

The Eavesdropper

The bridge between your home and your neighborhood



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LEXINGTON-HAMLIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Views of Midway Peace Park, a success story that started with an identified need for green space by Skyline residents and Gordon Parks High School students

THE NEW PARK IS OPEN!

Midway Peace Park is finally complete! After 10 years of advocacy, community engagement, fundraising, park listening, design sessions, a community-focused naming process, and construction, the park is open. Due to COVID restrictions, we will plan a park opening event in the spring to celebrate. If you have not visited yet, you should walk through and see the incredible rainwater capture feature, beautiful playground, and stunning bench mosaics. Check out our Midway Peace Park Photo Scavenger Hunt on our website to add fun to your next trip to the park. Thank you to our intern, Bethany Mrosko for creating the hunt! □

UNION PARK & LEX-HAM SOLIDARITY FUND

We are excited to announce a new housing relief program for residents in Lex-Ham who are experiencing hardship called the Union Park & Lex-Ham Solidarity Fund. Through a collaboration with Union Park District Council (whose boundaries include the Lex-Ham neighborhood) and Keystone Community Services, one-time \$500 grants are available for housing expenses such as rent, mortgage payments, and utilities.

You can reach Keystone's Community Support Services line at 651-917-3883. Your call will be returned within two business days to assess eligibility for one-time emergency help. Information and referrals for other community resources are also provided. Keystone Community Services is able to provide assistance during business hours only. If you are in need of help during evening and weekend hours, please call 2-1-1/First Call for Help.

If you are able to give during this time and would like to make a difference in your community, consider donating to the Union Park and Lex-Ham Solidarity Fund by visiting our website or using the QR code here. Over \$6,000 has already been raised! □

Community Calendar

- ▶ **Lex-Ham Community Council Board Meeting, All welcome!**
 - MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30
 - NO MEETING IN DECEMBER
 - 7:00 — 9:00 PM
 - Please contact our office to access this meeting which will be virtual.*
- ▶ **Western District Safety Meetings**
 - TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15
 - 9:30 AM OR 6:30 PM
 - Skype Virtual Meeting*

STAY IN TOUCH

There is a lot that happens between Eavesdropper publications. Keep up with neighborhood announcements and events by following us on Facebook and sign up to receive email updates. Join the Lex-Ham Enews list by visiting our website or contacting our office at lexham@lexham.org. □



President's Report

Lucas Riley

The Lexington-Hamline Community Council is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all residents of the Lexington-Hamline neighborhood. In 2020 the Council faced unprecedented challenges as we dealt with the ramifications of Covid19. We did our best to educate and protect our neighbors and ensure that our community could rely on one another for support during this uncertain time. What is especially significant to note is that because we already had such a strong community council in place, with engaged board members, reliable and dedicated block leaders and active community members, the framework was already established to support our community through this difficult time. While other entities were scrambling to figure out how to approach the challenges of our new reality, The Lexington Hamline Community Council stood ready to serve and just had to rethink some small components to be able to continue our work of supporting our neighbors seamlessly. That is why continued support of LHCC is so important, so that our neighbors have a solid foundation and a place to turn to in times of joy and in times of struggle and strife. Your voices are heard in your community.

Thank you for all that you do to make this place special! Thank you to all the volunteers, committee members, board members and the Lex-Ham neighbors! YOU are what makes this community so strong. Finally, please join me in thanking our Executive Director Amy Gundermann. She truly went above and beyond this past year to make sure that we were able to support our community during this challenging time. Her dedication, leadership, insight, wisdom, hard work, and compassion truly make the Lex-Ham neighborhood and community council a wonderful place to live.



Yahye Awad & Kao Lai Lee handing out treats at Skyline

AN ONLINE SUCCESS

Our first online auction was a success! Thank you for joining us on this adventure and for your incredible support. The auction raised over \$4,000 and exceeded expectations during a year of so many unknowns. All funds raised will go right back into programs and events for our neighborhood!

**Thank you to
all our
amazing
donors!**

In addition to these businesses, we'd like to thank the following individuals for their auction item donations:

Alisa Blackwood
Nancy Feintheil
Lynne Heuton
Catherine Hinz
Robert Holst
Sarah Murphy
Dawn Puroway

Karen Randall
Ashley Rashid
Amy Riley
Paul Sherburne
Brian Tourtelotte
Sarah Von Bargaen

Hats off to our Fundraising Committee: Jesse Hennem (chair and tech wizard), K.C. Sager (auction coordinator), Natalie Kennedy Schuck and Paul Busch. You did an amazing job!



DONATE A BIKE
 You can donate used bikes or bike parts to **Express Bike** and your donation will support youth employment in our community! They are offering contact-free donation drop off at 1158 Selby.

