
WHAT TO DO IN MEDFORD LAKES



An Activity Guide for New
Members

Welcome to Medford Lakes Colony

Welcome to Medford Lakes Colony, the unique community it helps to create, and the special way of life it offers. The Colony is a private, non-profit organization operating within the geography of Medford Lakes Borough. Our membership is open only to Borough residents, but we are not a traditional homeowners' association or part of the municipal structure. We are a private entity operating, in effect, as the Borough's recreation department.

It is your Colony dues – not Borough taxes – that fund our operations.

As a Colonist, you have access to our recreational facilities, social organizations, athletic leagues, and sponsored events. If you are not a member, those benefits are not available to you. This activity guide will help you to begin enjoying all that we have to offer.

Knowing About What's Happening in the Colony

You will receive *The Colony Newsletter* in the U.S. Mail weekly, usually on Thursday. This newsletter includes information of interest to the membership and a schedule of events.

An event calendar is also available on the Colony website, www.medfordlakescolony.org. The website is a reliable source of current information about rules, forms, and the organizations and activities listed in this welcome booklet. You should refer to this valuable information source frequently.

As a member in good standing, you are always welcome to attend Colony Board meetings, which are held monthly in Vaughan Hall's Demby Annex. Regularly scheduled meetings are on the second Monday of each month. Meeting notices are published in the Colony News and on the Colony Website.

As to "What to Do in Medford Lakes?" In addition to recreational activities, volunteer service opportunities abound, including those with the Colony board, board committee, and board auxiliary organizations. Our boards and committees are much more than governing bodies. They are action-oriented and

do things. There is a strong volunteer and community spirit in the Colony, and being actively involved is part of the fun.

Our Beaches

As with all Colony facilities, our beaches are only for the use of members and their guests. Beach tags will allow access during the summer season (Memorial Day to Labor Day). You can secure your tags at the Colony Office. Limiting beach use to the membership is important, and you should get in the habit of wearing or bringing your tags to the beach.

- **Beach 1** is located on Tabernacle Road at Powhatan Trail. It is one of two ways for general membership access to Lower Aetna Lake. Amenities include stationary and floating docks, pavilion, volleyball court, playground, wheelchair accessibility, and parking. Lifeguarded swimming hours are offered from Memorial Day thru Labor Day.
- **Area 2** is located on Chippewa Trail at Oak Drive. Amenities include access to Lower Aetna Lake and parking. No lifeguard is on duty.
- **Beach 3** is located at Hiawatha and Mohawk Trails with access to MisheMokwa Lake. Amenities include lake access, docks, pavilion, volleyball court, playground, wheelchair accessibility, and parking. Lifeguarded swimming hours are offered from Memorial Day thru Labor Day.
- **Beach 4** is located on Wagush Trail between Sitting Bull and Naragannsett with access to Wauwaukashe Lake. Amenities include lake access, pavilion, wheelchair accessibility, and street parking. Lifeguarded swimming hours are offered from Memorial Day thru Labor Day.
- **Area 5** is located on Upper Aetna Lake off Chicagami Trail. There is street parking. No lifeguard is on duty.

Access to and use of Colony beaches are a part of your membership. Your beach tags will give you access.

All beach areas include canoe racks, which are offered to members via a lottery held every spring. If you do not have a rack, you may still launch your watercraft from these beaches.

Our Parks and Fields

The Colony owns three major recreational and athletic complexes.

- **Hopkins Field** is located adjacent to Nokomis Elementary School. This facility includes a playground, a basketball court, a pavilion, a volleyball court, and two ball fields. The Hopkins playground is also the school playground, but it is open to the membership during non-school hours.
- **Wilson Field** is located at Onondago and Osage Trails, and includes a baseball field, soccer field, basketball court, and small playground.
- **Brooks Field** is located on Iroquois Trail at Powhatan Trail, and features a soccer field, baseball field, basketball court, tennis courts, pickleball courts, gaga pit, small playground, Brooks Field Pavilion, and the Craft Pavilion.
- **Nokomis Woods** is a preserved wooded area above Nokomis Elementary School off Hiawatha Trail. The area is deliberately retained in a natural state and includes hiking trails.

