



The Ludlow Holiday Home Tour Returns



Several homes featured on the 2024 Holiday Home Tour; photo courtesy of Destiny Meyer

by John Hall and Joyce Nessler
The Ludlow Historic Society was thrilled to bring back the Historic Holiday Home Tour to Ludlow after 10 years. It was an incredible night of community, history, architecture, and camaraderie that brought over 200 people, many from outside of Ludlow, to our town. The guests walked through historic neighborhoods, toured Ludlow Heritage Museum, eight beautiful homes, took in a concert at Wesley United Methodist Church, shopped and dined at local businesses, and learned more about the charm and splendor that Ludlow provides. This event raised over \$4,000, the proceeds of which were given to the restoration of

the Ludlow Storehouse building, one of the prominent preservation projects in northern Kentucky. We have been working with the Ludlow Heritage Museum to support this project, and the next fundraising goal is to renovate the roof to protect the building. The Home Tour event was the result of a year of planning, and we could not have done this without a significant amount of support. Firstly, our amazing homeowners who opened their gorgeous homes and decorations. We had several businesses offer their support through sponsorships and raffle items – Ideal Supplies, Hater Dry Goods, Buffalo Bar, Secret Sister Boutique, Ludlow Coffee, Ronald

Upcoming LHS Events

LHS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Tue, Apr 22 • 7:00 PM • Second Sight

Join us for Happy Hour and a round of Ludlow based trivia. You'll learn about the LHS, what we do, and how you can participate as a member. Invite your friends!

HISTORY OF LUDLOW BASEBALL

Tue, May 6 • 5:00 PM • Community Center

Celebrate the 150th anniversary of Professional Baseball in Ludlow by attending the Ludlow v. Holmes High School baseball game at Lemker Field, followed by a lecture from Cam Miller on history of Ludlow Baseball.

B. Jones Funeral Home, LHS Bamberger Sustainability Fund, Soterra Capital LLC, Jimmy John's for Anderson Township, Reality Tuesday, Reeves, Beelicious, Taste on Elm, Ludlow Tavern & Hills of KY Dulcimers. We had many volunteers who supported the planning, setup, check in, home management, and clean up of the event. Finally, we thank all of those who shared the event and bought tickets to join us on an amazing day for Ludlow. Thank you to all! We look forward to bringing this event back. It will certainly be less than 10 years until the next one! ■

From Incineration to Net Zero - The Ludlow Trash Saga



Photo by Jeremy Kramer; courtesy of Cincinnati Magazine

by Ruth Bamberger

If you are not a Ludlow native, chances are you have never heard of the incinerator built in 1931 outside of the Devou Park northwest edge to dispose of the increasing amount of garbage generated in the city. It operated until 1959 when the city trash was hauled to a local landfill in the region by a company contracted by the city. The remains of the old incinerator lie in forested land, roofless, decorated with every imaginable graffiti, and now fenced off. Over the years this site gained the reputation of being haunted and full of mysterious happenings. It became a hangout the local kids explored and did

whatever kids do in such a place. Today the hiker and biker trail from Sleepy Hollow Road near the trestle can lead one to see what's left of the building and the smokestack. This site now merits as one of the Weirdest Places in Greater Cincinnati.

A Newcomer's Experience with Ludlow Trash

I grew up in Northern KY (Bellevue), but spent much of my adult professional life in Springfield, Missouri. By the mid 1990s, that city had recycling in place, and I had worked with organizations concerned with solid waste issues which had become more serious about the increase of plastic packaging,

bottles, and a host of other consumer products. I had my first exposure to the city's landfill when a class I taught on Environmental Politics visited this site. What a site with every conceivable manner of solid waste and odors- a mixture of the contents and the methane gas, a by-product of landfills and a major cause of global warming! I vowed at that point I would do whatever I could to address solid waste problems. I moved to Ludlow in 2005, and of course the first thing I noticed was that the city had a twice a week trash collection and no recycling. I didn't know anyone here, so what I did was check out what nearby

towns were doing, and learned that several had recycling. I found the name of the Rumpke municipal agent that worked with Ludlow, met him over breakfast, and his basic message was "Ludlow has had its trash schedule in place for years, and it will be hard to change." Then I ran a little article in the community paper at the time, asking for names of residents who had an interest in recycling. Four people responded, and over several meetings we laid out a strategy:

- Present to City Council the need for recycling;
- Collect data from all 18 Kenton County municipalities about their trash policies;
- Build up a community of supporters via the city news publication and by word of mouth.

