



Buffalo Bar Keeps Ludlow Saloon Traditions Alive

by Ruth Bamberger



The Buffalo Bar will host an evening of food, drink, fun, and stories about the bar’s rich tradition of serving the “thirst” of the railyard workers of yore (see right for details). When the Cincinnati Southern Railway began operations in the late 1870s for the Cincinnati to Chattanooga route, Ludlow was chosen as the main railyard for servicing the trains, necessitating hundreds of workers. Recent immigrants from Germany and Ireland flocked to the city, and a booming bar and tavern culture closely followed. At the end of their

shifts, and especially on pay days, workers headed to the dozens of bars and taverns for drinks, hobnobbing, and playing cards, darts, and pool. The oldest is the Buffalo, though one other now gone is still well known– Nick Braun’s Saloon on Ash Street. Nick’s son, Bob, was a star on WLWT for many years, and grandson, Rob, is a well known former newscaster on WKRC until he left there in 2019. The Buffalo Bar, seen in the photo above, was built in 1906, architecturally a brick Victorian structure with rounded windows typical of the day. The railyard Storehouse has the same style of window. The old bar was torn down in the early ‘60s, and replaced by the structure seen today. However, the recent renovations made by owner David Blank, have brought the interior of the bar up to the most contemporary standards. If you have not been to the new Buffalo, now is your chance to enjoy a great time there on Tuesday evening, February 13.

Upcoming LHS Events

Tuesday, February 13th

7:00 - 9:00 PM • Buffalo Bar

Sponsored by the city’s Heritage Museum and the Ludlow Historic Society, this is an event for the folks and friends of Ludlow to meet and greet neighbors, to hear fascinating stories about Ludlow’s “bar culture”, and to raise funds to restore the old Storehouse in the railyard as the future site of the Museum and Event Center. Doors open at 6:00 for anyone wishing to sample the bar menu. Discounted drinks and complimentary light refreshments.

Suggested Donation: \$10

Thursday, March 7th

7:00 - 9:00 PM • Bircus

Celebrate the Lagoon Amusement Park with a 3D simulation of the Park circa 1909 as well as drawings, maps, and photos.

Wednesday, March 27th

6:30 PM • Second Sight Spirits

Explore the history of professional baseball in Ludlow with Cam Miller!

A Message from the Mayor

By Mayor Chris Wright

On January 19th, I started my day the way that I often do. I woke up early and hit the road around five. It was snowing, schools were being called off and businesses were closing left and right. What did I experience? Clear roads, smooth sailing, and one of the Ludlow Public Works Department trucks ensuring that they stay that way. Reports that I got from other parts of our region weren’t as positive. I never had a doubt leading into the winter storm that there would be any issue because our Public Works always ensure that our roads are as safe and clear as possible as quickly as possible. Our city employees work hard every day to ensure that Ludlow is the best it can possibly be. Not only were our Public Works employees all over it when we needed them to keep our roads clean, they have played an instrumental role in the transformation of Lemker Field, Memorial Park, and now Hollingsworth Field.

For the last several years, the Ludlow Fire Dept. and Emergency Medical Services have had extremely fast call times. In fire and EMS, minutes can equate to the difference between life and death. Knowing that when there is an issue, there are folks that will be there to help almost immediately, provides incredible peace of mind. Additionally, the department has seen a number of recent initiatives. A pipeline has been created that begins with high school aged students in our Junior FireFighter program, where students learn the basics of what the job entails and explore whether it is a path they would like to follow either as a career or as a volunteer. The next step in the pipeline is the new internship program, paid for through grant funds. Young folks are getting trained in fire and EMS all while getting to know, and I have no doubt fall in love with our city.

The Ludlow Police Dept does a tremendous job keeping our city safe. When examining the crime rates of our

community and other communities, it is impossible not to realize what a tremendous job our officers do. Obviously, not all crime can be prevented before it happens. But with a large portion of our monthly call volume coming from officer’s self-initiated calls, our department is clearly working hard to prevent problems before they occur. Our City Administrative Office staff keep everything moving with a bare minimum staff. Sometimes, I can’t help but marvel at all of the different aspects they are able to simultaneously juggle. Our office staff do a tremendous job of ensuring that the daily operations of our community run as smoothly and efficiently as possible.

