A Bit of Lex-Ham History: Community Shares MN

In the 1970s, Lex-Ham Community Council was working hard to secure funding to address the challenges facing our neighborhood including rampant drug traffic, abandoned and boarded up houses on every block, and red-lining by mortgage companies. There was a national Catholic initiative called the “Campaign for Human Development” that created a local program called the “Christian Sharing Fund”. Groups like LHCC could secure a maximum of three consecutive grants from this fund. Karl Grahek was a Lex-Ham resident who was vocal about how these parameters were inhibiting organizations like ours who were in great need. With other Lex-Ham leaders including Mark Mishek, Emmy Treichel, and Ron Hick, LHCC helped to create the “Cooperating Fund Drive” to allow organizations focused on social change to conduct joint fundraising in 1978. These 15 charter member organizations did anything they could to raise money together, they even hosted a 24-hour basketball marathon. Our team’s first opponent was the City’s Planning Department staff. Eventually, the idea for workplace deductions was implemented. Using Lex-Ham connections, Ramsey County and the City of Saint Paul were two of the first employers to participate. Fighting through legislation, they overcame United Way’s attempt to block their approval and this unique social change funding agent has survived to celebrate its 40th anniversary! It is now called Community Shares of MN and currently has over 45 members. Over the past 40 years, they have raised $22,500,000 for social justice work. LHCC proudly continues its membership. If you would like to volunteer with Community Shares on behalf of LHCC, please contact Amy at our office. To learn more, visit communitysharesmn.org. □

Be a Hero, Give Blood

Lex-Ham Blood Drive: April 9 from 1 PM - 7 PM
St. George Orthodox Church, Social Hall

The need for blood is constant and only volunteer donors can fulfill that need for patients in our community. Pre-registration is appreciated, but walk-ups are welcome. □
Appt/Info: 1-800-Red-Cross or RedCrossBlood.org
Sponsor Code: LexhamCC

Community Calendar

▸ Lex-Ham Blood Drive
• TUESDAY, APRIL 9
1:00—7:00 PM
St. George Orthodox Church,
1111 Summit Ave

▸ Western District Safety Meetings
• TUESDAY, APRIL 16
9:30 AM OR 6:30 PM
Western District Headquarters
389 Hamline Ave

▸ Lex-Ham Clean-Up Day
• SATURDAY, APRIL 27
9:00 AM—11:30 AM
Meet at Dunning Playground for supplies

▸ Lex-Ham Community Council Board Meeting, All welcome!
• MONDAY, APRIL 29
7:00 — 9:00 PM
1216 Selby Avenue

▸ Lex-Ham Garage Sale
• MAY 17 & 18
Register by April 20 ($5)

▸ Lex-Ham Ice Cream Social
Save the Date!
• SUNDAY, JULY 28

▸ Lex-Ham 50th Anniversary Gala
Save the Date!
• SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
Concordia University

Information/Complaints/You-Name-It
City of St. Paul Information Hotline
651-266-8989
Welcome, Jesse!

We are pleased to welcome Jesse Hennum to the Lex-Ham Board of Directors! Jesse is a physician with Allina Health and has lived in Lex-Ham for nearly 10 years. Inspired by the generations of neighbors before him, Jesse has decided to do his part to help Lex-Ham continue to be a great place to live!

Tell Your Lex-Ham Story

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/sfnM1zpDIw4iNuk1.

50th Gala
Save the Date!

To mark this milestone year, we will be celebrating with a 50th Anniversary Gala on September 21 at Concordia University. Please save the date and plan to join us!

Stadium Opening!

On April 13, the Minnesota United will have their first home game in the new Allianz Stadium. Visit the City of St. Paul’s site (www.stpaul.gov/allianz) to learn more about the Transportation Management Plan for the stadium and offer input as the Midway adjusts to 20,000 guests on game days.

Neighborhood Network for Seniors

We are lucky to have the Neighborhood Network for Seniors available to our residents! They provide free and low-cost services to seniors (62 and older) and do a great job of utilizing neighbors as volunteers. They provide transportation to medical appointments, in-home foot care, exercise classes, home safety checks, assistance with errands, check-in on seniors, and much more. Learn about receiving services or volunteering at 651-646-2301 or neighborhoodnetworkforseniors.org.

