

The Ludlow Link

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Did you know?

- The Ludlow Community Association was the first community organization to be established in the City of Shaker Heights.
- The Ludlow Community Association was organized for the purpose of (a) maintaining a community atmosphere which encourages the continuation of a multiracial neighborhood, (b) engages in activities necessary to maintain a racially-integrated community, (c) maintaining high physical standards of property, (d) presenting public discussions, forums, panels, lectures, or published materials for the education of the general public.
- The Ludlow Community Association was established in 1957; its first President was Irwin Barnett (1957-58)

LCA Board Members 2007-2009

Co-Presidents:

Thomas Chelimsky, MD - Onaway
Gwen Chapman - Corby Road and
Luiz Coelho - Ludlow Road

Vice Presidents:

Penny Groom - Livingston Road
Kenneth J. Kovach - Ludlow Road
Evelyn Jordan - Becket Road
Lee Noss - Keswick Road

Trustees-at-Large:

Michael Green - Albion Road

Secretary: Sondra Saddler
- Sebor Road

Treasurer: Marggie Carlson
- Onaway Road

The "Big Picture" of 2009 in Ludlow

Thanks to leadership team of the LCA and the tremendous support from community residents, 2009 was a remarkable year in Ludlow!

With strong memories of the triumphal 50th anniversary celebration of the association in 2007 as well as the brutal beating of Kevin McDermott at the end of the year, the LCA continued to bring residents together to address a wide range of issues and, most importantly, to re-ignite the spirit of Ludlow!

We began the year with the awarding of the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Award to the Ludlow Community Association by the Shaker Heights Human Relations Commission. On January 29, Co-Presidents Chapman, Chelimsky, and Coelho accepted the award



Current and former LCA Presidents gathered at the 50th anniversary celebration.

on behalf of the LCA. It was noted that "following the potential crisis in race relations posed by the vicious attack by a gang of youths on Kevin McDermott, the LCA rallied the residents to address safety, racial harmony and unity."

Among the successful events was the Summer Picnic at Ludlow School on August 23rd. There was an estimated 400 residents

who came to enjoy hot dogs and sweet corn off the grill, a wide assortment of salads, dips, spreads, and other picnic foods. There was a performance by Shaker Heights High School Jazz Ensemble, rides on the famous Euclid Beach Rocket Car, and games for youth. This was the second year for the revival of the Summer Picnic and in 2010.

Membership and Election of Officers: 2010-2011

Everyone who lives the Ludlow School District is a member of the LCA and receives community information, however, to be a voting member you are required to pay annual dues of \$10 per person. **Your dues help to cover the costs special events for the community** as well as for mailing of information to residents of the community.

Please come to our next meeting on **Tuesday, February 16th at 7:00 PM in the former Ludlow School building** (now PEP) to pay your dues and elect new officers for the next 2 years. You may mail your dues payment to: **13702 Corby Road, Cleveland, OH 44120.**

Check out the LCA website at: www.LudlowCommunity.org

Here is the proposed LCA board for 2010-2011:
Co-Presidents: Kevin Dreyfuss -Wells and Lauren Siggers; **Vice Presidents:** Gwen Chapman, Diane Karpinski, Ken Kovach, and Susan Rotatori. We are looking for residents to serve in the positions of **Co-Treasurers, Corresponding Secretary, and Recording Secretary.**

Leaders develop Strategic Plan for Ludlow

On Thursday, December 18, 2008, Shaker Heights Mayor Earl Leiken brought his key staff together with LCA Co-Presidents to focus on **“LUDLOW: a Pilot Project for Creative Neighborhood Design.”** For several hours many key issues about the Ludlow community were addressed and considered for inclusion in a Strategic Plan to guide decision-making and action planning for 2009-2011. Pamela George-Merrill, Executive Director of SHAD, joined Shaker CAO Jeri Chaikin and Planning Director Joyce Braverman to identify several strategic areas for public-private collaboration. Tom Chelimsky, Luis Coelho, and Gwen Chapman provided their insights about specific

needs in the Ludlow community. Ken Kovach, former long-term member of Shaker Heights City Council and LCA Trustee served as facilitator.

Among the issues included in the draft strategic plan are: (1) detailed plans for physical beautification through a 2009 Capital Budget allocation, (2) prospectus for establishing a “Shaker Village” - similar to Beacon Hill Village near Boston—to assist with “aging in place”, and (3) on-going citizen action through community organizing training. Since the Ludlow community is a wide range of resources—Shaker Square, Fairhill Center on Aging, and University Circle—we can count on lev-

eraging these resources to maintain Ludlow’s inter-generational make-up. We are a community for all ages as well as all peoples and cultures.



Ludlow residents *in the News*

At the November General Meeting of the LCA membership a **RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE** was unanimously passed to commemorate the death of Alan Gressel—former LCA President and active resident for many years, He and his wife Norma, and children, David and Debbie, lived on Ludlow Road (3171) and then in a condo on Van Aken Boulevard. His last residence

was the Dedication Farm in Stokesdale, North Carolina.

