



From the Board Room

May 2025



Here are highlights from the Colony Board's May meeting. The Board meets regularly in the Demby Annex on the second Monday of each month at **7:30 PM**. (Note recent time change.) Members in good standing are welcome.

Mardi Gras Night Safety Concerns

In response to serious concerns about security and some objectionable behaviors at Mardi Gras night, the Board – in cooperation with Medford Lakes Borough – will be making changes for 2025. You will be hearing much more about this in the coming weeks and months. But expect increased security and heightened enforcement of Colony usage rules.

Although Mardi Gras is not a Colony event, it has come to be seen as a part of the Canoe Carnival celebration and an expected use of Colony property. Concerns to be addressed include non-colonists using Colony beaches and lakes, unsafe practices on the water, unallowable watercraft, and inappropriate alcohol use.

Some of these changes could affect members' plans for the evening based on past practice. We will keep you informed as the new program develops. We ask for your cooperation and understanding. Changes are in our collective best interests. You've heard many times that we are only one incident away from the entire weekend being cancelled. Please help us in our proactive initiatives.

Let's keep the weekend by keeping it safe.

Property Updates

The Board approved the following Property Department proposals.

- A Canoe storage facility at Beach 2 for camp canoes and rain garden structure repair
- Brooks Field storage shed relocation to the north end of the property as a part of a

parking lot expansion program and general clean-up

- A replacement fencing run along McKendimen Road at Mirror Lakes. All newly installed fencing will be stained to extend its life and create visual appeal.

Wilson Playground Initiative

The Board appointed an exploratory committee for the purpose of developing a renovation and improvement plan for the Wilson Field Playground. This effort is a part of our ongoing Playground Improvement Initiative. Funds are not yet available for this project in 2025, but several fund-raising initiatives outside the Capital Improvement Fund are in progress. One such initiative is a Commemorative Bench Program where a bench with a naming plaque can be purchased by individuals or organizations for \$1,000. Contact the Colony office for details.

Lakes Projects

The Lakes Committee is in the final stages of its 2025 lake cleaning and bulkhead repair program. Hydro-raking will take place in the Lower Mirrors in the coming weeks, and then equipment will be moved to Ballinger. You will see lakebed material from the project spread around small Colony-owned grass areas as a by-product of the cleanout.

Brooks Hard Surface Project Update

Final project plans with engineering seal have been received. A formal letter requesting a waiver of site plan review has been submitted to the Borough along with permit applications. In the interim, necessary repairs to fencing fabric (i.e., chain link), access security, and updated signage are being addressed to keep the courts functional. These are small and time-consuming steps, but necessary to keeping the project moving ahead.

LewwwwwwwWW.....KALB!

“You know you’re a Laker when...” is the set-up line for a series of Laker-isms that capture the unique character of our special community. One appropriate tag-line is “...when Lew Kalb announces your child’s name as if he was calling the Super Bowl starting line-up.” Lew – *The Voice of Medford Lakes* – has been making our children feel that kind of special for over thirty years.

Lew was born in Detroit, where he lived until age 12. His father worked in the electronics industry and had taken a job with RCA in Cherry Hill. When the time came to relocate his family in 1965, Medford Lakes was part of the conversation as “a place they’d heard good things about.” The Kalbs purchased a house on Lenape Trail where Lew lives to this day.

He enrolled in Neeta, but attended Lenape High School and was a member of the last class of Lakers to graduate from there. Shawnee was under construction at the time.

Growing up in the Motor City, Lew followed the Lions, the Tigers, the Pistons, and the Red Wings. But even at an early age, he recalls his fascination being more about the announcers than about the players. He would make up games and do play-by-play as the contests took place in his imagination.

He was recruited as the public address announcer for several sports at Lenape, and carried that passion into college in the Midwest, where ice hockey was king. It was in that sport that he started doing radio play-by-play. He also worked in the evenings and weekends as a disc jockey at a local radio station.

After graduation, Lew took a sales job at Russell Stover candies, but quickly realized that his passion was with sports announcing. He quit and enrolled in the communication school at Penn State. He continued doing public address for the University and play-by-play for local radio stations covering Penn State sports.

His most memorable call was in 1981, a rematch of the 1979 national championship game between Alabama and the Nittany Lions. Blue and White fans remember the excruciating sequence where Joe

Paterno called four successive runs into the line from one-yard out – twice in that game – and failed. It was a repeat of the ill-fated Penn State strategy from their last meeting with the Crimson Tide. CBS sports picked up Lew’s call – capturing State fans’ outrage – and broadcast it coast to coast in its post-game analysis.

After his four years at Penn State, he took a job at WLQE – “The Lucky 99” – in Atlantic City in 1985 and once again called Medford Lakes home. His primary job was as a disc jockey, but he freelanced on the side as a game correspondent. “I’d work for out-of-town radio stations whose

professional teams were playing in Philadelphia,” he explains. In this capacity, he worked for WNEW, WFAN, and WIP to name a few stations that called on his talents.

So, how did he become *The Voice of Medford Lakes*? It was in 1996 that Lew heard that the Philadelphia 76ers were looking for a public address announcer, and he decided to audition. Not having done any P.A. work for many years, he asked the M.L.A.A. if he could have some practice announcing players at one of their basketball games. “To the youngsters, it was electrifying,” he recalls. “I remember feeling that bringing that kind of joy had to be the best job in the world.” When the Sixers job didn’t work out, he took on the role of resident announcer for every Laker event that needed announcing: games, carnival, camp, you-name-it.

Lew also started a youth announcing club and has mentored aspiring youth for 20 years, currently working with

Kyle Gaysek on stage. He also mentored former Laker Nick Proto, who currently anchors a morning television show in Atlanta.

He recently added videography to his repertoire and started his own You-Tube channel with game rebroadcasts and highlights. He does this for M.L.A.A., Neeta, and Shawnee events.

Lew also substitute-teaches for the Medford Lakes School District across all grades. He says, “It’s another way to give to the community that I love.”

Thanks to Lew Kalb, volunteer supreme. You’re a big part of making the Lakes a special place to live.



Lew with announcing club alumni:
Chris Biehn, Ryan Wilson, and
Nick Proto



Vaughan Hall Dedication