



From the Board Room

July 2026 Meeting Highlights and News



Canoe Carnival - 2026

Here is a quick summary of ticketing and entry information for Canoe Carnival events.

- **Canoe Carnival Ball** (July 25) is at the Medford Lakes Country Club from 7 to 11 PM. Age 21 and over only. Ticket sales are \$30 each at the Colony Office.



- **Mardi Gras** (July 31) continues to be a **member/guest event** with beach entry point at Beaches 1 and 2. This event is **not** open to the public. Member and Season Guest Tags will be honored. If you do not have sufficient season guest passes, you can purchase a special Mardi Gras event pass for \$10

each. Day passes will **not** be honored. Event passes are on sale at the Colony Office. Watercraft must be tagged.

- **Carnival** (August 1) is a ticketed event. Advance tickets are \$5 beach and \$15 bleacher. You can set your chair on Beach 1 (with a ticket) beginning at 4:00 PM on Carnival Day.

Please refer to print and on-line copies of the Colony News for additional details. Additional information and reminders will be forthcoming. We appreciate your cooperation as we continue to keep the event enjoyable and safe for the membership.

Brooks Field Update

Mr. Gaysek, Chair, reported that it is still reviewing quotes, and a recommendation for award (originally planned for the July 13 meeting) is deferred until the September 14 board meeting. At issue are the evaluation of various alternatives and value engineering to reduce costs. The Committee is hopeful of keeping a construction schedule that would lead to a 2027 opening. This vital project is seven years in the making, and the Board remains committed to getting it over the finish line.

Lake News

The Lakes Committee completed several lakebed and cleaning projects. Also, it is in the final stages of purchasing a new pump for the Ballinger system. We continue to experiment with ways to improve lake levels on the west side of town by pumping water from Ballinger to Sioux (at the top of the chain) so that there is steady flow through the series of lakes that send water to Mishemokwa (Beach 3 lake) and ultimately back to Ballinger. Unfortunately, drought conditions persist in our area and water tables remain lower than normal.

Gift from Lions Club Charities

The Medford Lakes Lions Club Charities presented gifts totalling \$10,800 in support of Colony programs as follows.

Brooks Field Renovation	\$2,000
Beach 4 Pavilion Replacement	\$5,000
Fishing Club	\$ 300
M.L.A.A. (Neeta Sports Account)	\$1,500
Camp Scholarship Fund	\$2,000

The presentation was made by Immediate Past King Lion Ben Asztalos and Current King Lion Jim Dungee. Treasurer Kevin Kinney and V.P. Finance Jeff Goetschius gratefully received the gift.



L to R: Kinney, Asztalos, Dungee, Goetschius

The Club's charitable support extends well beyond the Colony. In fact, distributions from Medford Lakes Lions Charities was in excess of \$63,000 in 2026! As an historical note (appropriate as we prepare for the Centennial), Lions started as a Colony Club auxiliary with Leon Todd as its first King Lion and charter member.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT – JOAN TODD LEWIS

The term *Medford Lakes Royalty* occasionally surfaces in Laker conversations when referring to those with lifelong connections to the Colony and from families who have helped define our town's special way-of-life. But with a family tree that boasts of paternal grandfather Leon Todd and maternal grandfather William Oaks, there is no one around today with a more bona fide claim to that title than Joan Todd Lewis.

But what makes Joan so very special is that she doesn't need a family tree to be granted that distinction. With her many years of distinguished service to the community, she is *royalty* in her own right.

Joan grew up in nearby Haddonfield with her sister Pat and parents Harrison and Elizabeth (Oaks). Joan's father and Uncle Jack partnered with Leon in the Todd Realty operation, with Harrison managing the Camden branch and Jack headquartered in the office on Trading Post Way. But Joan grew up a Laker through and through. She spent many summers at Founder's Lodge with her grandparents, and regular Sunday dinner there was a cherished family tradition.

Her first job was as a Day Camp Counselor, and she met future husband Robert – who lived across Lower Aetna on Chippewa Trail – on a sail boating date. Family legend has her father and mother meeting much the same way.

