed the Board’s Community Fund Policy and has met with five investment firms to date to gather information. The task force met recently to discuss the information gathered and plans to follow up with selected firms to ask more specific questions. The board set no specific deadline for this work, but the task force expects to return to the board with a recommendation in the next few months.
JOIN THE LEX-HAM COOPERATIVE GARDEN

The Lex-Ham Co-op Garden has a few openings for the 2018 growing season. All garden beds are farmed collectively and produce is shared out at the end of the work sessions by those in attendance. Membership is $50 which includes buckets of produce all summer long.

LOCATION: 1130 Marshall Ave
TIME COMMITMENT: SPRING PLANNING & PLANTING, SUMMER ONE HOUR/WEEK, FALL POTLUCK & CLEAN-UP
CONTACTS: Karen Randall—651-647-5747 or karenrandall@gmail.com
Melissa Borgmann-Kiemde—612-247-1151 or melissa.kiemde@gmail.com

Finance Committee Report - Emmy Treichel

The Finance Committee has addressed two significant issues that have required extensive research and discussion.

The agency that has serviced our home loan program discontinued that department as of Oct. 31. The Board has approved the transfer of the loan payments directly to our office for the one active loan. We will continue to investigate opportunities to recreate a new loan program. The Committee is aware that much has changed since we established our home improvement loan program. A thorough evaluation of our program would be beneficial so that our goal of providing affordable loans for our residents can be met.

The Community Fund Task Force has met with several investment groups and an individual counselor to learn how our Community Fund can be safely and effectively invested. This is our front burner issue.

New members of the Committee are always welcome.

A Huge Thanks

We’d like to thank one member of our board who is completing her service after 5 years.

Johnell Kolve has been a tireless worker bee, always eager to help events run smoothly! She joined the board in 2013 and was active in helping to beautify the office property among other special projects. She is a block leader on Selby and was involved in their elaborate block parties in years past. Johnell has been a strong voice for residents while also understanding the business owner perspective since she and her husband Chris own Wabasha Brewery. She continues to serve as a block leader and as a leader on the board for the Lex-Ham community garden. It has been a joy to work with you, Johnell! Thank you!

Mission Statement

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.

Who We Are

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 and serving the 4,000 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 and recreational programs.

Editorial Guidelines

The Eavesdropper is delivered bi-monthly to every home and business in the neighborhood. Notices and articles should be submitted in electronic Word format to lexham@lexham.org. Please keep submissions to a length of 150 words or less. Please contact the Lex-Ham office for more information. Lex-Ham reserves the right to refuse any submission.

Board of Directors

Sharon Fischlowitz, President
Amy Lucas Riley, Vice President
Ashley Rashid, Treasurer
Larissa Kiel, Secretary
Paul Bakke
Jeremy Lostetter
Sarah Murphy
Dawn Puroway
Emmy Treichel
Sam White

Staff

Amy Gundermann, Executive Director

HAPPY TO BE HERE!
Deb Holten and Karla Kritz are the enthusiastic owners of Vibrant Décor and Style on Selby Ave. Vibrant offers a lively mix of merchandise with unique fashion, accessories, jewelry, gift, and décor items. Artful merchandising throughout the store in shoppable vignettes, inspires ideas for home decorating or enhancing your personal style.

In our lower level, we feature vintage and repurposed items with an ever-evolving selection of colorful wall art, lamps, furniture, home décor and unique accents. We want to be part of a thriving community. Please stop in and say hello, we’d love to meet you.

Business Spotlight

Sunday, December 17 • 6:15 PM

We’ll meet at the festive 1272 Dayton home at 6:15 for mulled cider and holiday treats to get warmed up and ready. Then, singer Katy Taylor and friends will serenade Lex-Ham neighbors with Christmas carols. We’ll sing down 1-2 blocks of Dayton, and then cross Selby onto Hague and/or Laurel. Word sheets will be provided. Questions? katy@katytaylor.com or 651-363-1877

Lex-Ham Caroling & Holiday Treats

Business Spotlight
Outreach Committee Report — Sarah Murphy

The Outreach Committee was created this year to foster engagement with our community. Outreach supports ongoing projects, including We Care for seniors, pedestrian safety, communication, administration of the Good Works Fund, and environmental interests, as well as short-term initiatives.

Highlights of the Outreach Committee this year included:

• We Care Lunch and Learn for Seniors
  In April, guest speaker Marvin Anderson gave a wonderful presentation about the history of the Rondo neighborhood. In September, an expert from AARP spoke about fraud prevention.

• Pedestrian Safety
  Stop for Me events were held throughout the year, in partnership with police, to raise awareness about stopping for pedestrians in crosswalks. Many neighbors volunteered to support this effort.

• “Do A Little Something” Grants
  “Do a Little Something” grants are a new way for neighbors to put their own ideas into action to connect neighbors and benefit everyone. Neighbors fill out an application and can access up to $300 from the Good Works fund for their small-scale projects or events. We would love to see more applications in the future!

• Emerald Ash Borer
  A task force was created to better understand and plan for the effect of Emerald Ash Borer in Lex-Ham. Members of the task force placed green bands on Ash trees to help neighbors identify affected trees. Information about the EAB infestation was shared with residents and many committed to treating their Ash trees to help retain tree canopy and stagger tree loss.

• Rain Gardens
  Outreach members met with the Ramsey County Conservation Officer and learned of opportunities for rain gardens in Lex-Ham. Stewardship Grants are available through the Capitol Region Watershed to cover part of the cost, and planting is provided. Rain gardens reduce runoff and water pollution.

• LED Streetlighting
  After submitting a petition to the city expressing concerns about the standard bulb selection and halting installation, Lex-Ham has been involved as a site for the city’s lighting study and continues to help engage the community’s voice in this important decision.