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MEDFORD LAKES COLONY NEWS



Vol. 28

August 7, 2020

No. 32

LAKER LIGHTS IS A SMASHING SUCCESS!!

What a breathtaking display of creativity and community spirit! On August 1st, Lakers young and old adapted to the profound disappointment of losing Canoe Carnival 2020 by lighting up the entire town (and several lakes). Countless homes, bikes, residents and pets were beautifully decorated, and roaming with families and small groups of friends while safely distancing seemed effortless. The night literally went by way too fast, and it was impossible to visit every display.

THANK YOU to every Laker who contributed your incredible artistic abilities, and all others who simply kept things safe and fun. And once again, THANK YOU to our local businesses for enthusiastically offering to participate via prizes and gift cards. Please offer a quick word of appreciation

to the below businesses as you patronize them in the coming weeks .most of them are still affected by new required safety measures.

And finally, the organizers have heard you! Stay tuned, as there is a decent chance Laker Lights could find a more permanent place within the wonderful annual traditions of our town.

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WEEDS, FERTILIZERS, AND THE LAKES

This is a reprint of an article written by Mike Gallaway, Chairman of the Environmental Commission (when this article first appeared) as it was printed in the Medford Lakes News dated June 1995.

Do you ever wonder why our lakes have to be treated with chemical weed-killers each spring? Or why green slimy patches of algae and weeds form on the lakes during the summer? The answer: too many nutrients from lawn and garden fertilizers make their way into our lakes and speed up plant growth.

Normally, pine barrens waters are acidic and very low in nutrients, which keeps plant growth slow. But when fertilizers are overused, especially ones with phosphorus, run-off after a rain shower (or even lawn watering) carries the fertilizer into the lakes, setting the stage for accelerated weed growth. Also, the sandy soil that makes it hard to grow grass in the pinelands drains very quickly. Even proper amount of fertilizer can find its way into the lakes if applied just before a heavy rain. Pesticides can also wash into the lakes and have caused significant fish kills in past years.

When left unchecked, weeds can literally choke the life out of a lake. This process is called eutrophication. Fish die from lack of oxygen, and the lake quickly accumulates an ever-thickening layer of muck on the bottom, which means expensive dredging.

The Medford Lakes Colony has had to use chemical herbicides to control weeds for many years. This shock treatment is effective in the short-term, but it becomes a vicious cycle. Chemical fertilizers run off into the lakes, and then more chemicals are needed to kill the weeds.

The Colony has begun a project, under the direction of Rich Krasner, to use sterile grass carp to eat the weeds. The program so far has been successful in reducing the amount of herbicides used in the lakes. But this is not enough; we need to reduce the amount of fertilizers that end up in our lakes.

Here's how you can help:

1. Reduce the size of your lawn. The average suburban lawn receives 10 times as much chemicals per acre as farmland.

2. Plant native species. They require little to no fertilizer and much less water than lawns.
3. When you cut your grass, leave the grass clippings. They decompose and act as a natural fertilizer as well as controlling weed growth.
4. If you use fertilizer, consider a no – or low-phosphate mixture. Phosphates are the major pollutant, and generally they're not needed by plants in as high a concentration as many fertilizers provide.
5. Organic fertilizers are slower release than chemical ones. They will stay in place somewhat longer, although over-use of any fertilizer can cause pollution.
6. Check the weather forecast before fertilizing. Try to allow for at least 3 days of dry weather after fertilizing. A good rain immediately after fertilizing means all your time and money ends up in the storm sewers and ultimately in the lakes.
7. If you use a law service, be sure they do not overfertilize, and encourage them to use organic fertilizers.

Contact the Medford Lakes Environmental Commission if you have questions or would like additional information.

DO YOU DUMP YOUR DEBRIS ON COLONY PROPERTY?

Please do not dump your yard trimmings/debris on Colony Property. It is very inconsiderate of anyone to dump on a property that is not maintained by you (the dumper). It creates an eyesore and additional work for our skeleton crew. Please be considerate and dispose of your rubbish properly. Call Public Works at 654-9383 if you have any questions regarding how to properly dispose of any item. Thank you.

LEAVE NO TRACE

Please leave Colony property the way you found it or better.

No trash left behind please.

Take a moment to check and make sure you have everything you brought with you and please take it home. That would eliminate the need for a lost and found and trash cans. Less things to touch means less likelihood to contact a germ or virus. Thank you for your cooperation.

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FAREWELL FROM JOHN AND MARGE

As of August 15, John and Marge Tursi would like to say farewell to all their Medford Lakes friends, past and present. Their 45 years here have been filled with so many activities and each one will be a memory to take with them. From teaching Sunday School, leading the church youth group, MLAA board, school board, coaching, Indian Guides and Indian Princesses, Canoe Carnival Committee, Junior Women's floats, Parrothead floats, Mardi Gras decorating, and Colony Board, they've worked with so many Lakers over those years. But what Medford Lakes gave them most is the fun of raising their kids here and sharing the Laker Life with their grandchildren. Thanks Lakers!



COLONY OFFICE ACCESS

During the Covid-19 pandemic, access to the Colony Office is done by means of an actual window at Demby Annex found in the back of Vaughan Community House, 79 Tecumseh Trail. Please bring an ID to pick up your Membership Cards and Tags.

Just come to the Colony Office as usual but look to the right before entering the building to find the window we can work with you through.

Window hours are Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (call 609-654-7747 between noon – 1 p.m. to make sure we are open).

DUES RELIEF FUND

Donations are being accepted for the Dues relief fund. Stop by the Colony Office window to buy a \$10 "Masks are for Heroes" tag. This is not a Membership tag but a great gift for someone required to wear a face mask as a frontline worker.

If you need Dues Relief due to Covid 19, please visit our website www.medfordlakescolony.org and find the form under the "Forms" tab.

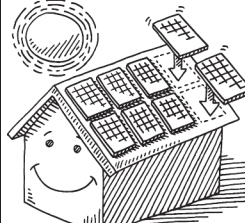
TAG CHECKERS ARE ON DUTY

With the season upon us, we are ready to begin our very successful tag-checking program once again.

To use Colony property, you must have on your person, a MEMBER TAG. If you are asked to leave because you do not have a tag you must do so immediately.

It is against the Colony Rules to provide a Member Tag to a non-member. You may purchase guest tags for visitors in the Colony office. A MEMBER MUST Accompany All Guests.

Please set a good example for the kids in our community, wear your tags and be respectful to the tag checkers. This program protects the value of your membership by insuring only member use of our properties.

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
 Saturday, August 8 – Large Trash Drop off, Brush & Leaf Drop Off and Electronic Waste Drop Off, 7:30am-12:30pm, behind the Firehouse
 Monday, August 10 – Colony Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Craft Pavilion

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