After high school, Joan attended Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs (NY) to study nursing, and she trained at New York University Hospital. Her working career was as a nurse in the Delran School District and as the Borough's (part-time) Public Welfare Director, where she addressed a population of homeless and troubled young adults in our part of the Pinelands.

In 1964, she had an opportunity to move to Medford Lakes into her Uncle Jack's house and she jumped at the opportunity. She spent most of her adult life on Algonquin Trail (with stays at Meeshaway and Peshekee along the way) where she and Robert raised three children: Karen, Lisa, and Robert. Joan proudly notes that each earned Bronze Shields.

From the time she became a full-time resident, she immersed herself in Colony affairs as an active volunteer and leader. She joined the Junior Women's

Club and served as its President for several years. She was a member of Camp Council, the Tennis Club, and the Medford Lakes Country Club. She belonged to the float group "Keep the Carnival Afloat" for ten years and was a member of the Canoe Carnival Committee. Joan was named the chairperson for the Carnival's 50th anniversary celebration.

She recalls that fateful evening. "There was a severe storm in the area that night, but we saw a window and made the 'go' call. There were more sinkings that evening than in any year before or since." Joan and husband Robert – both qualified scuba divers – spent the next few days in salvage operations.

She also led a group of Laker volunteers as the Pinelands Auxiliary for the Virtua Hospital. One of her fondest memories is running a wildly successful fund-raising Rubber Duck Race in the Mirror Lakes. The Medford Fire Company created the artificial current that drove the ducks to race-end.

Joan served on the Colony Board of Directors, among the first women in that capacity during the 1980s. In 1986, she became the Colony's first woman President. She laughingly dismisses the suggestion that she was a pioneer breaking into the 'old boys club' of Colony Presidents. "They hadn't raised dues for many years," she recalls. "I always suspected that they made me President because no one would dare get mad at Leon Todd's granddaughter for raising dues."

Joan notes with pride that Colony presidency is part of the family gene pool. Grandfather Leon was (honorary) President in 1927; Grandfather William Oaks in 1930; Father-in-Law Arthur Lewis in 1953; and Uncle Jack Todd in 1963.

She is also proud that it was during her Presidency that there became a renewed interest in lake management and planning. She remembers that "the lakes had become so filled with debris, that we were in danger of losing them." This awareness led to the eventual creation of the Lakes Restoration Fund.

Joan looks back fondly over her time in Medford Lakes. She says, "I'm delighted beyond words that our family has been able to experience the joy of living in Medford Lakes for so many wonderful years. To have been given the opportunity to serve it has been a bonus."



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE 2026 CANOE CARNIVAL CELEBRATION

CANOE CARNIVAL BALL – JULY 25: Canoe Carnival Ball is at the Medford Lakes Country Club from 7 to 11 PM. Age 21 and over only. Ticket sales are \$30 each at the Colony Office. This is a limited ticket event, which typically sells out. Get your tickets early. Sales are at the Colony Office.

MARDI GRAS NIGHT – JULY 31: First and foremost: Mardi Gras is – and always has been – a **member-guest event**. This is not a change from the past, but we are strictly enforcing the rules this year, and you will see enhanced security procedures and personnel are in place. We are taking steps to minimize inconvenience, but please understand that we are trying to save this tradition. The Colony Board, Medford Lakes Police, and Borough officials continue to be concerned about activities associated with this event. While originally intended as a community tradition of celebration, it has increasingly developed into an event that presents significant public safety challenges.

There will be single-entry points at Beaches 1 and 2 with tag checking and additional security. Member and season guest tags will be honored. If you do not have sufficient season guest passes, you can purchase a Mardi Gras event pass for your guests for \$10 each. Day passes will **not** be honored for this event. Watercraft must be tagged. There will be **changes in parking and traffic patterns**, which are explained later in this bulletin.

