

FOOTPRINTS

APRIL 2024

IN THE SAND



SANDYPINES
RECREATIONAL COMMUNITY

PHONE NUMBERS

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 Nichole MilbockerExt. 100

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MemberService@SandyPines.com

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jeff@sandypines.com

Kimberly Ext. 109
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Park Inspector

Jeff Hopkins..... 616.896.7286
inspector@sandypines.com

Pumpouts-Emergency Ext. 111

Sales Office..... 616.896.8315 Ext. 118

Kent Livingston.....Ext. 114
kent@sandypines.com

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 Steve Deyarmond, Emergency
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 Paul Schaaf, Security Services Manager

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Park & Garden

Chet Ryan.....616.896.9334
parkgarden@sandypines.com

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Department..... 616.896.8315
 Abby Greenfield.....Ext. 800
Recreation@SandyPines.com

Lake Monterey Golf 616.896.8118

Dave Ingles, Manager
www.lakemontereygolf.com
Golf@golflmgc.com

Laundromat Hours – Open 24 Hours

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Jeff Sweitzer Park President
 Kimberly Williams Finance & Accounting
 Steve Deyarmond Emergency Services
 Ben Fifelski Maintenance
 Dave Ingles Lake Monterey
 Golf Course

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Janele Tomes Camping
 Ian Mitchell Communications
 Chet Ryan..... Park & Garden Manager
 Dale Yoder Food Operations Manager
 Jeff Hopkins..... Park Inspector
 Paul Schaaf Security Services
 Abby Greenfield..... Recreation

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Finance..... Ginny Hager
 Golf Course Joe Zomerlei
 Long Range Planning..... Kevin Hager
 Rules Drew Torres
 Safety & Security..... Dennis King
 Technology Bob Powers
 Lake Study..... Jim Buchanan
 Library..... Valerie Troschinetz

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 Park & Garden Store 616.896.9334
 Park & Garden
 Rental Office 616.896.9888

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ellen Carpenter, Chairperson(2025)
 Rick Day, Treasurer(2026)
 Bob Deckinga(2025)
 Pat Doezema.....(2026)
 Kelly Johnson, Vice Chairperson.....(2024)
 Paul Poppel, Secretary.....(2025)
 Stephanie Saypanna(2024)
 Craig Van Beek.....(2026)
 Scot Wyman(2024)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ~ MISSION STATEMENT ~

The Sandy Pines Board of Directors
 will provide positive leadership and
 management direction so as to ensure
 the long term viability and success of
 Sandy Pines Wilderness Trails, Inc.



PARK PRESIDENT NEWS

BY JEFF SWEITZER Jeff@SandyPines.com

Ahhh, April is here. Spring is in the air with many fun things starting to happen around us! Spring Break with annual trips south to Destin, Florida, Gulf Shores, Alabama, or other warm-temperature family spots! Baseball is underway with the hopes of “this is the year” for our Detroit Tigers having a winning season. Just give us a winning season then we can talk playoffs later! Did you know it’s the 40th Anniversary of the Bless You Boys 1984 World Champion Detroit Tigers? How about tax season? Scratch that last one. It might ruin the moment. Here’s what’s happening at Sandy Pines as we get ready for our season opener this month.

Personnel

April is a busy time for our HR Department as this is the month seasonal staff openings are interviewed, hired, and onboarded in time for our April 15th opening.

We are pleased to announce our new Park and Garden Manager, Chet Ryan. Chet has worked for us at Park and Garden for 12 years. He has worked in various areas of Park and Garden from the front counter in the store to out in the yard loading and delivering materials. He has been a member of Sandy Pines since June 2011. We are excited for Chet to lead our Park and Garden team.

Another member of our Park and Garden team is moving into a new role. David Richter who also worked in the yard loading and delivering materials will now head up our Rentals. He will lead our team in charge of our golf cart, kayak, paddle board, and other rentals. Dave has worked at Park and Garden for the last two years. He has been a member since 2020.

Changes at our Park Inspector’s Office are happening. We will have two new faces this season. Jim Buchanan will be working for us this season as a Co-Inspector alongside Jeff Hopkins. Jim is bringing his expertise from the Lake Committee to help in our Inspector Office with all things lake-related such as boat stakes, docks, permits, and projects. Cindy Murray who you may have seen in our Member Service office during the summer will also be helping in the Park Inspector office. Cindy will be answering phones, replying to emails, and setting appointments for our Park Inspectors. The park will be broken up with each inspector handling specific sections of the park. Hours at the Park Inspector’s office will now include Saturday hours (8 am – 12 pm). Coverage in the office will be the focus of our Saturday hours to provide permits and respond to project questions.

