



From the Board Room

SEPTEMBER 2026



IMPORTANT BROOKS FIELD UPDATE!

The Board of Directors approved a design option for the Brooks Field Hard Surface Restoration Project. The selection was determined to be the **most cost-effective** of three viable options considered, which were subject to a competitive bidding process. Contract award would be to a highly qualified local contractor, low bidder American Track and Turf of Southampton, NJ.

The bid invitation was for a base bid and alternates. The selected option carries a project cost of \$1,680,000, which includes a 10% contingency.

In a related action, the board adopted a financing solution that includes (1) bank financing of \$1 million and (2) a dues increase of \$50, which requires membership approval. The dues increase would be dedicated to paying off the bank loan over 10 years. For that solution to go into effect, both steps must be successful: (1) loan placement and (2) dues increase approval from the membership.

Bank negotiations are in process; membership dues increase vote is scheduled for October 19 with a public informational meeting scheduled for October 13. Without that membership approval, the Board's financing solution doesn't work.

Also reviewed (but rejected) was the option of destroying the Brooks court complex and returning it to grass field. The Board concluded that a hard-surface facility is vital to the Colony's recreational mission, and that facility should be at Brooks. Further, such an undertaking (destruction) is estimated at \$750K. Leaving the facility in its current condition with no action will soon require its closing as a safety hazard and an unacceptable insurance risk. Abandonment was also rejected as an option.

Project Scope: The existing Brooks court complex – which is rapidly approaching unusable status – will be completely rebuilt within the existing footprint. The finished complex will include three tennis courts, two basketball courts, and eight pickleball courts. Because the existing (middle) parking lot there will be

repurposed as playing court, adequate parking will be relocated.

Best value: The new construction carries a guaranteed useful life of 50 years whereas conventional aggregate base/asphalt systems will last around 10 years. The trade-off for the gain in useful life is that post-tension concrete systems are more expensive to build. In other words, they carry a higher up-front cost, but a dramatically reduced annual cost. In only one replacement cycle, the more expensive post-tension solution is the best value by far.

Post-Tension Concrete: This process uses a concrete base fitted with cables under the finished surface. It is engineered to withstand sandy soil and a high water-table, which affect durability and lifespan. It is the best foundation solution in the Pine Barrens.

Dues Increase: The Board fully understands the gravity of asking for a dues increase in the current economic environment – even an “ask” of only one dollar per week. But undertaking the project is in the membership's best interests. Costs will only rise and the facility will continue to deteriorate. As difficult as it is, now is the time for action.

IMPORTANT DATES

October 13: Informational session in Vaughan at 7:00 PM

October 19: All-day voting on dues increase proposal beginning at 7:30 AM. Results announced at the annual membership meeting that evening

Other New Business

While most of the meeting was dedicated to Brooks Field matters, approval was also taken on several proposals from the Lakes Committee.

- Purchase of a replacement pump for the Ballinger-Sioux pumping system
- An aeration fountain for Algonquin Pond
- Permit approval for Beach 4 Spillway work
- Engineering Study for Wauwaukashe gate valve re-fitting

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT – BILL FIELDS

There is a classic stereotype about boys wanting to be policemen when they grow up. But for Bill Fields growing up in Mount Holly, it was a childhood fantasy that never went away. He recalls, “I don’t ever remember a time when I didn’t see myself as a police officer.”

Imagine the disappointment he felt when looking for a job in law enforcement after graduating from Rancocas Valley High School. He discovered that – without experience – there was no place for him.

Undeterred and still committed to his dream, Bill volunteered as an EMT in Mt. Holly and enlisted in the NJ Air National Guard where he attended the Air Force Security Academy, graduating with distinguished honors in 1989. After several years of military service, which included an activation for Operation Desert Storm, he was hired by the Mt. Holly Township Police Department and attended the Burlington County Police Academy, where he was also a distinguished graduate. He worked for the Mt. Holly Police Department for 25 years until his retirement in 2019.

When he and his wife Ellie were looking for a community to raise a young family (daughter Megan was entering Kindergarten and son Zack was on the way), Medford Lakes was on the short-list. “We were fortunate to find a house in our price range,” he says, “and we’ve always felt blessed to live here.”

Despite a day job in public service, Bill wanted to serve the community where he lived. He had been a member of the Mount Holly Elks for years, but Medford Lakes was now home. He joined the Lions Club and became involved in its food bank, and several other club projects, and served on the Club’s board of directors.

Professionally, he worked his way through the ranks of the Mount Holly Police Department and retired as a Lieutenant. Along the way, he served in several departments including assignment as a narcotics Detective. It was there that he was honored by the Burlington County Prosecutor’s office with its Pro Cops award for exceptional service.

During his career he was a School Resource Officer, patrol and detective supervisor, and spent 13 years on the Mt. Holly and the Burlington County Joint SWAT

teams. During his career he has also served as the State Delegate for the Burlington County Police Benevolent Association and as president of both the Mt. Holly Patrolman’s and the Superior Officers unions.

Placing high value on education, he worked towards a Bachelor’s Degree in Criminal Justice. “I had earned an Associate’s Degree from Rowan College early in my career,” he explains, “but it was unfinished business.” After earning his BA from Liberty University, he decided to continue his academic work there and earned a Master’s Degree in 2017. He later received a certificate in Public Administration and was inducted into the Criminal Justice Honor Society.

It was while working on his Master’s that he became interested in borough government. Part of his studies included an interview with a borough official. Shortly after that experience, he decided to run for a seat on Borough Council, winning in 2016. With re-elections, he has been on Borough Council for 10 years and has completed two terms as mayor.

When asked about highlights of his years on Council, he cites presiding over two shared services agreements between the Borough and the Colony Club. The first resulted in the Colony’s entry into the Camden County Joint Insurance Fund and the second created a property management arrangement. Estimates are that these agreements will save the community in excess of \$1 million over a five-year period. And realistically, they enabled the Colony’s short and long-term financial viability.

He also takes pride in introducing the *Borough’s First Friday* program and *Medford Lakes Days*. In addition to enhancing the community’s social calendar, the events add to the spirit that makes the Lakes a special place to live.

In both his professional and community life, Bill has a very vague definition of “retirement.” He is currently the full-time Director of Security at the Rancocas Valley School District, is active in the On-the-Rocks Float group, continues to volunteer for community projects, and has no intention of walking away from Borough Council anytime soon.

Heartfelt thanks to Bill Fields for his life-long commitment to community service.