CANOE CARNIVAL NIGHT (AUGUST 1): Tickets went on sale Monday, July 13 at the Colony Office. Hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. You can also purchase tickets at the beaches on Carnival Night beginning at 7 PM (if space is available). All ticket prices increase by \$5/ticket if purchased on-site. For a donation of \$15 you can get a reserved bleacher seat on Aetna Way. There are no bleachers on the beach. For a donation of \$5 you can bring your own chair (overall height limit 32”) for seating on Beach 1. There is no Standing Room.

Please note: You can put your chairs on the beach on Carnival Day any time after 4 PM. No earlier! Any chairs on the beach before 4 PM will be removed and placed along the fence. You will be required to wait in line before entering the beach. Chair alone cannot hold a spot in line. If a person requires a seat greater than 32”, there will be a designated area at the back of the beach. Chairs will not be allowed within 3 feet of water’s edge (a requirement of the Fire Department and Emergency Services).

TRAFFIC AND PARKING

An Important Message from the Medford Lakes Police Department

Dear Medford Lakes Resident,

The Medford Lakes Police Department would like to remind you of a few things which may go unnoticed with all of the excitement of preparing for this year’s Canoe Carnival celebration. This is especially important for homeowner’s surrounding the Aetna’s and hosting parties.

For security purposes, the police department recommends that you keep both the front and back yards of your home well lighted to discourage trespassers. You should also lock the door to the front of your residence to discourage unwanted guests and persons looking for theft opportunity. Motor vehicles should also be locked regardless of where they are parked. Alcohol should be centralized in an area where it can be supervised by adults and not accessible to underage persons.

Extra police personnel from the Medford Township Police Department, Evesham Township Police Department, and Burlington County Sheriff’s Department will be used to augment the Medford Lakes Police Department patrols on the evening of Canoe Carnival. Extra patrols should effectively control the loitering and other problems associated with the carnival. **Party guests should arrive early as designated streets will be closed to vehicular traffic at 7:30pm. Tabernacle Road will be closed at 7:00 P.M.** Handicapped parking is available by contacting the Colony Office. Please see the Colony News for the designated streets to be closed.

The police department has historically received noise complaints associated with parties lasting into the early morning hours. Canoe Carnival is a community event, which is declared as an exception under the current noise ordinance. Excessive noise is prohibited after 12:00 midnight on Canoe Carnival. Please lower all volume after midnight to an acceptable level. **Curfew is 11:00 P.M. (Friday and Saturday) – Ordinance 720. All e-bike laws will be strictly enforced.**

Most importantly, please have a safe and wonderful Canoe Carnival. Please remind your children to wear their bicycle helmet and have a light on their bicycle. Should you have any questions please contact the police department at (609) 654-2156. If you need police assistance during the Canoe Carnival, please call Central Dispatch at (609)-267-8300 or 9-1-1 for Emergencies. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Chief John McGinnis, Jr.

Mari Gras Night - Friday, July 31, 2026

There will be NO PARKING in the following areas between the hours of 6:00pm, Friday, July 31, and 2:00am, Saturday, August 1, 2026. Violators will be issued traffic citations and vehicles will be towed at the owner’s expense.

Chippewa Trail	No Parking the side opposite Lower Aetna Lake from McKendimen Road to Beach Drive.
Huron Trail	No Parking the entire length on either side.
Tonkawa Trail	No Parking the entire length on the Lower Aetna Lake side.

NOTE: On ALL trails within the Borough of Medford Lakes, vehicles parked so as to interfere with traffic flow will be cited and towed at the owner's expense. All illegally parked vehicles will receive a traffic citation and will be towed to various impound areas throughout Burlington County. Towing and storage fees will be substantial according to the law.

There will be SPECIAL TRAFFIC REGULATIONS in effect in the following areas between the hours of 7:30pm, Saturday, August 1, 2026, and 2:00am, Sunday, August 2, 2026. At 7:30pm, the entire area bounded by Lower and Aetna Lake, McKendimen Road and Hunters Road will be closed to motor vehicle traffic. Parts of Tabernacle and McKendimen Roads will also be restricted to motor vehicle traffic beginning at 8:30pm.