The city told us that we had to prove that the people in Ludlow wanted recycling, so several of us went door to door over several months. Some of the biggest objectors were River's Breeze residents who feared that putting recycling in those open red bins would result in trash blowing all over the place because of high winds on that hill! But we were able to get enough people on board—close to 300—that the city approved a recycling plan by subscription only, meaning that

those who recycled had to pay an extra fee. And twice a week trash collection continued.

In due course when the city trash contract came up in 2011, we were able to convince City Council to take a vote on a once a week regular + recycle collection with the same fee for all, whether residents recycled or not. That vote failed because one member reneged on his promise. We went back to the drawing board and with some new people being elected to Council, by 2013 we figured we had another chance to move our proposal for a once a week trash and recycle collection with all residents paying the fee regardless of whether they chose to recycle or not. We lobbied City Council members and got the local Garden Club, members of the local Sierra Club group, and neighbors we knew to show up at the meeting when Council would take the final vote on the plan. Council people were somewhat flabbergasted to see so many people at a council meeting (a rarity in Ludlow), and we finally won the day with only one dissenting vote.

Why did it take eight years for something, so seemingly simple, to get passed? First, there were city leaders who wanted to continue business as usual, don't rock the boat! Secondly, not a

small number of residents told us in our petition drive that they did not want the government telling them what to do, and furthermore, it was just another way Rumpke would make more money selling recyclable trash without any return to the residents. It's just darn hard for people to change, but our group never gave up hope. The lesson we all learned was that politics is messy in a democratic society, and change never happens easily and without persistence. As Gandhi once uttered, "You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

So What About Reaching Net-Zero?

The Rumpke Company maintains accurate records of trash volume and the kind of solid waste that goes into the trash stream. They estimate that 40% of what goes into the landfill today is recyclable material. This means that residents and businesses can help Rumpke and its customers contain their costs by extending the life of costly landfills! Rumpke recently contracted with the HEFTY ReNEW program whereby a whole range of plastics and foam products that Rumpke doesn't recycle can be placed in orange bags and put in one's recycling container. These orange bags are available at Kroger, WalMart or Amazon. You will be amazed how your trash volume is reduced. And if you compost food waste, you are practically at Net-Zero! ■

Look for Hefty ReNew bags where you buy your garbage bags.



In Memory of Brenda Boone

The Ludlow Historic Society would like to recognize Brenda Boone for her invaluable volunteerism and leadership. Brenda was a protector of Ludlow's buildings, people, and notable history. Ludlow is very lucky to have been the recipient of her talents and passion.

Brenda saw the need to protect and celebrate the incredible architecture of Ludlow. She, along with Joy Amann and Patrick Snadon, founded the Ludlow Historic Society to educate and advocate for Ludlow's historic buildings. Brenda was a strong leader in the LHS, serving as a Board member from 2010–2020, including two terms as President. In 2010, Brenda took the lead to create a strong foundation for the LHS by facilitating the discussion and writing of the first LHS Strategic Plan. Again under her leadership, she took the lead to readdress the goals of the LHS and organized the revisions to the

LHS Strategic Plan in 2017. During her time on the LHS Board, her organizational skills and passion for Ludlow's story were evident, as she helped organize many LHS festivals and seasonal events. This included large events such as the Ludlow Lagoon Festival or small events to partner with the school to tidy up Ludlow. Brenda was also a strong leader in the organization of two grand Progressive Porch Parties. She lent a touch of Southern class to these events. Brenda was especially instrumental in organizing the very successful Ludlow Christmas Home Tours, including partnering with local organizations during these tours to share the proceeds with other local non-profit organizations such as the Children's Home of Northern Kentucky and the Northern Kentucky Symphony Orchestra. Brenda was a driving force to start "brick and mortar" projects in Ludlow.