LEX-HAM SURVEY & STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Lynne Heuton, Strategic Planning Committee Chair

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Lex-Ham Survey. The survey was conducted in September as part of a process to develop a strategic plan for our Community Council. Approximately 150 neighbors completed the survey either on line or on paper. The survey responses along with additional community input collected during focus groups will be used to produce a plan to guide the work of the Council for the next 3 years.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU

Lucas Riley—Thank you for pouring your heart into Lex-Ham as president for the past two years. Your work and energy is reflected in a long list of accomplishments for our council which impact every resident. Although Lucas will continue to serve on our board of directors, she has passed the presidential baton on to Sarah Murphy.

Suzie Norris—Thank you for your deep care for Lex-Ham over many decades and for your recent service on the board.

Marisa McDaniel—Thank you for freshening up our pedestrian flags along Selby. The sun had bleached out the orange, but now they are visible again and available for making street crossing safer in Lex-Ham.

Bill Parker—Thank you for taking the initiative to bring the Grahek Memorial Garden back to life on the corner of Lexington and Concordia. Your efforts are noticed daily and help create a welcoming gateway to Lex-Ham.

Yahye Awad and Sharon Fischlowitz—Thank you both for volunteering to help with the voter registration drive that Lex-Ham hosted at Skyline ahead of the election. □

From the data gathered we have identified four key focus areas to be addressed. These are: Crime and Safety, Housing and Development, Building Community, and Parks and Open Spaces. Work is currently being done to establish goals within each of these areas. Goals will provide additional detail and scope for the work to be done. Survey responses also reflected significant concerns related to race and equity. Rather than identify this as a separate focus area we will strive to build an environment of equity and inclusion into the entire strategic plan. Survey participants put a great deal of time and thought into their responses. As a result we received a long list of real issues and legitimate concerns. The Strategic Planning Committee had to prioritize which issues to build into the plan. We recognized the Council could not address every concern and be successful. We feel the focus areas chosen are priorities identified by our community and will allow the council to work toward their mission "to improve the quality of life and bring about positive community change in the Lex-Ham neighborhood"

The final Strategic Plan will be available in Jan 2021. We value your continued involvement in this process and welcome your questions and comments (lexham@lexham.org). If you would like a full copy of the survey results please contact the Lex-Ham office (651-645-3207). You can also follow strategic plan updates on the Lex-Ham website (www.lexham.org). □

Mission Statement	Who We Are	Editorial Guidelines	Board of Directors
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 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.	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.	Sarah Murphy, President Ashley Rashid, Vice President Paul Busch, Treasurer Dawn Puoway, Secretary Dave Clements Jesse Hennem Lynne Heuton Natalie Kennedy Schuck Marisa McDaniel Katie Penson Amy Lucas Riley K.C. Sager Pat Sullivan Kent Treichel
Staff Amy Gundermann, Executive Director			



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Saint Paul, MN 55104

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WELCOME TO THE BOARD

Welcome to our newest board members who were voted in during our Annual Meeting in October. Thank you for stepping up to serve our community!

Dave Clements Marisa McDaniel Katie Penson



To view our celebration video or our 2019 Annual Report, please visit our website. So much has happened!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Would you help out in one of these areas?
Fundraising, Personnel, Events

Block Leader Vacancies

Hague Avenue between Lexington and Dunlap
Dayton Avenue between Lexington and Dunlap
If interested, please contact Amy at our office!

WINTER WARMTH DRIVE IN LEX-HAM

NOVEMBER 21– DECEMBER 21
YELLOWBIRD COFFEEBAR, 1168 SELBY AVE

As the days get colder, many families are struggling. Lex-Ham is doing a "Winter Warmth Drive" for Project REACH which benefits Saint Paul Public School students who are experiencing homelessness. Drop off NEW adult size socks, winter hats, boots (any size), and blankets at Yellowbird Coffeebar between now and December 21. Learn more about Project REACH at <https://www.spps.org/projectreach>. Thank you to Lucas Riley for organizing this drive! □

ONGOING DRIVES IN LEX-HAM

Food Drive—Thank you for continuing to support those experiencing food insecurity through Keystone Services and to the Jones family for hosting this drive in Lex-Ham. **Donations are welcome** on the porch at 1235 Portland Avenue or at <https://donorbox.org/lex-ham-neighbors-giving>

Mask Drive—Thank you for donating masks for our neighbors at Skyline. We have collected over 2000 masks so far. **Drop off handmade or store-bought masks** at 1308 Hague Avenue.□

Visit our online store for personalized merchandise! apparelnow.com/lexham-community-council-apparel