



From the Board Room

December 2025 Meeting Notes



Here are highlights from the December 8, 2025, Board meeting.

New Board Member

The Board appointed Bev Scheimreif as a new director for a term to begin in January. Bev has a strong history as an active



volunteer in community organizations as a leader, youth activities director, and fund-raiser. Her past volunteer service includes organizing 5K runs, art shows, book sales, and festivals. Bev is active in her church affairs where she organizes its summer camp program. We welcome Bev to our board.

Lake Lowering Policy

After months of deliberation and considering member input, the Board adopted a [revised lake lowering policy](#) as presented by the Lakes Committee. The committee made its recommendations understanding that our lakes are at the heart of the community's recreation, property value, and quality of life. The policy attempts to strike a fair balance between concerns for ecology, safety, cleanliness, and bulkhead and dock maintenance.

The board heard detailed presentations on the differential characteristics of our two systems (1) the west-side (Ballinger) system that serves

Beach 3 and (2) the east-side (Aetna) system that serves Beach 1. Water flow in the Beach 1 system is very strong and allows for regular lowering without significant ecological concern. Water flow in the Beach 3 system is weak, particularly in the upper lakes (e.g., Sioux Lake above Tuckerton Road). Water lowering in this system is harmful to aquatic life because of the slow refill rate.

In application, then, it is very likely that the Aetna/Beach 1 system will be lowered on a regular basis whereas lowering in the Ballinger/Beach 3 system in the context of current drought conditions is unlikely.

Successful Turkey Trot

Over 1,000 runners and walkers participated in the 53rd Annual Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning. Over \$8,000 in net proceeds from the event were contributed to the Colony's David Nimmer Fund. The Fund is used to finance projects around the Colony that provide handicapped accessibility. A special thanks to Heather Caldwell for making this happen!

Playground Projects Completed

The Wilson playground equipment installation is completed with only mulch work remaining. With this final step, the Colony will have completed \$150K in improvements with only \$50K in Colony capital improvement funds expended. The Medford Lakes School District contributed \$50K with the balance coming from other donors including Medford Lakes Women's Club, Medford Lakes Lions Club, and Medford Lakes Borough. Also contributing to the project were proceeds from commemorative bench sales from: The Kilroys; Ken Nelson and Marianne Devine; Alenco Fence; David Nimmer Fund, Marc Reisman; Tiffany Sochacki; Neeta Class of 2024; Tommy Evison; Eileen Wood; Eileen Mackle & Walt and Maryann Hajduk; William Saraceni; and Dale Keagy.

Volunteer Spotlight – Kent Hardwick

When the suggestion came to us for this Spotlight, it came with the reasoning that, “When you look around town, you won’t find many things that Kent Hardwick hasn’t touched.” You see, he is one of those rare individuals who – upon seeing that something needs to be done – actually does it.

“It began,” he recalls, “when I was out walking with (wife) Sonja. We saw Ron Panetta putting up a playground at Brooks Field. He needed help, so we stepped in.” It was that simple.

From that time on, Kent has been the common thread in most volunteer-driven improvement projects around town. Working with friends Gary Mercy and George Wiker, amongst many others, he has organized and/or been hands-on with: Pavilion and playground construction at Hopkins Field (Nokomis); Playground construction at Neeta School; Playground installation at Brooks Field; Monument construction and maintenance at Jackson Park; Pavilion, playground and handicap ramp construction and restoration at Beach 1; Original playground installation at Wilson Field; Volleyball Courts at Beaches 1, 3, and Hopkins Field; Pavilion, playground and handicap ramp installation at Beach 3.

And that’s to name a few!

Kent is a second-generation Laker – born and raised. He grew up on Manhasset and Sioux Trails with sister Lyn (Fasanella) and father Dick and mother Marilyn (known to all as “Bootsie”). Then (and now) he enjoyed all that the town and the Colony Club offered. He went through the Camp program and earned his Bronze Shield. He was an avid water sportsman and recreational soccer and tennis player. His recollections of the idyllic life here include ice skating and biking across frozen lakes, and coming home from school for lunch.

As a teen, Kent became interested in culinary arts. In fact, his student part-time job was in the kitchen at Nickelbee’s (now Ott’s). When the time came to look at post-high school education and a career, it was this path that he chose. With good grades, experience, and aptitude, he was offered early acceptance at the prestigious Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY, graduating with an Associate’s degree in Culinary Arts. He worked as the Executive Chef at the Tabernacle

Inn for 14 years and currently is a Cook Supervisor at Fort Dix Federal Prison.

With his credentials, he could have gone just about anywhere, but for Kent, Medford Lakes was the only place he and Sonja could imagine living and raising a family. From a log home on Briarwood Trail that they

built as a kind of a barn raising with help from friends and family, they raised three children – Tiel, Tré, and T.J., all Bronze Shield recipients. By the way, Kent keeps a sign on his door that announces *Our Family Puts the Fun in Dysfunctional*, and those who know this zany group vouch for that.

It was around 2002 when then-President Rob Worley recruited Kent for a position on the Colony Board. He served in a variety of roles over the next 14 years or so, finishing his “official” service as President in 2016. But he continues his service to the town.

In addition to his ongoing building projects, he remains active with Canoe Carnival and is a proud recipient of The Mary Conrad Golden Oar Award. Kent and Sonja are proud to be founding and continuing members of the float group On the Rocks (OTR), who has built at their house for the past 30 years, with eight Grand Prize winning floats. He says, “OTR has become our second family.” And for the past 27 years, the Hardwick Family Float has entertained Saturday night spectators. Kent’s favorite time on the Laker social calendar is Carnival Sunday (Sunday/Funday as Kent calls it) when he stages a crab fest on Area 2.

Kent and Sonja are very proud to have reached their goal of “50 by 50”, with their three children accompanying them for most of their journeys. He says, “Give him a State, he’ll give you a story!” Their current goal is seven continents by 70.

And everyone knows the iconic image of Kent and faithful dog Shandy on a paddleboard. “I make it a point to paddle in as many different lakes as I can as long as the seasons allow,” he says. “Shandy is a natural water dog and has even learned how to paddle!”

Believe it or not, as he works towards retirement, Kent looks forward to becoming even more active in town affairs.

Thank You Kent Hardwick for all you do.

