



The Lexington-Hamline Community Council

THE EAVESDROPPER

The bridge between your home and your neighborhood

Vol. XXXIII

St. Paul April, 2006

No. IV

Community Calendar

Tot Time at Dunning
Mon & Wed 9:30-11:30am

Eavesdropper Deadline
Wednesday, Apr. 12

Prime Timer Potluck
Wednesday, Apr. 26,
11:30-1:30pm

Executive Committee Meeting
Monday, Apr. 17, 7pm

Board Meeting
Monday, Apr. 24, 7pm

Meth. Forum
Wednesday, Apr. 5th,
6:30-8:30pm
Arlington High School,
1495 Rice Street, St. Paul

"Gardening For A Rainy Day"
Monday, April 10, 6:30-8pm, Wellstone Center, Room 208, 179 Robie Street East, St. Paul

Wednesday, Apr. 12, 6:30-8pm, Mississippi Market, 622 Selby Avenue, St. Paul

Sunday, Apr. 30, 11am, The Living Green Expo, Minnesota State Fairgrounds Grandstand, 1265 Snelling Avenue, St. Paul

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18th Annual Spaghetti Dinner Was Delizioso!

Well over 100 neighbors of Lex Ham enjoyed a delightful evening of zesty pasta, delectable desserts, festive music and fun conversation during the 18th annual Spaghetti Dinner.

Many thanks to all who attended and to all who volunteered to make the evening a success. Special thanks to the Concordia student group, United Minds of Joint Action. Carl Hayes, along with Adrian Perryman, Adrian Mitchell, Alisha Zahn, Antwon Williams, Stephen Atwood, Michael Brooks, Jessica Ellis, Fummi Fadirepo, put their muscles and volunteer spirit into the jobs of setting up, serving food and cleaning up. We hope that this will be the first of many activities between Lex-Ham and Concordia's fine students and faculty.

And of course, attendees also were wowed again by our own chefs in the neighborhood who created a homemade feast of spaghetti sauces and desserts. Thanks go to Amy and Shawn Riley, Jamie Parker and Kristi Rendahl, Sheila Burke and Wayne Hendricks, Mary Beth Redmond, Sue Norris, Julie New-Landrum, Chris and Lisa King, Barb Gunther, Mary Lou Grahek, Lorraine Delehanty, Vicki Cudworth, Helen Herman, Karen Minge, and Jeff Brown.

We also appreciate other superstar volunteers, including Jeff Risberg, Jacqueline Fortier, Ellen Handrahan, Block Leaders, Stuart Alger, Patricia Eaves, Barb Gunther, and Art Reed and his musical friends. Big thanks go to our outstanding kitchen crew of Moira Lynch, Bill Bush,

Jim Penson, and Gene Recibe. And last but not least, thanks to our tireless ticket taker, Susan Diekrager!

Finally, we are grateful to our corporate contributors. First, Pizza Lucé for donating and serving delicious pasta, sauce and garlic bread the entire evening! And secondly, special thanks go to Midway Cub Foods, for their generous donation.

All in all, the evening was a huge success!

-Margaret Jones
Spaghetti Dinner Chair

Metro Paint-A-Thon gears up for 2006

2006 Metro Paint-A-Thon applications are now available for low-income seniors and disabled homeowners who need a fresh coat of paint on the exterior of their house. Each August, thousands of Paint-A-Thon volunteers scrape, prime, and paint the homes of low-income seniors and people with disabilities at no cost to the homeowner. During the weekend of August 5-6, volunteers will paint more than 130 homes. The effort brings stability and beauty to neighborhoods throughout the metropolitan area while helping homeowners live independently in their homes while remaining a vital part of their neighborhoods.

To qualify for Paint-A-Thon, homeowners must meet the following qualifications:

- The house must be owned and occupied by a person 60 years of age or older, or by a person of any age with a permanent disability.

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Who are we?

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 3,000 residents living in this neighborhood. The Council's goal is to strengthen the neighborhood and to 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 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 fewer. For other guidance, contact the Lex-Ham office. Eavesdropper reserves the right to refuse any submission.

Submission Deadlines

Articles for the May issue must be submitted by Wednesday, April 12th. Please keep entries short, so we can include all of them!

