



Ludlow Park Residents Association Newsletter

June 2018 Edition

With much going on in the neighborhood, we are compiling reports of a number of events for your edification in a newsletter format. Particular thanks go to Geraldine Canty, who wrote the two reports covering our Spring Neighborhood Clean-up ([p. 2](#)) and the March 28 Sewage Treatment Plant meeting ([p. 6](#)).

On April 25, the LPRA held its annual meeting at which the Board of Directors were elected. New to the Board are:

Greg Harris of Valentine Lane
Ramon Lopez of Franklin Avenue.

Continuing Board Members are:

Jane Barker, Peter Boulos, Geraldine Canty, Molly Chao, Brad Crownover, Miriam Deleon, Sandra Gorry, Kathe Hertzberg, Iris Katz, Renee Kelvin, Ruth Montgomery, Eileen O'Connor, Cindy Pramann, Jose Rivera, Renee Toback, and Jill Valenstein.

Board member contact information is available on our website at the following link: [LPRA Board of Directors](#)

Special thanks to retiring Board members Diane Lane and David Segal. David Segal served on the Board for many years and we wish to note with gratitude his years of dedication to the community.

Iris Katz, Treasurer of LPRA, reported the LPRA ended its fiscal year on March 31, 2018 with a total of \$10,170.22 in assets.

At the Board Meeting of May 21, 2018, Eileen O'Connor was re-elected as President of the Board, Jane Barker as Vice-President, and Iris Katz as Treasurer. Greg Harris was elected as Secretary, giving Renee Toback a well-deserved rest from those duties.

We continue to monitor the developments connected with Ginsberg Development Companies (GDC) proposal for a Bridge Street/Ludlow Street development. At this time, GDC is purportedly not actively pursuing the development as a result of the city's requirement that GDC enter into a project labor agreement for any construction.

Best regards,
Eileen O'Connor
President, LPRA Board of Directors

Coming Events and Activities (mark your calendars)

Monday, June 18, 6:30 pm	SoYo Sups, information and registration for all Ludlow Park residents here
Saturday, June 23, 6:00 – 9:00 pm	Beer and Wine Share, members only, register here
Saturday, July 28, 10:00 am	Family Kayaking for all Ludlow Park residents
Sunday, September 16, 3:00 – 6:00 pm	Block Party for all Ludlow Park residents
October, precise date TBD	Our first ever open mic event
December, precise date TBD	Holiday Party for all Ludlow Park residents

2018 Neighborhood Cleanup Day

The 2018 LPRA Cleanup day, in coordination with the Office of Councilwoman Corazon Pineda-Isaac and the City of Yonkers Department of Public Works was a huge success! LPRA's Geraldine Canty and her crew helped to organize 90-100 volunteers to clean up the neighborhood from Abe Cohen Plaza to the Pickett Playground, to Riverdale Avenue between Morris and Franklin Ave, and then Hawthorne Ave.

The Clean-Up included many community partners, including volunteers from Leake and Watts, Boy Scout Troop #4 (based out of St. John's Church in Getty Square), Boy Scout Troop #5 (based out of Bryn Mawr Park Presbyterian Church), several of Yonkers finest Officers from the Third Police Precinct, as well as Greyston's own Ms. Lucy Moreno-Casanova.

Captain McCormack, of the Third Precinct, sent 3 officers who were like pied pipers, cheerfully leading boy scouts and others to start the work. Our City Council woman Corazon Pineda Isaacs led a group as well. Another group cleaned up Abe Cohen Plaza, getting it ready for planting.

We enjoyed snacks and pizza; water and soda was donated by Domino's. It was a beautiful day (finally) that felt even more wonderful because our community came together for a common purpose.

Thanks to all who contributed! Please enjoy some photos from the day on the next pages.

For those of you who would like to remind the dog walkers to pick up after their dogs, we have signs for sale which you can put in your lawn. They are \$5 each. We will have them at the Block Party, but if you want some sooner, email us at

Info@LudlowPark.org





First thing in the morning and we are all smiles



But Eileen soon made short work of her section.



The Police spread out all down Riverdale Avenue



while Corazon posed for a picture...



Troop 5 before the big job ahead



This area was quite a challenge and Troop 5 did a great job –

Reminder: call the City Helpline (914-347-4357) to arrange for mattress pick-up!

Notes of meeting at Yonkers Joint Waste Water Recovery Facility, March 28, 2018

We are pleased to report that the new Chief Executive of Westchester County, George Latimer, and his Deputy, our old friend Ken Jenkins, both attended the recent Ludlow Park Residents Association meeting at the Plant organized on our behalf by our Legislator, Virginia Perez.