I am incredibly proud to be the Mayor of Ludlow but our city employees, from the top to the bottom of our organizational scale, are the people who are truly driving us forward. I’m thankful to live in a community with such dedicated individuals who have the best of the city in mind in all that they do!

LHS Looks Ahead to 2024

Dear Friends,
 Greetings from the Ludlow Historic Society! As President of the LHS, I wanted to take this opportunity at the beginning of a new year to reflect on our accomplishments of the previous year and look forward to our goals and plans for the future. We appreciate your support and look forward to its continuation as we aim to achieve these goals. As a reminder, the LHS mission is to advocate and support historic preservation in Ludlow and promote community engagement through historic programming and awareness.

The highlight of 2023 for the LHS was the completion of our portion of the renovation at 20 Butler Street. Thanks to the support of donations and a loan from the Catalytic Fund, we were able to restore the facade of the building to match the rest of the row, including rebuilding a porch identical to those of the other homes in the row, down to the last architectural detail. We sold the property in April and are excited to see the home renovation nearing its full completion and ready for sale to a new owner soon. In the fall we held a very successful trivia event at Bircus that I hope you were able to attend!

As proud as I am of our accomplishments this past year, I am always looking to the future. In 2024, we will continue our community lecture series in February and March (see Page 1). One of our primary goals for the year is working on creating a detailed website that will archive all of our information, events, and history, including articles and pictures of local buildings and homes. We are also supporting the efforts of the Museum in their Storehouse project and that remains a priority for all involved this year. Finally, we are planning to bring back the holiday home tour in Ludlow! It has been 10 years since we have done this program, and we are really excited to do it again for the community.

As a non-profit organization, we rely on community support to see these goals through. Our membership dues and donations from the community help provide materials for walking tour brochures, support community events and programming, and help make this Ludlow Express newsletter possible. If you are already a member – thank you so much! If you are not a member of the LHS, please consider becoming one! You would be supporting a

community organization and have access to events, programming, and other benefits we are continually working to expand.

To become a member, visit <https://linktr.ee/ludlowhistoricsociety> or email us at ludlowhistoricsociety@gmail.com.

? Did you know...?
 In February 1873, a new ferryboat, known as Tiny Tim and commanded by Captain Dan Miller, began operating from the foot of Traverse Street.

We are excited about what is to come in 2024 and we look forward to your support to make these things happen! Through your engagement, participation, and attendance of our LHS events, and your generous donations, we will continue our work of preserving local history, providing community services and programming, and telling the story of Ludlow! Thank you to the community of Ludlow for their continued support of the Ludlow Historic Society.

Sincerely,
 John K. Hall, President
 Ludlow Historic Society

Community Calendar

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.

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.

CABIN FEVER MUSIC + ART FESTIVAL

Saturday, February 24th • 2:00 PM

Cabin Fever returns! Ludlow’s own music and arts festival will take place on Saturday, February 24th at venues across town. Check in at Second Sight at 2 PM to get started. Follow along on Instagram and Facebook @cabinfeverfestivalky for more info. Tickets available online at www.cincyticket.com

Tickets: \$25, \$30 day of event

HOLIDAY HOME TOUR

Saturday, December 14

Mark your calendars and save the date for our 2024 Holiday Home Tour! We’re bringing it back after ten years and are so looking forward to gathering with our neighbor’s next holiday season.

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

This issue of the **Ludlow Express** is brought to you by our friends...



“The World Famous Buffalo Bar”

Stop in to your favorite local dive bar to watch the game or enjoy our daily specials & happy hour options!

Location

201 Elm Street
 Ludlow, KY

Hours

Sun – Thur 1PM to 12AM
 Fri – Sat 12PM – 2:30AM

[@worldfamousbuffalobar](https://www.instagram.com/worldfamousbuffalobar)

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Scan the QR code to join LHS, make a donation to historic preservation, subscribe to our e-newsletter, and access current member benefits.