Eavesdropper Volunteer Staff

Melissa Germain
Patricia Straub
Chris Wood
Heather Muller, Graphic Design
contact at mullerism@yahoo.com

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- The house must be a single-family dwelling, in need of paint, but not in need of major repairs.
- The house must be located in the 7-county metro area: Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, or Washington County.
- A qualifying homeowner also must meet monthly income guidelines. A household size of one, for instance, can earn no more than \$1,551 per month and a household size of two can earn no more than \$2,081 per month.

Those interested in having their home painted should call Paint-A-Thon at (612) 721-8687, ext. 321 for further information or to request an application.

You can also visit www.gmcc.org/paint-a-thon to download an application. The deadline to apply is May 12, 2006.

Innovative Builder Showcases 'GREEN' Building

Flannery Construction, Inc. has just completed new offices and warehouse space in St. Paul. The new 'green' building is 37% more energy efficient than traditional commercial architecture. It is located at 1375 St. Anthony Avenue, west of Hamline Avenue in St. Paul, clearly visible from I-94. This architecturally unique design by Peter Kramer of Roark Kramer Kosowski/DESIGN, allows Flannery Construction to consolidate its offices, storage, and scattered warehouse spaces under one roof.

Flannery Construction's goal was to build the most energy efficient building possible with no more than a 5-7% increase in upfront costs and a cost savings pay-off within 7 years. Energy-efficient heating and cooling systems were employed, as well as a white roof system, solar-thermal panels, a well-insulated building shell, in-floor radiant heating, motion sensor lighting systems, and

recycled, reused, and reclaimed building materials.

The healthy environment is greatly appreciated by employees, who all have access to daylight views from their workstations, and benefit from controlled humidity through the building's in-floor radiant heat. In addition, Flannery Construction has a commitment to using non-toxic products such as paint, caulking, carpet, sealants, and cleaning products. The company offers yoga to the employees two times a week and a place to shower and change afterwards. Why? According to owner Gerry Flannery, "Employee health and well-being is directly correlated with productivity and retention."

Flannery Construction, Inc. is in the process of submitting its project for certification by the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy/Environmental Design (LEED) program. "We're aiming for gold!"

Dunning Garden

Farm in the City is working with St. Paul Parks and Recreation to establish a community garden near Concordia at Griggs. Approximately 40 garden plots will be available on a first-come basis. (20 requests have been received.) Gardeners will be expected to help defray costs with a minimal fee and will need to agree to maintenance specifications and regulations. Please send inquiries to info@farminthecity.org. or call 641.8831. We will be hosting a garden-organizing meeting in late March with GardenWorks, a new program established to support community gardeners, and will notify gardeners who have requested a plot.

Lex-Ham Garden Shuffle Planning

Anyone interested in being part of organizing this year's neighborhood garden tour is invited to attend a meeting on Wednesday, April 12, 7pm at 1122 Marshall Ave. We have a solid system in

place for organizing the event, so it is easy to sign on to help out.

This year's tour takes place on Saturday July 8 and will feature gardens north of Hague. We are looking for new gardens to include in the tour from this part of Lex-Ham. Feel free to nominate your own or suggest a neighbor's by calling Karen Randall at 647-5747. We try to check out the area in June but don't want to miss something special tucked away behind a fence. The commitment involves tidying up for visitors and being in your garden to answer their questions from 10am to 1pm on July 8th.

Each year about 200 people spend a lovely summer morning walking through the gardens on the tour and admiring our neighborhood. It is fun to share with them an appreciation of growing things.

Methamphetamine Forum

April 5th

6:30-8:30 pm

**Arlington High School,
1495 Rice Street, St. Paul**

Take time to learn about the drug that is taking over our communities.

Presenters include:

Investigator Mark Ganley, an 8 year veteran of the Roseville police department. Mark spent two years with the Ramsey County East Metro Drug Task Force, and is a recognized local expert on methamphetamine. He will provide introductory info on methamphetamines.

Sara Hejny, a former methamphetamine addict, was featured on an A & E documentary about interventions. The addiction caused her to lose her job, her marriage, and custody of her child. She has been sober for over a year, and will tell her personal story of addiction.

This event is sponsored by the St. Paul Police Department, the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office, Councilmen Helgen's office, and the District 6 Planning Council. For more information please contact Patty at 651-488-7684.

