Happy 50th Anniversary, Lex-Ham!

Although the look and delivery method have changed, the Eavesdropper continues to be an important tool for organizing our neighborhood with announcements about events, current neighborhood concerns, and sharing ideas. With so many additional ways to communicate online, we have often wondered if the paper version of the Eavesdropper should continue. The feedback we continue to get is that people actually read it and we can reach the most households this way.

We are thankful to the volunteers who have made this possible over the decades: submitting articles, assembling, labeling, and hand-drawing images. If you would like to join the ranks, we are currently in need of someone to handle the graphic design/layout for the Eavesdropper as we begin our 47th volume! □

All Call for Lex-Ham Stories and Photos

As we mark this milestone year, we are creating a book with a narrative of our history as well as a snapshot of Lex-Ham today. If you have a favorite story or photo to share, we would love to include it! Please contact our office or use this form online: https://goo.gl/forms/sfnM1zpDIWg4lNuk1.
**The Linda Feinberg Award**

**SUZIE NORRIS & JANE GARAFOLA**

The Linda Feinberg Award recognizes an individual who significantly contributed to the Lex-Ham neighborhood and to the community at large. Since 2007, Suzie Norris and Jane Garafola faithfully created giftbags with small tokens of welcome, often including handmade items. We frequently receive feedback about the impact that this simple gesture has on households as they settle into their new home. Suzie and Jane have now handed off the program to new volunteers after 11 years of dedicated service.

**The Outstanding Community Partner Award**

**DONNA KRAUSE**

The Outstanding Community Partner Award recognizes an organization or business who has demonstrated strong collaboration in the past year. The Stop for Me Campaign is creating a measurably more pedestrian-friendly environment in St. Paul. Lex-Ham has been partnering with the campaign for several years, helping to raise awareness through education, enforcement, and design modifications. Many Lex-Ham residents have volunteered for events in our neighborhood and beyond. Commander Jeremy Ellison is present at most events, is a core leader for the Campaign and attended our dinner to accept the award. The U of M has just completed a study using data from Stop of Me events that will be used to inform the way crossings are treated in the future.

**Special Recognition**

**STEVE KANTNER**

For 16 years, Steve Kantner donated an unmatched number of volunteer hours. In addition to serving on the board, helping at events, he became the volunteer bookkeeper and was known by staff as the MVP of our organization. In order to recognize Steve’s contributions, any space where the Lex-Ham board is gathered for business will be referred to as the “Steve Kantner Board Room”. Steve was presented with a plaque and an inscribed gavel will be used at Lex-Ham meetings.

**Community Service Award**

**JOHN BORRACCI**

The Community Service Award is given to an individual whose outstanding activities have made the neighborhood a community of which we are all proud. John Borracci has graciously offered access to his electricity and water for the Lex-Ham Ice Cream Social for many years. This kind gesture makes it possible for us to offer food at the event and have live music while keeping our costs at a minimum. What a gift!
Legacy Party

February 10 from 6:30—8:30 PM
1166 Selby Ave

Did you ever serve on the board for the Lex-Ham Community Council? If so, you are invited to the Legacy Party at 1166 Selby Avenue to help launch our 50th Anniversary. Volunteers like you are the key to the valuable impact that our organization has had on the neighborhood. Together, you have created play spaces, launched Youth Express, rescued historical lanterns, championed recycling programs, initiated a policy for abandoned buildings….and the list goes on! Come together with other leaders who have passed the torch over 50 years! Light fare and drinks will be served. Please RSVP to Amy at the office by February 5.

Not In Our Neighborhood
Landmark Center, Feb 14-16, $10

A little-known instance of racist violence, in a Saint Paul neighborhood, comes to light in Landmark Center’s production of “Not In Our Neighborhood”. Tickets can be purchased online or in suite 404 in Landmark Center. For more information, call 651-292-1239.

Spaghetti Dinner

The 31st Annual Lex-Ham Spaghetti Dinner is coming up on the evening of March 3rd from 5:30-7:00 PM and will be held at St. George Greek Orthodox Church. 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.
A Heartfelt Thanks to Our Kind Neighbors

Thank you to the Hanley-Jacobson family for being outstanding hosts for the annual Lex-Ham Holiday party in December. This marked the return of the gathering to the address where the Perrys had hosted for many years! The tradition began at the original Treichel home, 1277 Dayton, in 1974 and has been carried on for 45 years.

Also, thanks to Katy Taylor and Emmy Treichel for hosting and leading another heart-warming night of caroling through Lex-Ham. Your generosity and initiative are such gifts to our neighborhood!

Tot Lot History

How did this Lex-Ham thing start? One of the earliest community issues that our neighbors rallied behind in the 1960s was the need for a playground. At that time, there were no playgrounds nearby, not even at Dunning. Our neighbors identified the now “Tot Lot” on Hague Avenue as a potential site for children to play. It was tax forfeited property used by the city for snow dumping but not much else. Step one was to get the city to acquire the land from the state, identify it as park land, and finally to equip the park for play. Neighbors filled in the gaps with fencing, grading, and temporary equipment. They created a skating rink in the winter maintained by neighbors. In the summer of 1973, they hired Steve Dryer to offer programming four hours every day serving up to 58 neighborhood children daily. When the city lagged on following through with equipment, LHCC gathered 400 signatures in three days to petition for action. Eventually, the park was established. In 1993, the Lex-Ham board secured a grant to have the historical fencing recovered from the old Selby High Bridge line the park. Later in 2007, we were engaged with the newest redesign of the playground with turf surfacing and rock features. As we look back on the legacy of advocacy, we would like this park to reflect our history. If you have not yet signed the current petition to rename the Tot Lot “The Emmy Treichel Tot Lot” in honor of a resident who has been active since this very first initiative, contact our office.