



# From the Board Room

June 2026 Meeting Highlights and News



## Joint Project at Nokomis Woods

The Borough and Colony have been doing work at Nokomis Woods over the last several months. The project there is focused on correcting stormwater runoff problems by bringing up the grade on the corner of Kenozsha and Nahma Trails. The intent is to mitigate excess stormwater runoff, which is under-mining the roadway. Clean fill was brought in initially followed by lakebed material, which was spread over the fill area. The lake material, which came from spring hydro-raking, is highly nutritious and will act like a natural fertilizer to help spur new vegetation growth. The initial appearance is different, but new growth will emerge quickly and soon provide a natural walking area, correcting run-off problems in the process. This project phase will be completed in June. The Borough has active plans for repaving Kenozsha Trail in 2027 (pending grant approval). Related to the corrective action in the area is work on the service road behind Nokomis School. Elevations will be modified to eliminate the sand runoff, which currently washes onto Kenozsha Trail. We appreciate your patience as we work cooperatively with the Borough to make improvements for the benefit of all residents in this high-traffic area. Eventually, the overall project will include development of Nokomis Woods hiking and biking trails.



**Shannon Cramer**

## New Board Member

The Board appointed Shannon Cramer to fill a vacated position. Shannon is a long-time Laker and member with a strong affection for the community and desire to contribute to it. She started the Medford Lakes Book Chat and has been active in the Women’s Club Auxiliary. She is a retired Registered Nurse currently working part-time in a local physician’s office. Shannon has three grown children, each of whom earned Bronze Shields. She explains her interest in joining the Board in this way: “I would love the opportunity to assist the Colony and the Board. I absolutely love Medford Lakes and

feel blessed to live in such a special community. If I can be of service, I would be happy to help in any way I can.” Please join us in welcoming Shannon.

## Lake News

The Lakes Committee reports that drought conditions continue to adversely affect water in the Western (Ballinger) system, and advise that a Fall lowering there would not be in the Colony’s best interests. And since the Borough is lowering the Aetnas in Spring 2027 for maintenance, the Committee advises against a Fall lowering in the East system until then.

In a related matter, the Committee recommended activating the Ballinger Lake pumping system to assist with water levels in the upper west system.

## Brooks Field Update

The Brooks Field Committee reports that the project continues to move forward on schedule. Three firms have indicated an interest in submitting pricing and have supplied requisite references. Formal bids are expected at the end of June, and the committee will be prepared to present recommendations at the July board meeting. In parallel, we are continuing to develop fundraising ideas and an updated communications initiative. The Colony has accepted a commitment letter from the First National Bank of Elmer, which will complete the financing package (subject, of course, to satisfactory bidding.) The total project cost is projected to be around \$1,000,000 with \$600,000 to be financed. Cash is currently available from down payment money in the Colony’s Debt Service Fund and M.L.A.A’s Capital Improvement Fund. The Colony Debt Service Fund comes from a portion of member dues. The Fund was created in 2023 by member vote. If things go as planned, the facility will be ready for play in Spring 2027. This project has been in development for seven years, and is finally approaching reality.

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## **Community Spotlight – Rob Burton**

Strong Laker volunteers and leaders tend to have a history in multiple organizations. But few have a more diverse resume of devoted service than Borough Manager Rob Burton.

Rob grew up in Mount Laurel and attended Lenape High School and was well-acquainted with our community. Later in life, when the time came for Rob and wife Allison to find a place to settle and raise a young family in 2003, Medford Lakes was at the top of his list.

He describes the house hunting excursion when he introduced Allison – from Long Island and accustomed to a faster pace – to the area. “I’m not sure I can live here,” Rob recalls as her first reaction. “There’s nothing but trees!” But as she saw and learned more about our town’s special charm, she was the relocation’s driving force. The family soon became immersed in Laker-life and the couple became involved in its robust volunteer culture.

They met at Farleigh Dickinson University where Rob was earning a B.A. in Political Science and Allison was studying Sociology. After graduation, Rob began a career in higher education working through a range of administrative positions at Farleigh Dickinson, while earning a Master’s degree in Administrative Science, and later at Thomas Edison State University. Rob also serves on the adjunct faculty at Rowan University and Rowan College at Burlington County.

By 2006, Rob found himself coaching multiple Laker sports: Robby in Soccer and Baseball and Kaitlyn in Softball. He continued to coach even after his children left for travel teams. He was also on the Medford Lakes Athletic Association (MLAA) Board and served as a Softball Commissioner. He was called to the organization’s Presidency in 2009 and served in that capacity for three years.

Among the achievements of his term, he lists park construction at Wilson Field, an aggressive turf management initiative, creation of a reserve fund for improvements collected from user fees, and increased adult participation. While he is proud of the organization’s progress during his years as its head, he is quick to re-direct credit to others too many to list. He simply says, “I was blessed with a strong board.”



While serving MLAA, he was a member of the Colony Club Board of Directors for four years.

Allison shared Rob’s passion for service and was active in the Medford Lakes Women’s Club and the Canoe Carnival Committee, where she was honored with its *Golden Oar* Award. She is currently Activities Director at Saint Mary’s Center, an elder care facility in Cherry Hill.

Rob’s first foray into local politics came when he led an active and ultimately successful “Keep our Cops” campaign. This effort was in response to a proposal to merge the local police force with Medford Township’s. In 2012 he ran for Borough Council, won, and was re-elected. He was a member of the Borough’s Administration and Public Safety Committees and served as Mayor from 2014 to 2016.

It was during this period that he earned a Doctorate in Public Administration from West Chester University, credentials necessary for career advancement in higher education. But fate had different plans for Rob. In 2017, Borough Manager Julie Horner-Keizer announced her relocation to Maine and suggested that Rob consider applying for the job.

Faced with a choice between the rat-race of the University tenure track and serving the community he loved, Rob found that there was really no choice. “After interviewing, Council offered me the position and I accepted, and I’ve never second-guessed that call,” he says. “It’s a 24-hour job and I’m never off duty. And there is a special challenge that comes from living in a small community and always bumping into people I know. They typically have a question to ask or problem to resolve. But I love what I do.”

In addition to meeting the challenges of a complex day-to-day operation, Rob is proud to have worked with Borough Council in keeping tax increases low while servicing Aetna Dam restoration debt, implementing a planned road reconstruction program, and formalizing shared service agreements between the Borough and the Colony.

“No town is perfect,” he says. “But I believe that this one comes close. It’s always sunny in Medford Lakes. And I’m proud to be a part of it.”