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MEDFORD LAKES COLONY NEWS



Vol. 34

August 28, 2026

No. 35

COLONY MEETING

On Monday, September 14, 2026, the Board of Directors of the Medford Lakes Colony will be meeting at 7:00 pm at a location to be announced. All members in good standing are encouraged to attend. If you need something included on the agenda, please submit it to the Colony Office no later than Mon., Sept. 7th. Items for the agenda and questions can be directed to office@mlcolony.org.

BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

New Board Members, to begin a term in January 2027, are needed. If you are interested in serving on the Medford Lakes Colony Board of Directors, please attend the monthly meetings of the Board and send your resume to office@ml-colony.org.

WATERCRAFT LEFT ON THE BEACH

If you are bringing your canoe/kayak/sup to the beach, please make sure to bring them home. Watercraft should not be left on the beach, nor should they be blocking beach and lake access. Any improperly stored watercraft will be removed and stored at DPW until claimed.

If you need to pick up your watercraft from DPW, please contact 609-654-8898. Watercraft can be picked up from 7:00 am – 2:00 pm by appointment only. Thank you for your cooperation.

CURBSIDE BULK TRASH PICKUP

The next large trash curbside pickup is scheduled for Monday, September 14th.

If you want a pickup at your curbside on Sept. 14th, please call 609-654-9383 between Sept. 7th and 11th and leave a message. All calls must be received by 4:00 pm on Friday, Sept. 11th – calls received after 4:00 pm will not be added to Monday's curbside pickup.

Your message should include the following: your name, address, a contact phone number to return your call if necessary, and what you are leaving at the curbside for pickup. Do not put items out to the curb until the night before the pickup.

All mattresses, boxsprings, or tire payments must be paid by 3:30 pm on Friday, Sept. 11th at the Borough Office.

Questions? Please contact Public Works at 609-654-9383.

NO SATURDAY LARGE TRASH DROP OFF SEPT. 5TH & SEPT. 12TH

There will be no Saturday large trash drop off behind the firehouse on Sept. 5th & Sept. 12th.

APPRECIATION DINNER FOR 2025 COLONY PRESIDENT WILL SARACENI

The Medford Lakes Colony President's Dinner for Will Saraceni will be held on Saturday, October 10, 2026, at the Medford Lakes Country Club starting at 6:30 pm. Please save the date. More information will be shared soon.

**JOIN US FOR A FUN-FILLED
SCAVENGER HUNT!**

The Magic Seeds Project

TEAM UP. FIND ITEMS. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

START Memorial Hall, Medford Lakes

CHECK-IN 3:00 – 3:15 PM

HUNT BEGINS ~3:20 PM

CHECK-IN BY Lion's Club 5:00 PM

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Teams of 2-4 people
- Teams can be adults or adults and children
- 25 photo tasks
- ~25 items to find
- Prizes & lots of fun!

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT FAMILIES THROUGHOUT South Jersey!

SAVE THE DATE! **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2026**
MEDFORD LAKES, NJ

HAVE FUN. SUPPORT LITERACY.
Plant seeds for a brighter future!

LEARN MORE & REGISTER:

The Magic Seeds Project is a nonprofit dedicated to promoting early literacy by providing books and resources to families with young children.

Every dollar helps create Magic Seeds Book Bundles for little learners!

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SEPTEMBER 11TH REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY (25-YEARS)

A September 11th Memorial Service will be held at the 9/11 Memorial located within the Leon E. Todd Memorial Park just off Stokes Road, in the Borough of Medford Lakes, beginning at 6:00pm on Friday, September 11th, 2026.

Please join the community, Borough Officials, the police department, fire department, veterans and scouts as we remember those lost and injured 25 years ago. All are welcome.

BEFORE AUTUMN BEGINS! GIVE BLOOD!

The Medford Lakes Lions are sponsors for the American Red Cross Blood Drive to be held Wednesday, September 16th the Protestant Community Church's Memorial Hall. Appointments are from 1:00 to 6:00 PM and can be made with the mobile app or on the www.redcrossblood.org website. First time donors welcome! Questions? Call 609-605-1399 and leave a message.

CALLING ALL HISTORY RESEARCHERS!

As we prepare our Medford Lakes Centennial Book, we're looking for volunteers who enjoy digging into history and telling the stories that have shaped our community over the past 100 years.

You don't have to be a professional historian – just someone who is curious, enjoys research, and wants to help preserve the rich history of Medford Lakes for future generations.

We need researchers to help gather information on topics such as past Colony presidents, significant events and milestones, historic places, people, and accomplishments, and other interesting stories from Medford Lakes' first century.