Vaughan Community Building

The Vaughan Community Building (Vaughan Hall) is, in many ways, the community's crown jewel. The magnificent log structure is located across from Beach 1 at the intersection of Powhatan Trail and Tabernacle Road. The building hosts hundreds of events each year, including athletic contests, theater performances, dinners and dances, scouting functions, fundraisers, and summer camp activities.

Demby Annex

You will see references made to “Demby Annex” in many event announcements. This facility is attached to Vaughan Hall with an entrance at its rear. Demby includes a meeting room, a small museum, and the Colony Office.

Many Colony facilities are available for member use by reservation. Refer to the Colony website for forms and details.

Picnic Pavilions

There are picnic pavilions at Beach 1, Beach 3, and Beach 4, which can be reserved and rented for member events, like birthday parties or graduation celebrations.

Athletics

Member-only athletic leagues for youth and adults are offered through the Medford Lakes Athletic Association (MLAA), which is a Colony auxiliary. Participant registration is through the MLAA website, which can be accessed via the Colony website under the “Recreation and Clubs” tab. Here are some of that organization’s league-based programs.

- Adult Beach Volleyball - Five league, co-ed teams of six of varying skill levels competing on Beaches 1 and 3 during the summer
- Baseball - Youth recreational program from Pre-K Quick Ball league thru 5th and 6th grade
- Basketball - Boys and Girls recreational leagues from 3rd thru 8th grade
- Cornhole - A Fall, beach based adult league (teams of 2)
- Men’s Basketball - Bi-Weekly pick-up format
- Girls Softball - Youth recreational program for grades Pre-K thru 8th grade
- High School Beach Volleyball - Summer league of co-ed teams of six, competing on Beach 3

- Men's Softball - An eight-team recreational league competing on Sundays from April thru July
- Men's (Indoor) Volleyball - Weekly pick-up format in Neeta School Gym
- Soccer - Spring and Fall programs for boys and girls; three-year old thru sixth grade
- Women's Volleyball - 4 x 4 winter league in Neeta School Gym.

All league registration is through the MLAA website, which can be accessed via the Colony website.

For current information and format changes, be sure to refer to the MLAA website, which can be accessed via the Colony website and the "Recreation and Clubs" tab.

Colony Summer Camp

The Day Camp program is an iconic summer highlight for Colony youngsters. Watch the Colony News for registration information.

The Colony offers a day camp program during the month of July for children ranging from preschool through 8th grade. Children enjoy a wide range of activities including arts and

crafts, swimming, canoeing, kayaking, archery, field games, and music in locations around town. The program is open only to children whose parents or grandparents are Colony members.

As you learn about our traditions, you will know that summer camp holds a special place in the memories of all who spent their youth here. You will hear reference to earning a Bronze Shield, which is awarded to youth who successfully complete the entire program.

Many Colony-youth work in the camp as helpers and counselors after completing the program. There are also adult employment opportunities. More information about our day camp can be found on the Colony website under the "Recreation and Clubs" tab.

Activities and Clubs

The Colony also offers membership-only social activities. The meeting times can be seasonal and vary. The Colony website is your best source for current, accurate information. For all groups, your pathway to joining is by simply showing up. Contact information for all activities and clubs is on the Colony website under the “Recreation and Clubs” tab.

Book Club (Adult) - The Colony Book Club meets every third Thursday of the month at 11:00 AM in Vaughan’s Demby Annex. This is a one-hour discussion group based on a common designated book.

Chess Club (All Ages) - The Chess Club is open to members of all skill levels (and all ages). The Club typically meets at the Pinelands Library in Medford on Thursday nights at 6:00 PM. New members are always welcome.

