



From the Board Room

March 2025



Here are highlights from the Colony Board's March meeting. The Board meets regularly in the Demby Annex on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 PM.

Nokomis Playground Update

The Colony is moving forward with efforts to upgrade the Nokomis School playground in 2025. A coalition of funding partners that includes the school district, the home and school association, the school foundation, the special education parent advisory group, and the Colony has agreed in principle to accelerate the project from the original 2026 implementation timetable to one that completes the project in 2025.

The Colony approved \$50,000 for the project in its 2025 Capital Improvement Budget, which is supported by annual contributions (\$55) from each member's dues payment. A successful 2025 project would require at least a match from the funding partner coalition, with a requirement for some additional funds possible.

The final playground design would be a combination of retaining and renovating popular existing pieces, replacing aged and less popular pieces, and adding features like sliding boards.

Brooks Hard Surface Restoration

The Brooks Field Hard Surface Restoration project took a small but important step forward in March with a notification that our application to the Pinelands Commission has been accepted as complete. This certification allows our project team to move forward with local (e.g. Borough) permits and approvals – necessary next steps.

The final project scope would involve reconstruction of the Brooks court complex, which is in dire need of repair after years of neglect. A committee has been formed to create an oversight and financing plan. The project has been on the drawing board for over four years. Significant financing support would come from the Capital Expenditures Fund.

Board to Honor John Cranston

After 46 years of devoted service, our loyal maintenance supervisor – John Cranston – has announced that he will be leaving his position as of September 30. The Executive Board and Property Committee are exploring options to replace the vital services this position provided with everything on the table for consideration.

We are proceeding with plans to appropriately recognize and honor John's service. Look for upcoming announcements for an event in the Fall.

Lakes Projects: 2025 Season Underway

The Lakes Restoration Committee is moving forward with spillway repairs, having completed projects at three of the seven lakes targeted for upgrading in 2025.

The Committee has also made arrangements for Hydro-Raking projects at Kawasea, Mushkadosa, Siquitise, and Ballinger Lakes. Work will begin in the Spring.

Beach 1 Volleyball Court Proposal

The Board received a proposal from MLAA for an additional volleyball court at Beach 1, a change called for because of significant registration increase. Beach Volleyball is our most popular adult sport, and its recent growth puts significant strain on our current match capacity. Currently, we have one facility at Beach 1 and one at Beach 2.

The proposal would reorient the Beach 1 layout from the current single-court east-west orientation to a double-court north-south configuration. Board approval was delayed pending further study and answers to director concerns. Additional information to membership is forthcoming.

Meet Your Office Staff

Behind the Demby office counter and behind the scenes of everything “Colony,” we are blessed to have the outstanding service, loyalty, and dedication of Caitlin Mikle and Sue Lotierzo in our employ.

Caitlin is a familiar face around the Colony, having been a Laker since age one and a Colony employee in various roles since 2009.

Her paternal grandparents moved to the Lakes in 1959, where her father Devin grew up. Shortly after marrying Caitlin’s mother, Cathy, the couple purchased a home on Mohawk Trail in 1992 (where they remain) and raised Caitlin and brothers Daniel and Devin.

Caitlin attended Nokomis and Neeta and is a Shawnee High School (2010) Graduate. She then graduated from Arcadia University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 2014, but never lost her connection to the Lakes, eventually working for the Medford Lakes School District in addition to a part-time role managing the Colony Day Camp Program.

When a full-time position opened in the Colony office in August of this year, Caitlin jumped at the chance. “It was meant to be,” she says. “I love the Colony and love what I do for it. Getting paid is a bonus.”

As Office Manager/Recreation Director, Caitlin is responsible for general office functions, member services, board support, social and recreation activities and summer camp (where she is proud to be a former Bronze Shield recipient).

Caitlin recently married Thomas Cooper in October 2024. The newlyweds took up residence in Marlton, but Caitlin is certain about one thing. “I have a dream of moving back to Medford Lakes. My life is here.”

Caitlin is joined in the office by Colony Bookkeeper Sue Lotierzo. She oversees the Colony’s financial recording and reporting

operation in addition to a little bit of everything else, as one usually does in a small office.



Caitlin Mikle

Sue grew up in Medford and Indian Mills and moved to Medford Lakes after graduating from Shawnee High School in 1992.

“I knew about Medford Lakes, of course,” she says. “And I also knew that I wanted to be a part of it someday.”

After marrying husband Nick in 1999, the couple purchased her current home in Medford Lakes knowing that they wanted to raise a family in the Laker way.

Sue’s professional life – in and out of the workplace – has been about keeping financial records and tracking detail. She says “I love working with numbers.” She worked in medical billing for 15 years and in a local CPA firm’s bookkeeping services department. Even during a break to raise two children, Nicholas and Noah, she kept books for her husband’s business and the float groups in which she has been involved – *Barely Afloat* and *Nutt-n-Butt Paddles*.



Sue Lotierzo

She was active in school affairs as a room parent and volunteered at book fairs, the Holiday Shop, Field Day, Talent Show, Picture Day and a host of other school activities. She also served on the Executive Board of the Medford Lakes Home and School Association, where she was the Incoming Treasurer.

Son Nicholas graduated from Shawnee in 2019. Noah is a freshman there. Both are Bronze Shield recipients.

When the Colony’s full-time book-keeping position opened in August, Sue saw the clear opportunity to combine her love of numbers with her love of the Lakes. She says, “It couldn’t have worked out better for me. It’s like it was meant to be.”

Please wish Caitlin and Sue the best in their new roles.