Her organizational and design skills were well utilized when the LHS renovated two historic homes in Ludlow. LHS was very proud to be able to purchase, restore, and sell historic properties; it could not have been done without Brenda's help. One of the properties, 232 Elm St., in "Latta Row," received an award from the Cincinnati Preservation Association. Brenda also lent her color expertise to select attractive and appropriate architectural colors for several historic buildings in town. To the Ludlow Historic Society, Brenda was an inspiration on how to be an exceptional community volunteer, how to advocate for beautiful historic buildings, and how to be a protector of one's community. Our sympathies go out to husband Jesse, son Josh, daughters Rachel and Elizabeth and grandchildren. Brenda will be greatly missed. ■

–Ludlow Historic Society



Message from the Mayor

by Mayor Chris Wright

Halfway through my four year term as Mayor of the, to steal a descriptor from our friends at Second Sight Spirits, "thriving metropolis of Ludlow Kentucky" and I am just as honored now as when I was elected. Part of that honor comes from the amazing ways I have been able to see our community. Recently, Ludlow celebrated the Cabin Fever Music and Arts Festival. Cabin Fever is an annual gathering throughout the business district that signifies the (almost) end of winter and gives so many talented individuals the opportunity to share their gift with our community. It was wonderful seeing so many amazing faces out and about celebrating art, music, and our community. I love seeing our city shine! I also had a blast when, in a recent visit to Mary A.

Goetz Elementary School, I had the opportunity to answer some of the hardest hitting questions a mayor can take on—questions from the entire kindergarten. I cannot express how impressed I was that a room full of five and six year olds were so engaged and interested in what a mayor does. Questions ranged from "how does a mayor help people" (listen and do the best I can), "why did you want to be the mayor" (to serve my community), "what time does a mayor eat lunch" (generally around noon). It is never too early to engage in your community and it couldn't have been cooler to see Ludlow through their perspectives! I love being able to give back and to see others have the opportunity to give back! On March 23rd, from 12-2 PM there will be a river clean-

up beginning at Ludlow's Memorial Park. I would encourage anyone interested to bring a pair of work gloves and a desire to help improve our little corner of the world to meet up! And speaking of the river, I'd be remiss not to acknowledge the long awaited return of the iconic Ludlow Bromley Yacht Club! Ludlow's own little summer oasis will return before we know it. I cannot wait to enjoy the sunshine and good vibes with all of you when I see you at the shark bar!

As always, I am here to help you however I can. Never hesitate to reach out to cwright@ludlow.org if I can help you in any way. I absolutely love our city and will continue to do my very best to lead in a way that makes you proud! ■

Update on the Ludlow Storehouse

by Patrick Snadon

The Storehouse project at Ludlow Railyard is progressing with generous quantities of volunteer labor, under the leadership of Andy Wartman, new President of the Heritage Museum board. Fundraising and grant-writing continues at a regular pace for re-roofing the Storehouse. About \$55,000 has been raised with around \$35,000 to go. Among recent donations, the Ludlow Historic Society gave \$4,000 to the Storehouse fund, the proceeds from a highly successful Christmas Walk. A grant application has been submitted to the National Railway Historical Society and other requests and commitments are in place that make one optimistic that a new Storehouse roof will be

complete by late summer. This will stabilize the building and prevent further water damage and deterioration while planning, fundraising, and restoration work continues. In the meantime, the Storehouse has electric service for the first time in decades, and a recent removal of non-original interior wall partitions will enable repair to the wooden roof understructure from beneath. A great architectural feature of the Storehouse is its widows. There are 50 of them, with identical, brick, round-arched tops. But virtually all their original wood sash is gone and must be recreated. Much of the sash pivoted to allow ventilation for the workers (few air-conditioners around in the 1890s!). Volunteers are documenting

fragments of original windows that remain and studying historic photos of the Storehouse, to make drawings for a prototype window that will eventually lead to restoring all 50 of them. The railroad built Ludlow, and the Storehouse (completed, 1892) is the last remaining historic building in the Ludlow Railyard. It is one of the most important rail structures in the region and efforts to save and repurpose it for the Ludlow Museum and as a community space richly deserve our support. An essay on the building will appear soon in the Kenton County History Bulletin. Stay tuned for more volunteer opportunities as the weather improves. To donate, visit our website. ■

www.ludlowheritagemuseum.com/donate



Community Calendar and Announcements

LUDLOW HISTORIC SOCIETY

4th Wednesdays • 6:30 PM

Ludlow Historic Society meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of every month in the basement of the City building.

COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR

3rd Wednesdays • 6:00 PM

Join Mayor Chris Wright and other residents at Ludlow Coffee to get updates and discuss issues in our community.

AVAILABLE FOR RENT

Community Center • 808 Elm St

Don't forget about the Ludlow Community Center for you upcoming events! Call City Bldg. for more info.

SPRING MENU RELEASE

Second Sight Spirits • 301 Elm St

Check out the new Spring Coffee and Cocktail menus at Second Sight Spirits. Open Fri & Sat 9-6; Sun 9-5.

CARS & COFFEE

Sun, Apr 13 • 9 AM - 12 PM • City Plaza

Cars & Coffee is back for 2025! Check out historic cars, grab a coffee from Ludlow Coffee, and chat with your neighbors.

REEVES GRAND OPENING

Tue, Apr 1 • 109 Helen Street

C.P. Reeves Market will open for the season on April 1st. The walk-up ice cream window will open April 15th.

CITY COUNCIL

2nd & 4th Thursdays • 7:00 PM

City Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursday of every month in the City building. Open to the public.

TRIVIA THURSDAYS

Thursdays • 7:30 PM • Buffalo Bar

Engage your neighbors in a friendly round of trivia and grab dinner and a drink while you're there.

FACES AND PLACES PHOTO DRIVE

KCPL - Covington Branch

Donate your historical photos to the Local History and Genealogy Dept. at the Kenton Co. Public Library.

NOW OPEN FOR LUNCH

Ludlow Tavern • 214 Elm St

Check out the food and drink specials at the Tav! Open Mon-Fri 4 PM - 1 AM; Sat 12 PM - 1 AM.

OHIO RIVER SWEEP

Sun, Mar 23 • 9:00 AM

Volunteers needed to help keep Ludlow Beautiful! Held in conjunction with Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission.

SPRING CLEAN UP

Sun, Apr 12 • 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Free disposal of unwanted items such as yard debris, mattresses, furniture, tires, etc. at Ash & Traverse Streets.

For Ludlow residents only.

URBAN DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

3rd Thursdays • 7:00 PM

UDRB meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month in the City building and are open to public.

LUDLOW FLEA & CRAFT FAIR

1st Sundays • 11 AM • Bircus Brewing

Check out all things handmade and homemade and grab a pizza on the first Sunday of every month, Feb - Dec.

LBYC RE-OPENING

Spring 2025 • 860 Elm St

The Ludlow Bromley Yacht Club is set to re-open in Spring 2025! Check out their Facebook page for more info.

SPRING STYLE DROP

Leeta Ruth • 325 Elm St

Get ready for sunny skies and warmer weather and check out the new spring styles! Thu 11-7, Fri 12-6, Sat & Sun 12-4

PAELLA & SANGRIA PARTY

Wed, Mar 26 • 5:30 PM • Conserva

\$55 per person covers all you can eat Paella of three varieties, and Sangria! Reserve your table for 5:30 or 8 pm now!

LUNCH WITH LAMBS

Sat, Apr 19 • 11:00 AM

Head down to Bromley Christian Church for their Lunch with Lambs and Egg Hunt.

Have an event you'd like included in the Ludlow Express Community Calendar? Email ludlowhistoricsociety@gmail.com.

The Ludlow Historic Society hosted their Annual Members Meeting on March 12th, during which we elected the 2025/2026 LHS Board and assigned Officer positions.

Meet our 25/26 LHS Board!

John Hall

Board President

Joyce Nessler

Vice President

Julie Wartman

Treasurer

Julie Navarre

Secretary

Board Members: Andy Corn, Ari Knight, Destiny Meyer, Nate Steeber

Become a member of the Ludlow Historic Society today!

Visit preserveludlow.com/become-a-member for more information on how to join.

Annual Individual
\$25

Annual Family/Household
\$40

Lifetime Member
\$200

The **Ludlow Express** is presented by the Ludlow Historic Society. The Newsletter team is:

Ari Knight

Layout, Content Editor, Writer

Julie Wartman

Copy Editor, Sponsorships

Ruth Bamberger

Researcher, Writer

Logo art courtesy of Jeff & John Winkle

Scan the QR code to visit our website and join LHS, make a donation to historic preservation, access back issues of the *Ludlow Express*, and more.