Beach Drive	Closed to traffic, except emergency vehicles.
Chippewa Trail	Closed to traffic between McKendimen and Hunters Roads, except emergency vehicles.
Sagamore Trail	One-way southbound.
Tonkawa Trail	One-way southbound.
Comanche Trail	Closed to traffic, except emergency vehicles.
Oak Drive	Closed to traffic between McKendimen and Chippewa, except emergency vehicles.
Tabernacle Road	Closed to traffic between Trading Post and Sagamore Trails at 8:30pm.
Tabernacle Road	Closed to westbound traffic between Oak Drive and McKendimen Road at 8:30pm.
McKendimen Road	Closed to westbound traffic between Oak Drive and Tabernacle Road at 8:30pm.

Pedestrian Traffic on Aetna Way: Pedestrians may not stop, stand or loiter on Aetna Way during the event. **This area must remain free and clear for emergency vehicles.**

Canoe Carnival Traffic Regulations

Chief John McGinnis advises all residents and operators of motor vehicles that the following special traffic regulations will be in effect for the annual Canoe Carnival on Saturday, August 1, 2026. (See also rules for Mardi Gras night, July 31.)

There will be NO PARKING in the following areas between the hours of 4:00pm, Saturday, August 1, and 4:00am, Sunday, August 2, 2026. Violators will be issued traffic citations and vehicles will be towed at the owner's expense.

Apache Trail	No Parking the entire length on the west side.
Beach Drive	No Parking the entire length on either side.
Beach One Park Lot	No Public Parking, reserved for VIP, handicapped and emergency vehicles.
Bowker Road	No Parking the entire length on the north side.
Cherokee Trail	No Parking southbound (Beach One side.)
Chippewa Trail	No Parking the entire length opposite Upper and Lower Aetna Lakes.
Comanche Circle	No Parking the entire length on either side.
Comanche Trail	No Parking from Stokes Road to Timbo Trail on the lakeside.
Hunter Road	No Parking the entire length on the golf course side.
Huron Trail	No Parking the entire length on either side.
Iroquois Trail	No Parking between Sagamore Trail and Powhatan Trail on the Beach One side.
McKendimen Road	No Parking on the northbound side between Tabernacle Road and Oak Drive.
Minnetonka Trail	No Parking the entire length on the Church side.
Navajo Trail	No Parking the entire length on the west side.
Oak Drive	No Parking the entire length on either side.
Omaha Trail	No Parking the entire length on the north side.
Pawnee Trail	No Parking the entire length on the north side.
Powhatan Trail	No Parking the entire length on either side.
Sagamore Trail	No Parking between Iroquois Trail and Tabernacle Road on the Powhatan side.
Stokes Road	No Parking on either side between Lenape Trail and Bowker Road.
Stokes Road	No Parking on the northbound side, south of the Bowker/Comanche intersection.
Tabernacle Road	No Parking on either side between Stokes Road and Oak Drive.
Timbo Trail	No Parking the entire length on either side.
Tonkawa Trail	No Parking the entire length on the Lower Aetna side.
Trading Post Trail	No Parking and Time Restrictions as designated.

NOTE: On ALL trails within the Borough of Medford Lakes, vehicles parked so as to interfere with traffic flow will be cited and towed at the owner's expense.

All illegally parked vehicles will receive a traffic citation and will be towed to various impound areas throughout Burlington County. Towing and storage fees will be substantial according to the law.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES: The possession of alcoholic beverages on public areas and on Colony property is prohibited. ALL Violators will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

NO CONTAINERS of any sort may be carried onto Beaches One or Two during the evening of Friday, July 31, 2026, Festival of Lights or Saturday, August 1, 2026, Canoe Carnival.

LOITERING, LITTERING and the disruption of **PEACE & GOOD ORDER** will be prosecuted. Medford Lakes Colony Property/Parks/Beaches are closed at 10pm.

Once roadways are closed, **NO VEHICLES OR E-BIKES** will be permitted into the event areas.