



# From the Board Room

April 2026 Meeting Highlights



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## Brooks Project Advances

Having received the necessary approvals from regulatory agencies, the Brooks Field Hard Surface Restoration Project is moving towards its final stages. After nearly seven-years of study and planning, a long-term solution for maintaining functional playing courts – tennis, pickleball, and basketball – is nearing the finish line.

Financially and otherwise, this is an ambitious project for us. Depending on the construction alternate selected, this could be a \$1 million venture. A substantial down payment has been accumulated, including a significant contribution from MLAA, but a bank loan will be necessary. The debt will be serviced by the Colony's set-aside Debt Service Fund. There will be no special assessments or dues increases attributed to this project.

The current project timetable calls for quote solicitation in early June 2026 with award to be made at the July 13th board meeting. If things go as planned, we will break ground this Fall with facilities open and ready for use in Spring 2027. More detailed information will follow.



Jeff West

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## MLAA Honors Jeff West

The Medford Lakes Athletic Association's 2026 Service Award Winner is Jeff West. The award was announced at Baseball's Opening Day Ceremony. Jeff was honored for 15 years of tireless commitment as a Coach, Youth Beach Volleyball Commissioner, Association Secretary, Webmaster, and member of the organization's Executive Committee.

The Colony Board congratulates Jeff on this well-deserved honor and for being an example of community service for us all.

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## Capital Project Update

The Board received a progress report on our ambitious 2026 Capital Improvement Program. As you travel about the Colony, you will see completed projects at Wilson Field (playground) and Beach 3 (pavilion roof replacement and parking lot). Several other projects are under contract and will be a part of a very busy Spring. These include: Beach 1 dock restoration, Hopkins Field re-fencing, and Vaughan parking lot tree replacement planting. Several other projects are in an active planning stage including major work at the Craft Pavilion parking area and Beach 2 restoration.

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## Summer Camp - 2026

VP-Recreation Ken Nelson reported that the Camp is almost fully staffed, and your children should

expect another exciting year. However, we have been unable to find anyone to staff the after-camp "Extended Hours" program. Sadly, Extended Hours Camp is **canceled** for 2026.

As always, it is in your best financial interest to register as soon as possible for camp. The fee structure accelerates. With February and March dates having passed, the next payment deadline is April 30th. There are significant fee increases after that date. Refer to the [Colony Website](#) for additional information.

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## Policy Reminders

The Board discussed the following long-standing policies.

- Colony facilities and programs are for members in good standing. This means, for example, that dues must be paid by May 31 to use the beaches, enroll in camp, and participate in MLAA summer programs.
- All watercraft must be tagged. And if you have rack space, your lottery agreement gives the Colony the authority to impound non-complying vessels.

Again: these policies are nothing new. They've been on the books for many years. The Board has become concerned about continued non-compliance with the existing rules and asks for your cooperation.

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## Volunteer Spotlight – Steve Gibbon

A motto of Lions Club International is: *Where there's a need, there's a Lion*. In the Medford Lakes Club for the past 25 years, a variation of that motto has been: *Where there's a need; there's Steve Gibbon*.

Steve was born in Camden in 1950 to Ruth and Paul (aka Gibby). He was the second of three sons – Jim the older brother and Dave the younger. The family moved to the area in the early fifties and purchased a lot at 36 Bowker Road. While renting in Medford and working full time, his father (aided by friends and family) built a house there that still stands. He remembers that back then, Bowker Road was an all-sand passageway.

The entire family enjoyed all that the Lakes had to offer: Protestant Community Church (where his father served on its board as Director of Christian Education), M.L.A.A., Scouting, Log Cabin Players, Camp, and Canoe Carnival. Helping his father, Steve remembers counting coins from PCC plate collections and filling paper wrappers with them.

He credits his parents and Church family with instilling in him a strong sense of service and work ethic. He delivered the *Philadelphia Inquirer* by bicycle and had jobs at several local service stations along Stokes Road.

The brothers attended Nokomis, Neeta, and Lenape schools. After high school graduation, Steve earned a B.S. in Nuclear Engineering from North Carolina State University. Out of college, he had a career with the Philadelphia Electric Company (and successor organizations). During the time of his employment, he was a member of the American Nuclear Society, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the Health Physics Society, the Engineers Club of Philadelphia, the Engineering and Technical Societies Council, and the Delaware Valley Science Council. He has maintained several of these associations following his 2001 retirement.

It was at that time when Steve and his wife Terry moved from their home in Cherry Hill to his father's house at 184 Kihade Trail where Steve and Terry still reside. He quickly added the Lions Club of Medford Lakes to his list of affiliations. He recalls fondly that his membership there was sponsored by his father. Steve became active in

many Lions programs and events, including: volunteering as *Cabulance* driver and dispatcher, assisting with eyeglass collection, and coordinating community Red Cross blood drives. All the while, he enjoyed fellowship with the members as he shared in their good works.

He assumed a more active role with PCC and spent one term on its Board. He qualified as an emergency medical technician (EMT) with the Medford Lakes Emergency Squad, joining yet another group of men and women devoted to community service.

All the while, Steve served the Lions Club in multiple board leadership roles including a term as its President in 2014. After his presidential year, he spent over ten years as the Club's Secretary.

It was only recently that Steve stepped back from his Lions Club board involvement. He saw the addition of talented and committed new leadership and recognized that it was "the right time." The increased demands of his role as Treasurer of the *Society of Mayflower Descendants in New Jersey*

also motivated his decision.

Steve became involved in a local *Society* chapter in the 1980s after learning of a direct maternal link to several members of the 1620 pilgrimage. Since then, he has served the organization in several local, state, and national roles.

While comfortable with organizational and leadership responsibilities, he says that he prefers "being up front and personal." Steve believes that service is defined by the needs of others, and not by the needs of the server. For Steve, service is a lifetime commitment, and he is quick to say that "stepping back" does not mean "stepping away." To the idea of taking a well-deserved rest, he says, "I'm not done yet!"

He still leads the Lions' highly successful Blood Drive program, which operates collection events throughout the year at multiple community locations. And at PCC, Steve can be seen manning the buffet line at their Fellowship Breakfasts and assisting with Communion preparation.

And with two daughters (Lacey and Ashley) and nine grandchildren, there is no chance of Steve lacking for things to do.

**Thanks to Steve Gibbon for his exceptional lifetime of service.**

