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MEDFORD LAKES COLONY NEWS



Vol. 33

June 13, 2025

No. 24

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Medford Lakes Colony Board of Directors would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members: Gail Caputo of Chicagami Trail, Bryan & Abbey Mattingly of Iroquois Trail, and Dominic & Maureen D'Orazio of McKendimen Road.

COLONY MEETING

On Monday, July 14, 2025, the Board of Directors of the Medford Lakes Colony will be meeting at 7:30 pm in Demby Annex. All members in good standing are encouraged to attend.

If you need something included on the agenda, please submit it to the Colony Office no later than Monday, July 7th. Items for the agenda and questions can be directed to office@mlcolony.org.

BOARD MEMBER OPENINGS

We are looking for all skill sets but our particular interest is for individuals wanting to become involved in the Colony's Recreation program. Please send a letter of interest with background information to office@mlcolony.org. The deadline has been extended to Monday, June 30th.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you are moving, changing your address, or having new tenants in your home, please promptly notify the Colony Office by emailing office@mlcolony.org or by calling 609-654-7747.

The Postal Service is very accommodating to Medford Lakes Colony, and it is truly appreciated. However, they do not forward third-class mail. The Colony News is mailed to you weekly via third-class mail. The Post Office charges the Colony for any returned items.

Please be sure to include the Colony in your mailing changes – thank you!

MEDFORD LAKES MEMORIAL DAY 5K

Thank you to everyone who helped make this USATF-certified race through our beautiful borough a success: Zinc Café for the generous donation of Kind Bars and Fig Bars, South Jersey Race Timing, LLC, Patty's Bees Hats & Tees for the Race Prizes, The Medford Lakes Police and Fire Departments, Peyton Siciliano for her beautiful rendition of the National Anthem, Gary McGeever for his DJ skills, Lew Kelb for voicing the emcee role, and local community members who volunteered. All race proceeds go towards handicap accessibility in memory of David Nimmer.

LOCAL AUTHOR VISITS DEMBY ANNEX

Rusty Williams, author, police chaplain, ordained minister and retired police officer will be speaking on Thursday, June 26th in Demby Annex. Please feel to attend at 7:00 PM as Rusty speaks about his book "Moral Fractures."

VOLUNTEER(S) NEEDED

From time to time openings occur on various local boards and commissions due to vacancies and expiring terms. The Borough is currently seeking an interested individual to serve on the Planning Board.

Interested residents can download a "Citizen Leadership Form" from the Borough website, pickup one at the Clerk's office or email the clerk at clerk@medfordlakes.com. Forms should be submitted to the attention of the Borough Clerk at 1 Cabin Circle, Medford Lakes, NJ 08055.

ATTENTION ALL FLOAT GROUPS

The link to register your float this year has been posted on the Canoe Carnival website.
<https://www.medfordlakescolony.org/canoecarnival>

Registration is due by Friday, June 20th.

Please email MLCanoecarnival@gmail.com if you have any questions or concerns.

Looking forward to a great Canoe Carnival season!

CANOE CARNIVAL APPAREL FOR SALE

Apparel for the 2025 Canoe Carnival is now on sale at the Colony Office and Binkley's 5 & 10. There is something for everyone! Net proceeds from sales are used to offset the cost of security and other necessary expenses to run Canoe Carnival.

MEDFORD LAKES CC PAGEANT NOMINATIONS

Nominations must be made by Friday, June 20th.

The Canoe Carnival Pageant is scheduled for Friday night, July 25th at Beach 3 @ 7:30 pm.

You can nominate your favorite rising sophomore, junior, or senior to run for King or Queen by calling 609-654-7747 or emailing office@mlcolony.org to provide the Colony member's name, grade they will be entering for the 2025-2026 school year, and a phone number for the nominee or their parent/guardian. Please note that there are limited spaces available and eligible nominees will be contacted by June 25th.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, June 20th. Thank you!