“Resolution of Condolence, unanimously approved by the members of the Ludlow Community Association. **BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, that Alan Gressel served his beloved Ludlow Community with excellence as a former President and Trustee, **AND** served the Greater Cleveland

Community as a leader in fair and open housing organizations, **AND** participated in the 50th anniversary celebration of the Ludlow Community, **THEREFORE**, we express our sincere gratitude for his many years of service and dedication **AND** we express our deep sadness at his death on November 9, 2009. May he rest in peace. **NOTE:** Alan’s picture is on Page One—in the white shirt.

MORE - Year in Review

At the end of 2008 members of the Executive Committee initiated a meeting with Shaker Heights Mayor Earl Leiken and several Department Heads to develop a special beautification project for the Shaker part of Ludlow. City Council members earmarked \$30,000 in their capital budget and in June 2009, community residents

approved the Ludlow Beautification Project. One Page 3 you will find more information about the project.

In 2009, The Ludlow Company – established to assist with second mortgages for home purchases in Ludlow—officially dissolved and the LCA received \$13,300 both as a stock holder and as recipient of gifts

of stock from Ludlow residents.

The year ended with a gala Holiday Party at the former Ludlow School on Sunday, December 20th. There were tasty treats, beverages, special gifts, caroling **AND** Santa Claus! The number of residents participating in community events continues to increase. There’s more to come in 2010!

The Ludlow Beautification Project

The purpose of the Project is to brand the Ludlow Community as a unique, historic community attractive to its residents, new and old, strengthening community connections, and enhancing the value of real estate. This beautification project is part of a larger comprehensive strategy that comprises:

- Capital beautification project
- Green housing
- Foreclosure management
- Historic district leveraging
- Funding for these improvements sourced in a private public partnership.

A small part of the funds from the City of Shaker Heights were used this past summer for hanging baskets of flowers. Volunteers from the community led by Susan Rotatori and Gwen Chapman planted assorted perennials on the small islands throughout the community. Many residents added their own new plantings and Ludlow looked very special this year.

Two homes on Ludlow Road that had gone into foreclosure and disrepair were demolished and new green space has appeared. The City of Shaker Heights planned many new trees on the medium strip of Onaway. The flowering trees should look spectacular in the spring!



The future of Ludlow as a green intergenerational neighborhood.

Ludlow's strongest assets help form its unique character, and also contribute to a sustainable lifestyle. Within easy walking distance, residents have access to shopping, dining, schools and parks, and ample light rail and other public transportation services provide ready access to the city beyond. A mature tree canopy and pleasant sidewalks encourage walking.

These amenities are ideal for our diverse intergenerational population with residents of all ages. Services in adjacent neighborhoods that meet the needs of all residents from young children to seniors make the Ludlow neighborhood ideal to serve multiple needs.

These are the strengths our neighborhood wants to reinforce and capitalize on, making a neighborhood where people can live healthily, reducing environmental impacts and energy use, grow and learn and age in place for life long learning with the support of a strong local community.

A. Gateways that brand LUDLOW

1. Commission gateway sculpture for an Onaway / Van Aken location.
2. Provide gateway artwork to identify the community at key intersections.
3. Plant entry gardens for identification of "Ludlow Historic Village"

B. Enhance our Open Spaces

1. Implement selected plantings at Onaway/Ashwood (around old skating rink)
2. Replace diseased ash trees on median with large trees to form new canopy high above the gateway at street level.

To continue implementation of the Beautification Project we are considering a competition for the

design of appropriate artwork for branding our community and promoting its historic heritage. The creation of artful metalwork would provide another distinctive component of the community. Such a competition would be promoted throughout north-east Ohio.

We are seeking additional funding for this project to continue into phases two and three of our strategic plan for the Ludlow Community.

Ludlow residents *in the News*

IN MEMORIAM

On behalf of the Ludlow Community Association, sincere condolences are extended to The Honorable Diane Karpinski and Mercedes Spotts (Karpinski) on the death of their beloved sister, GLORIA JOY BATTISTI (nee Karpinski) on January 20, 2010. Gloria Battisti was the beloved wife of The Honorable Frank J. (deceased), United States District Court Judge. Gloria's affect on the Cleveland community and our lives has a long, rich history. She trail-blazed along with a number of "firsts," including being the first woman chairing the Board of Trustees for Catholic Charities Corporation, being a founding member of the Cleveland Foodbank, and be-

ing the first woman chair of the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees.

CONGRATULATIONS!

The family of Kevin McDermott and Mary Beth Laskey are extremely proud of their son, Eamonn, who scored one of the goals to defeat the Canadian hockey team at the Junior "A" World Challenge. Eamonn plays hockey for the United States Hockey League and is currently enrolled in high school in Fargo, North Dakota where hockey is a way of life. He is home now for a while recovering from a shoulder injury. Get well soon . . . and back on the ice!



Ludlow Community Association
 c/o 13702 Corby Road
 Cleveland, Ohio 44120
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