Free Gardening Workshops

Gardening for a Rainy Day: Native Plants, Rain Gardens, & Lawncare for Water Quality

Monday, April 10, 6:30 - 8:00pm
Wellstone Center, Room 208,
179 Robie Street East, St. Paul

Wednesday, April 12, 6:30-8:00pm
Mississippi Market, 622 Selby
Avenue, St. Paul

Sunday, April 30, 11:00am
The Living Green Expo
Minnesota State Fairgrounds
Grandstand, 1265 Snelling
Avenue, St. Paul

Combine your love for gardening with protecting the Mississippi River! Homeowners interested in preserving local water quality can start right in their own backyards. Many people don't realize that some standard lawncare practices can cause serious damage to nearby lakes, streams and rivers.

This workshop is designed to give residents information needed to make good gardening and lawncare decisions and to begin taking steps toward protecting water quality. We will discuss landscaping with native plant species, the proper use of lawn fertilizer, rain barrels, backyard composting, soil testing, creating a rain garden, and more innovative approaches to managing stormwater!

Register with Elizabeth, Friends of the Mississippi River, 651/222-2193 x16, or estorey@fmr.org.

This workshop is free of charge and is presented by Friends of the Mississippi River with funding from City of St. Paul Department of Public Works.

Friends of the Mississippi River is a citizen organization working to protect and enhance the Mississippi River and its watershed in the Twin Cities area.

Community Calendar Continued...

Garden Shuffle

Planning Meeting

Wednesday, Apr. 12,
7pm, 1122 Marshall Ave.

Resource for Renters Expands to Saint Paul

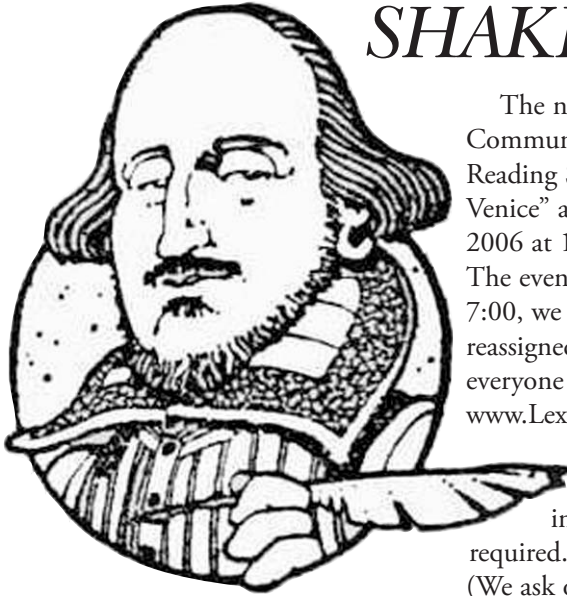
Home Line, a non-profit advocacy group for tenants, is expanding its hotline service to Saint Paul. The hotline offers free legal advice for renters regardless of their income. Tenants can get advice on their rights regarding issues such as security deposits, eviction notices and needed repairs. To contact Home Line, call 612-728-5767 or visit their website at www.homelinemn.org.

The 2006 Board of Directors

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Francis Galt
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SHAKESPEARE!

The next event in the Lex-Ham Community Theater's Shakespeare Reading Series will be "The Merchant of Venice" at 6:30 pm, Friday, April 21, 2006 at 1184 Portland Avenue, St. Paul. The event starts with a potluck supper. At 7:00, we start to read with parts being reassigned at the start of each scene, so everyone gets lots of chances to read. See www.LexHamArts.org/theater/

Shakespeare/SRS.htm or call 651-644-3366 for more information. No registration is required. First timers are welcome. (We ask only that you bring some food to share, a copy of the play, and a love of Shakespeare.)

Resource for Renters Expands to Saint Paul

Home Line, a non-profit advocacy group for tenants, is expanding its hotline service to Saint Paul. The hotline offers free legal advice for renters regardless of their income. Tenants can get advice on their rights regarding issues such as security deposits, eviction notices and needed repairs. To contact Home Line, call 612-728-5767 or visit their website at www.homelinemn.org.

Friends Thank-You

Thanks to the following neighbor who contributed to the Lex-Ham friends campaign since last month's Eavesdropper was published:

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