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TAG CHECKING HAS STARTED FOR THE SUMMER SEASON

Tag checking will begin Memorial Day weekend and will continue through Labor Day weekend unless warranted further into September. Spot-checking may occur during all daylight hours, up until Colony areas close at dusk.

As we're sure you know, Colonists should carry member tags while using any Colony property, and their guests should have guest tags (available at the office). Checkers will be visiting Colony beaches AND any park or property where vandalism or Colonist complaints have been an issue. All Colonists (not just paid checkers) have the right to ask to see someone's tag, and to ask non-members to leave. More information can be found on page 5 of the Colony Rules & Bylaws.

Your Colony Board, Office and Field Staff (some of whom you likely know personally) is trying to take a reasonable approach to tag checking. When there are problems, we will be checking more often. When there are no problems, we will instruct checkers to relax a bit. It may not always appear perfect, but it's the best system we have to protect your family and your investments.

Thank you for your support & understanding, and we hope you have a great summer!

TENNIS & PICKLEBALL COURTS

The Colony is in charge of the pickleball and tennis courts. We are instituting a new procedure to restrict the courts to Colonists in good standing and their authorized guests. This will be to all Colonist's benefit and we all have a part to play to help make our courts safe.

Any Colonist in good standing can sign up for access by visiting the Colony Office to sign the consent/waiver for yourself, your child and/or guest. You will be shared a Google spreadsheet to the email you provide. For this system to be effective, it is imperative that you keep it confidential.

Current year Colony Tags are to be worn at all times by the Colonist and guest. The entrance gate is to be locked behind you once you enter the court area. Do not unlock the gate for anyone who does not know the code unless it is your guest, and if they refuse or cannot, simply explain the rules to them and ask them to leave the courts. Do NOT escalate on your own. If anyone becomes confrontational, I have been assured by the ML Police that they will respond when called. To get in contact with the ML Police, please call the Non-Emergency Dispatch at 609-267-8300.

The goal is to provide a great Pickleball/Tennis experience for our community.

THANK YOU, K-SEAL

A BIG thank you is needed for K-Seal for sponsoring the Camp Staff shirts for 2025!

FIVE-YEAR-OLD SWIM – UPDATE

The Five-Year-Old Swim program this year will run from JULY 7th to AUGUST 1st – so instead of starting on Monday, June 30th, as previously advertised, it will start on Monday, July 7th, and run until Friday, August 1st. Questions can be directed to camp@mlcolony.org.

NO ELECTRIC BIKES AT CAMP

Campers will not be allowed to use Electric Bikes (also known as E-Bikes) and will be required to wear a bike helmet to/from camp and camp activities. With the days getting longer and temperatures warmer, please make sure bicycles and helmets are working properly.

LOWER CAMP PARENTS

1st and 2nd grade campers should be prepared to ride their bicycles from Nokomis School to Beach 3 (and back to Nokomis) for their swimming lessons each camp day. If you think this could be an issue for your camper, please contact the Colony Office at camp@mlcolony.org.

RE: MLGC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT 2025

The Medford Lakes Garden Club is pleased to announce this year's scholarship recipient:

Shawnee Senior RACHEL HOJNAKI

Inspired by her interests in earth and medical sciences and her concern for our environment, Rachel will major in Biomedical Engineering or Environmental Engineering at Rowen University this coming fall.

Congratulations Rachel!

GET A JUMP ON SUMMER! GIVE BLOOD!

The Medford Lakes Lions are sponsors for the American Red Cross Blood Drive to be held on Wednesday, June 18th at the Protestant Community Church's Memorial Hall. Appointments are from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM and can be made with the mobile app or on the www.redcrossblood.org website. First time donors' welcome.

Questions? Call 609-605-1399.

APPRECIATION DINNER FOR 2024 COLONY PRESIDENT STEVE WARREN

The Medford Lakes Colony President's Dinner for Steve Warren will be held on Saturday, October 18, 2025, at the Medford Lakes Country Club starting at 6:30 pm. Please save the date. More information will be shared soon.