George Latimer,
County Exec.



Ken Jenkins,
Deputy County
Exec.



Virginia Perez,
County Leg.



Corazon Pineda-
Isaac, City
Councilwoman



Mary Jane Shimsky,
County Leg.

George Latimer announced that, working with our Legislator, he and Ken want to be helpful and to start with a clean slate. The new administration is analyzing many projects which were in progress under the previous administration. Ken Jenkins announced that the proposed diversion of sewage from upper Westchester to the Yonkers Plant has been cancelled and the towns in questions are looking at alternatives for sewage treatment.

We also raised the question of a Waterfront Park with George Latimer. For some years, Ludlow Park has been requesting water access and a park as compensation for having the Plant in our backyard and Mayor Spano has also raised this with the County in the past. The new Chief Executive did not seem to be familiar with the idea but did request to be brought up to date on the proposal when we brought it to his attention. His first question was about the cost.

Also in attendance were Legislator Mary Jane Shimsky, head of the newly named “Public Works” Committee and Councilmember Corazon Pineda-Isaac, who represents most of Ludlow Park on Yonkers City Council. Legislator Virginia Perez announced that Public Works Committee had just discussed the issuance of \$5M in bonds for a component of Capital Project SY009 – Odor Control & HVAC (see Public Works Committee Agenda for March 27, 11:00 a.m. Item ID # 10725).

From the Department of Environmental Facilities, the new Commissioner, Vincent Kopicki, attended, as did the Deputy Commissioner, Mike Coley, and the Director of Wastewater Treatment, Jagdish Mistry. From the management of the Plant, Jeff Bryant, Plant Manager, Erwin Vazquez, Supervisor of Maintenance, and John Lennon, Supervisor of Operations, were all present.

The management presented their report of the performance of the Plant and the odor monitoring system for the last six months. We have requested a copy of this so we can post it on the website.

The management then introduced the consultants who have been doing a study of the sources of odor at the Plant, CDM Smith. The group specializes in wastewater management and has worked on odor control all over the world.

The consultants' goal was to identify the source(s) of odors at the Plant. Their report presented an analysis of where the odors come from, the strength of the odor at source and the frequency of the odor release. They build computer models based on factors like topography, meteorology, wind direction and other variables and build projections of where the odors travel, how they decrease as they move off the Plant into the community and how often they follow this path. We hope to be able to post a copy of their presentation on our website before too long.

CDM reviewed odors released when the tanks are taken in and out of service; the performance of the existing equipment; aeration tank odor control; flare operation and residents' odor complaints. They have a panel of expert "noses" which also participate in this testing to help build the model.

The consultants' recommendations are that the Plant look at different "out of service" procedures to reduce odors released when working on grit in primary tanks. And the aeration tanks should be covered. So our next big ask has to be the covering of the aeration tanks, which the consultants say is the biggest and most consistent source of odors now.

We asked about the methane being burned off and the possibility of using some of site for solar panels for electricity generation. The management explained that they are still planning to use more of the methane but they will never be able to stop burning the methane off altogether. They are planning to bring natural gas to the Plant for power generation. They also commented that they thought that the installation of solar panels over the aeration tanks would be impractical because of the need to have access for maintenance and the difficulties that the high humidity from the tanks would cause. The Plant does already have solar panels on the roofs of some of the buildings.

Several months ago we had talked to Jagdish Mistry about the possibility of making it easier to call in odor reports. We were told that the system was being re-designed so that calls will be recorded by street address rather than householder, telephone number and other details. This re-design is still in progress

We also asked about staffing levels and training and we were told that this is underway but some of the longer-serving employees are nearing retirement age and new mechanics are needed.

Some residents attending the meeting did not know that there is a way to be notified if there are going to be odors (mostly due to on-going maintenance). Please go to the links below for the following:

Odor Complaint Forms online (to report an odor online)

<http://environment.westchestergov.com/facilities/odor-complaint-form>

Yonkers Joint Odor Call Sign-up (to receive notification calls)

<http://environment.westchestergov.com/yonkers-joint-odor-call-sign-up>

Signing up for the odor notification call means you will start receiving calls when maintenance is being done that is likely to result in odors in the neighborhood, but it does not mean we should stop calling if there is an odor problem. The Plant needs to know about any significant odors so they can attempt mitigate them and to track the primary sources.

So please keep calling the Odor Complaint Hot Line, 914-231-2786.

And we still have refrigerator magnets with the above telephone number to call when there is a bad odor. We will have them at the Block Party in September, but if you would like one sooner, let us know at Info@LudlowPark.org