Midway Peace Park Update

The anticipation is building as we await the completion of Midway Peace Park in Lex-Ham! Construction will begin in early summer and be finalized in early fall. We are excited about are the mosaic benches and cascading stream stormwater channel feature. Stay tuned for the grand opening!

Matched Giving

Have you ever heard of matched giving that is offered by some employers? This is a great way to maximize the giving you are already doing! Below is a list of some companies that offer matched giving and/or volunteer match for their employees.

Matched giving is when your company gives a donation to charities that you give to, sometimes with a 1:1 ratio. (This means if you donate $100, they will also donate $100 to Lex-Ham.) Volunteer match is when your company makes a donation to a charity based on your volunteer hours with that organization. (For example, they may donate $5 to Lex-Ham for every volunteer hour you have completed for Lex-Ham work.) Taking advantage of these programs can make a big difference for Lex-Ham!

Please check with your employer to see if they offer something similar and feel free to reach out to Amy, our Executive Director, if you have questions. Thanks for investing in our neighborhood!

Examples of Companies that offer Matched Giving or Volunteer Match Programs:

3M, American Express, AT&T, Medtronic, Microsoft, SuperValu (Cub, Rainbow), Target, U.S. Bancorp

A happy customer at the Spaghetti Dinner
Spaghetti Dinner 2019 - We are so grateful for our outstanding group of Lex-Ham volunteers who stepped up to help our Spaghetti Dinner run smoothly! It was another awesome night to share a warm meal with neighbors in spite of the bitter cold outside. With live accordion music by Mike Opitz and flower-pot decorating for kids, the atmosphere was festive and joyful. We’d especially like to thank Thrivent for the Action Grant secured by Sara Dovre Wudali which was used to purchase the compostable supplies. Again, Pizza Luce generously donated the spaghetti sauce, meatballs, veggie-balls, salad, and dressing AND staff members Kevin and Donald served at the window the entire night. The beautiful table flowers were donated by Johnson & Sons Florist and were delivered to neighbors in need of cheer after the event. Thank you also to Breadsmit, Cub Foods, and Kowalski’s Markets for donating to make the Spaghetti Dinner possible.

Sam White - After three years of serving on the Lex-Ham Board of Directors, Sam White has stepped down. Sam has been juggling his volunteer time in Lex-Ham with his full time studies at Concordia University and needed to make room for student teaching during this semester. The work and care that Sam has dedicated to our neighborhood is greatly appreciated!

Legacy Party - During a winter blizzard, those who have shaped Lex-Ham over the past 50 years through board membership or as staff came together to share memories and celebrate all that has been accomplished by our Community Council. We would like to thank Salon Ori and Yellowbird Coffee Bar for hosting us in their space for free! Also, big thanks to Trader Joe’s for donating the treats for this special event! We are grateful to all who have stepped forward over the years to offer leadership, ideas, energy, and creativity!

MLK Day - On a day when classes were not in session, several volunteer groups were deployed from Concordia University’s Call Center to make a difference in our community. Lex-Ham benefited from the great work of one of these groups of students. They helped to weed through old newsletters and annual reports to pull out the names of past board and staff members as we prepare to celebrate our 50th anniversary. Thank you, CSP students, for volunteering on MLK Day!

Board Recruitment & Committees
The Lex-Ham Community Council’s board of directors is seeking new members. If you are interested in becoming more involved and discovering the rewards of contributing in a more hands-on way, please apply! We are also looking for additional members on our Personnel Committee. Contact our office for more information or go to lexham.org under the “About” tab.
Lex-Ham Clean-Up Day

April 27 from 9 AM—11:30 AM

Be a friend of the earth and help tidy up Lex-Ham on April 27! Come to the Dunning Playground between 9AM-11:30AM for gloves, garbage bags, and snacks, then head out to clean up your favorite corner of the neighborhood.

Oh, For Cute!

Do you have your Lex-Ham knit cap for these chilly MN spring mornings? Get yours today! $15

Lex-Ham Garage Sale

May 17 & 18

Deadline for Promotional Support: April 20th

Have you been inspired to check which of your things are “sparking joy”? What will you do with the rest? Join your neighbors and have a garage sale May 17 & 18. Those that register with us by April 20th ($5) will be listed in all promotions (flyers, website, social media, and enews).