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SINCERE SYMPATHY

Our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Ruth Ann Swannell, of Medford Lakes, NJ, who passed away peacefully on January 22, 2025, surrounded by her loving family. Born in Kansas City, Missouri, she was the beloved daughter of Joseph Vajdic and Helen (née Pytel).

Ruth Ann was the beloved wife of Charles Swannell, sharing 54 years of marriage filled with love and devotion. Together, they raised four daughters: Nancy Lyons, Victoria Simon (Donald Jr.), Sarah Vidal (Paul), and Rachel Rizzi (Mark). She was a proud Nana to seven grandchildren: Julia, Audrey, Thomas, Natalie, Noelle, Meredith, and Jocelyn.

One of nine siblings, Ruth Ann is survived by her siblings Vicki Jaques, Joan Elgin, and Paul Vajdic, stepson Steven Swannell (Brunilda) and grandchildren Gwendolyn, and Sophie. She was a loving sister, wife, mother, grandmother, and friend who dedicated her life to her family and community.

Ruth Ann earned her Bachelor of Arts in Education from the University of Kansas and Master of Library Science from the University of Maryland. She was a charter faculty member at the Kankakee Community College where she met the love of her life, Charles (Chuck). They married and relocated to New Jersey to raise their family.

Ruth Ann gave many years of service as a librarian with the Burlington County Library and served a term on the Medford Lakes school board. A woman of deep faith and spirituality, she was a devoted member of St. Mary of the Lakes Church in Medford, where she participated in prayer groups and shared her belief in love as the foundation of all things.

Known for her boundless energy and curious spirit, Ruth Ann was a strong-willed force of nature who always kept busy with projects and cherished time spent outdoors, especially in the shade. One of her greatest joys was finding things and giving them to her family and friends, always with a smile and a hug. She loved her walks, doing puzzles, reading, practicing tai chi and qi gong, and watching neighborhood kids ride by on their bikes. Her ability to love, forgive, and live in the moment left a lasting impression on everyone who knew her.

Ruth Ann believed in the importance of family, dedicating her life to raising her children and grandchildren with unwavering love and support. She will be remembered as a woman who always knew what she wanted, kept the past in the past, and exemplified the power of love, light, and kindness.

A celebration of Ruth Ann's life will be held in the spring. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) or Doctors Without Borders.

A gathering of friends and family will be held on June 21st at 10:00 am at St. Mary of the Lakes in Medford, followed by her memorial mass at 11:00 am.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

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Vacation Bible School 6:30 – 8:30 PM

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Come and enjoy three nights of winter fun together, remembering the greatest gift of all, the Christ Child who came to bring PEACE, HOPE, LOVE, and JOY to the world. Travel back in time and revisit the events surrounding the birth of Jesus.

We'll travel to Bible stories of the Angel Gabriel who brought the Good News to Zachariah, Mary, and Joseph. We'll travel back to the Shepherds and the Magi who followed the star to Bethlehem where they found the greatest gift of all, the Christ Child lying in a manger.

Three nights of Christmas in July VBS will begin with a light Christmas-themed family dinner at 5:30 pm. Then the three nights of winter fun will begin at 6:30 pm, recapturing the "Christmas Spirit" through active worship, familiar Christmas music, creative Christmas crafts, fun winter games, and, of course, snacks!

For information and registration, call the church office at (609) 654-4220 or (609) 654-0515. Registration forms may be picked up in the church office.



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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, June 14th - Large Trash Drop Off and Brush & Leaf Drop Off, 7:30 am - 12:30 pm, behind the Firehouse

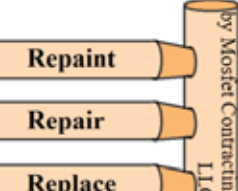
Tuesday, June 17th - Recycle Collection

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