Researchers will be able to use our new Colony News Digital Archives for research. You can also use newspapers, photographs, etc.

You and your team will be preparing written summaries that will become the foundation for chapters in our Centennial Book. All submissions will be reviewed and edited before publication

Whether you can research one topic or several, your help will make a meaningful difference.

If you're interested in volunteering as a history researcher, please contact me at toni.lackey@gmail.com and include your name, phone #, email address, and any research, writing, history experience you may have.

Join us in helping tell the story of 100 years of Medford Lakes.

MEDFORD LAKES MEN'S CLUB

We have had great participation these last four months and so the Men's Club continues! If you're interested in joining us for some non-political, non-religious discussion about the things we all face in the world, our community and our lives, or you just want to meet some neighbors and shoot the breeze, please join us for our next meeting at the ML Lions Clubhouse on Friday, August 28th at 7:00 pm. Please bring a canned good for the Lion's food pantry.



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NJDEP DRINKING WATER SUPPLY UPDATE (8/20/2026)

Water supply indicators are beginning to show improvements, amid steady summer rains. However, the deficits caused by the prior two years of below average precipitation have not yet been overcome statewide, particularly for streamflow and unconfined groundwater. Localized flooding can occur in New Jersey, even during a drought. With the ongoing Drought Warning, New Jerseyans are urged to continue to Use Water Wisely and continue to conserve water, particularly outdoors.

NJ Rainfall totals this week

Between 0.12" and 2.33" inches of precipitation (average of 0.7 inches) were observed between last week's Drinking Water Supply Indicators (8/9/26) and this week's (8/17/26).

Next Update: 8/26/26-8/27/26

Summer Water Conservation Guidance

- Limit lawn watering to 2 times per week, or less when rainy weather occurs
- Water flowers and landscaping using water from a rain barrel
- Use 30-50% less water with drip irrigation and microsprays
- Use a water saving filter on your home pool
- Cover your pool when not in use
- Avoid recreational toys that require a constant stream of water
- Raise your lawnmower blade to at least 3"
- Use water from dehumidifiers or air conditioners for watering plants
- Plant and group native, drought tolerant plants based on water needs

<https://dep.nj.gov/drought/>

PLEASE LIMIT FERTILIZER USE ON YOUR LAWN

Medford Lakes Colony through its "Lakes Leaders" program is recommending that Colonists limit or eliminate spreading fertilizer on their lawns. Lakefront Owners in particular should limit their fertilizer use, and by ML Ordinance, fertilizer should never be spread within 10' of a lake. (The Colony recommends no fertilizer within 20' of the lake.).

Consider using CORN GLUTEN fertilizer (available at Spotts).

Why? Fertilizer use is literally "killing" our lakes, creating multiple negative impacts including excessive weed growth, higher nitrogen levels, and oxidation issues. Even if you don't live on a lake, fertilizer can wash into the trails and down storm drains.

Here's another idea: Reduce the size of your lawn, or eliminate your lawn all together, by increasing the size of existing garden beds or shrubbery areas, or creating new gardens, or planting new trees and shrubs.

Please be aware that the water we draw from our wells affects our lake springs. Please conserve water when possible and irrigate your lawns only as needed. Installation of smart sprinkler systems will help the water levels in our lakes and aquifers stay high enough to feed our lakes and keep our town looking beautiful.

PLEASE HELP REDUCE NUTRIENTS IN OUR LAKES

The Colony has active programs to treat the lakes for weeds, lily pads, and algae blooms. But treating these problems after they are visible in our lakes does nothing to stop the source of these problems: excessive nutrients in the waters. Here are some helpful tips to help reduce the nutrient loads in the lakes:

- Use lawn fertilizer without phosphorus and avoid over-fertilizing. Even better, use "corn gluten" in place of lawn fertilizer (available at Spotts and elsewhere)
- Regularly rake and bag leaves, lawn clippings and organic waste to keep them out of the water. Alternatively, leave lawn clippings on your lawn.
- Pick up pet waste
- Use environmentally-friendly, biodegradable detergents and cleaners when washing vehicles and pressure-washing houses or decks
- Create landscaping swales (natural filtering systems) using native vegetation, pebbles and rocks to filter water of excess nutrients
- Plant vegetative buffers using native plants along the shoreline to help decrease soil and nutrient run-off. These buffers will also help to keep geese out of your backyard.

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August 28, 2026

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
Saturday, August 29th – Large Trash Drop-off and Brush & Leaf Drop-off, 7:30 am – 12:30 pm, behind the Firehouse – LID, must be shown for large trash drop-off
Tuesday, August 25th – Recycle Collection
Thursday, September 3rd – Historic Commission Meeting, 7:30 pm, Oaks Hall

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