



From the Board Room

August 2026



Note: There was **no Colony Board meeting scheduled for August**. The next regularly scheduled Board meeting is September 14 **AT A LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED**. The information included here represents “interim activity,” which is presented to keep the membership informed.

Borough Employee Appreciation Day

The Colony is hosting a Borough Employee Appreciation Day on Friday August 21 from 12:00 noon to 3:00 PM on Beach 3. This event revives an important tradition from our past. And it is especially appropriate this year, our first full year under a shared services agreement with the Borough.

With this gesture, we extend our sincere thanks to Borough staff – all departments – as they continue to help make the unique public-private partnership that is *Medford Lakes* work.

Canoe Carnival Week “De-Brief”

There were many changes made to the **public safety features** of Canoe Carnival Week, particularly Mardi Gras and Carnival. The changes were a cooperative endeavor between Colony volunteers, the Medford Lakes Police Department, Medford Lakes Fire Department, and Borough officials. The Board is in the process of reviewing the overall action plan and assessing the net effect of our new security, traffic, and safety protocols. By all accounts, they were successful with general agreement that we made progress in meeting our public safety goals.

That said, a formal evaluation always has a place. If you have any constructive suggestions in this area, please share them in written form via the Colony Office at office@mlcolony.org.

Brooks Field Update

The Brooks Field Committee continues to evaluate project scope and apply “value engineering” to cost proposals received. We are (hopefully) approaching the end of a seven-year planning process. There is common agreement that there is a critical need to correct deficiencies at the troubled site. And there is

also agreement about the best solution option with consideration given to some alternatives. The Committee is now struggling to find the best fit for a solution that is within our ability – and appetite – to pay.

A revised timetable calls for a formal Committee presentation to the Board at its September 14 meeting with action to follow. As noted earlier in this newsletter, the meeting **location is to be determined**. You will be informed as the time approaches.

Capital Projects Update

With fall comes our final run at completing projects approved in the 2026 Capital Improvement Program. You can expect to see activity in the following areas: soft wash and staining at Vaughan Hall, Craft Pavilion, and Beach 1 Pavilion; shed replacement at Beach 3; pavilion replacement at Beach 4.

These projects will be added to an aggressive 2026 program that included: Wilson Playground Renovation; Beach 1 Dock Renovation; Beach 3 Parking Lot stoning; Beach 2 Restoration; Beach 3 Pavilion Roof Replacement; Hopkins Field Fence Run Replacement.

Jackson Park Improvements

Add to the 2026 improvement list a new and exciting project at Colony-owned Jackson Park. A group of self-funding volunteers approached the Board with a proposal, which was approved, to move forward with a small performance “amphitheater” in the area below the Jackson Park archway.

The project will proceed in phases, with Phase I scheduled for an October completion and that month’s “First Friday” celebration. At that time, there will be a **portable** stage in place, which will be available for concerts and ceremonies. It will be removed and stored out-of-season.

In a joint venture between community volunteers and Medford Lakes Borough, the invasive undergrowth in the upper park will be cleared to allow for blanket and some lawn chair seating. Existing trees and ornamental shrubbery will remain undisturbed. The possibility of other seating options is being explored.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT – JACQUIE AND ED VERISH

Jacquie and Ed Verish are a team. Ask any Lion, or ask anyone who has been to a recent Lion event. But their individual journeys are representative of the many ways we come together and create the Laker spirit that makes our town so special.

Jacquie grew up in Medford and graduated from Shawnee High School. She knew about life in Medford Lakes from her friends. And when the time came in 1996 to find a place to live and raise 18-month-old Jonathan and new born Becki, the Lakes were at the top of the list. She found a house on Kosoto Trail and has lived there ever since.

The family enjoyed the Colony's wide range of recreational offerings including MLAA youth sports programs and camp, and both children earned Bronze Shields. Jacquie played adult soccer, volleyball, and was a member of *That Dam Float* group for four years.

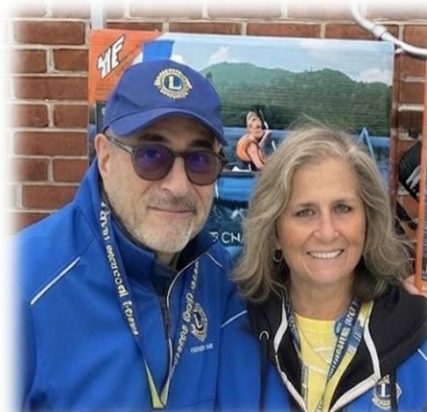
Her community service began with son Jonathan's entry into the local school system. She joined the Medford Lakes Home and School Association and immediately became involved in their fund-raising activities including the Fall Festival, Country Fair, and Holiday Gift Wrap.

Her interest in school affairs grew, and she successfully ran for a Board of Education seat in 2001 and was re-elected twice. During her nine years on the Board, she served on several committees including collective bargaining, policy, and building (which oversaw the Neeta School addition). She finished her service as the Board President, a position she held for three years.

During that period, she was also active in Girl Scouts. She followed her daughter Becki through the program from Daisy through Ambassador and participated in a wide range of educational, recreational, and service events. She was Community Treasurer and served as a troop "Cookie Mom" for 11 years.

With her children grown, she moved past school and scouts and joined the Medford Lakes Lions Club in 2018 and (as with everything she does) threw herself into the venture 100%. The Club recognized her energy and organizing ability and soon asked her to join the Board. And after only five years in the Club,

she became Queen Lion! Rejecting the path of fading away after a presidential term, she insisted on remaining active and has continued in the crucial position of fund-raising chair and also the head of the community clean-up committee.



Her membership in Lions was linked to her marriage to Ed Verish in 2017. They joined the Club together the following year. Whereas Jacquie was well-known as an active decades-long volunteer and leader, Ed was new in town. The couple saw Lions as an excellent way to integrate Ed's outgoing and affable personality into the community and to give both an outlet for their instincts to serve.

Ed was born in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, the son of a western Pennsylvania coal miner. He enjoyed a 40-year career in the steel industry in an array of sales positions and locations around the country. It was when he was living in Marlton and working in Philadelphia that he met Jacquie.

Ed was no stranger to service organizations. He was active in the Free Masons and had recently completed the path to becoming the Burlington (#32) Lodge's *Worshipful Master*. He warmed to the Lion's mission immediately. In fact, Jacquie is quick to credit her successful run through the Lion's chairs to Ed's support and active assistance. She says, "I can't stress how important Ed was to me during those years. He was at my side every step of the way."

Ed's involvement naturally led to his own role in Lion leadership and projects, particularly in fund-raising. The now iconic annual Meatball Throwdown was Ed's brain storm, and he is involved – with Jacquie – in all Lion fundraisers. He is currently on the Club's Board of Directors as "Tail Twister" (a sort of Sergeant at Arms), and he serves as dinner program coordinator.

He was also active in MLAA as commissioner of the Pickle Ball League and organized its "Glow-in-the-Dark" tournaments. Although the league was forced to disband because of deteriorating court conditions at Brook Field, he is anxious to become involved again after the court's restoration. We sincerely thank Jacquie and Ed for their outstanding service to Medford Lakes. **Well Done to Both!**