Exercise Class (Adult) - Adult Exercise Class is held in Vaughan Hall on Thursdays at 9:30 AM from September thru June. The approximately one-hour sessions use a combination of flexibility, strength, and cardio. This is a low-impact program targeting our senior members.

Information about our club program can be found on the Colony Website. As to joining? It's all about simply showing up.

Fishing Club (All Ages) - This organization is committed to both recreation and education. It sponsors training programs about lake maintenance, conservation, and safe and effective fishing practices. The Club also sponsors family-friendly, non-competitive fishing tournaments.

Mahjong (Adult) - Mahjong is held every Thursday at 1:30 pm in Demby Annex. New players are welcome and instruction is offered.

Medford Lakes Stage (All Ages) - This organization presents theatrical productions throughout the year. Its activities include a traveling players group, and a spring and Christmas stage production. There are opportunities for actors and crew.

Pinochle (Adult) - The Pinochle Club meets at 7:00 PM in the Demby annex on the first Thursday of every month. Members of all skill levels are welcome. Check the website for seasonal scheduling.

Sewing Circle (Adult) - This group gathers in the Demby Annex every Tuesday morning from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Members work on their own projects, assist others, collaborate, and (most importantly) enjoy each other's company. All skill levels are welcome.

Medford Lakes Women's Club (Adult) - Medford Lakes Women's Club is a social organization open to women of all ages, meeting quarterly. The Club sponsors some of the town's most popular events including Breakfast-with-the-Bunny, Easter Egg Hunt, Story Time, Amazing Pace, and Holiday House Tour. This is both a service and social organization open to women of all ages.

Canoe Carnival

Canoe Carnival - Like Camp, the annual Canoe Carnival – held on the first Saturday night in August – helps define Medford Lakes. Like the town itself, it is difficult to describe. It must be experienced. Think of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade except that all the floats are balanced on canoes and paddled around the Lower Aetna Lake.

Canoe Carnival is the highlight of the Colony's social calendar. It cannot really be described. It must be experienced.

Carnival Weekend is the highlight of the busy Medford Lakes social calendar. After experiencing the event as a spectator, consider being a participant! There are several

independent "float groups" within the community whose rolls are member-driven, but you are welcome to participate with an individual canoe or form a small (or large) group of your own. Refer to "Canoe Carnival" page on the Colony website for a photo representation and rules of entry. The Canoe Carnival Committee is available to help you get started. It's not as difficult as it looks.

Other Organizations

We maintain strong and cooperative working relationships with both the Medford Lakes Garden Club and the Medford Lakes Lions Club. Membership in these organizations is not restricted to Colonists, but they are a vital part of the community-at-large and the Medford Lakes experience. As you plan your life here, please give these groups your consideration.

Medford Lakes Lions Club (Adult) - The Lions Club is a group of service-minded men and women who are interested in improving the communities it serves, and also Lions International charities and projects. The club prides itself on its active and multi-generational membership. ML Lions is the largest chapter in New Jersey (!) but it maintains a strong local flavor. The Club sponsors many of the community's most popular events including the Memorial Day Parade, Tree Lighting, Meatball Throw-down, and Witches Paddle. The Club owns its own meeting hall, medical device lending center, and food bank on Apache Trail. For additional information about the Club, visit its website at www.medfordlakeslions.org.

The Colony maintains a strong working relationship with the Lions and Garden Clubs. Consider these groups as you plan your life in the Lakes

Medford Lakes Garden Club (Adult) - The Club holds luncheon meetings and programs from September thru June in Vaughan Hall and other area locations. In addition to the social opportunities and friendships that come from the luncheons, the Club hosts workshops, garden tours, and field trips. It also supports several beautification opportunities around town. The Club encourages and supports gardening efforts among members and the community. It educates in all aspects of horticulture, promotes conservation, historic preservation, and teaches and fosters principles of floral design.

You can learn more about Garden Club via the Colony website and the "Recreation and Clubs tab.