Public Safety is making headway in hiring a few new seasonal team members. We have been blessed with minimal turnover in our PSO seasonal positions over the last couple of years. This season you will see a few new faces as some of our seasonals have moved onto to a new journey.

Please congratulate these staff members on their new roles here at Sandy Pines if you happen to see them. We are truly

blessed with a fantastic team in all our departments. If you cross paths with any of our staff members, please offer a “Thank You” in appreciation of the hard work this off-season in preparation for our 2024 season. We are ready and excited for everyone’s return.

Projects

Phase 2 Pool status remains ahead of schedule. Our playground equipment has been reinstalled. Our older, large red swing set has been replaced with a newer set as it did not survive the removal process. The disc golf course is being reinstalled this month. We have volunteers redesigning the area to keep the course in this location as requested by many of our members. Pouring of the pool deck, installing the pool finishes, connecting the pool equipment, and installation of pool fencing will take place at the end of this month.

Lake Monterey Dam remains the focus of our lake projects this season. We continue to work with local township, county, and state officials to develop corrective actions with the selected engineering firm Spicer Group to resolve the current piping situation. For more information related to this project, please see Steve Deyarmond’s article in this edition. Lastly, as we try to be good neighbors to the surrounding community,

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we have sent to our neighbors outside of Sandy Pines a letter communicating the status of the dam and actions being taken in conjunction with the local townships, and county and state officials.

Board of Directors Meeting

We will be having a Board of Directors meeting this month on April 26th. Although this meeting is not on the published calendar, it is added for this month to get a good start on the 2024 season. Along with the typical agenda of items, we will be discussing a change to the BOD meeting format, moving from Face to Phases to specific town halls, and voting on Resolution 042624 amending the current Site Clean-Up rule. For more information on our site clean-up resolution, please see the Board of Directors article.

Welcome 2024!

On behalf of our staff, the Board of Directors, and your Park President, we are excited to have our 2024 season finally here! We have been blessed with good weather early to spur the park opening fever. Welcome back to our Happy Place! It is truly a beautiful place to be with friends, family, and loved ones.

God Bless.

Ecclesiastes 3:11

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.



MEMBER SERVICE NEWS
BY NICOLE KLINGE & NICHOLE MILBOCKER MemberService@SandyPines.com

Office Hours

Monday – Friday: 8 am to 4 pm
Saturday & Sunday: Closed

Contact Information

Phone: 616-896-8315 x 0
Fax: 616-896-7409
Email: MemberService@SandyPines.com

Important Dates

- 4/1 Annual Renewals, Quarterly Electric, & State Tax Billed (Due 4/25)
- 4/6 Lake Monterey Golf Course Spring Clean-Up
- 4/15 Seasonal Gates Open & Water Turned on for the Season (Weather Permitting)
- 4/15 Renewal Sticker Pick-Up Begins
- 4/20 Renewal Sticker Pick-Up (Saturday Hours)
- 4/26 April Board of Directors Meeting
- 5/4 Renewal Sticker Pick-Up (Saturday Hours)
- 5/4 Flea Market
- 5/4 Cinco De Mayo Celebration
- 5/11 Saturday Member Service Hours Begin

Spring is in the air. We are super excited to get this season underway and see all your faces. Hope everyone had a safe and healthy winter.

Annual Dues and Spring Renewals

This month of April closes out the payment cycle of the Annual Dues and Assessments and its 6-month payment plan. This balance was required to be fully paid by March 25th, 2024. Your April 1, 2024 billing statement will include the billing of your renewal charges, specific to your site for the 2024 season (Prox card renewals, boat and golf cart stickers, and internet or pump-out plan requests), as well as your quarterly electric assessment and state unit tax. Each member's renewal information was uploaded and made available on the member portal for your review and approval. Payment of these renewal charges will be due on April 25th, 2024.

Bullpen & Flea Markets

Do not forget to reserve your bullpen and flea market spaces for this upcoming season. This can all be done on the Sandy Pines website. If you need some additional help or information, you can reach out to Member Service. Flea market spaces must be paid for at the time of booking they can no longer be charged to your member site at this time. Each space is \$45. Please refer to the website for any additional rules and regulations. Spaces can only be reserved by the member. Refunds are not available for cancellations. Bullpen paperwork can be found on the Sandy Pines website. The paperwork to reserve your spot can be sent in to Member Service where we will get you a bullpen storage number and a PIN for your in and out access. A friendly reminder the bullpen will start on the date that we receive the reservation information. Unfortunately, we do not reserve these ahead of time.

Mailbox Rental

If you are expecting deliveries this year at Sandy Pines, you

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Member Service News / Continued From Page 4

must have a mailbox rental. You may call or stop into the Administration Office to purchase a mailbox and receive a mailbox key. The cost of the mailbox service is \$50. The fee will be part of your spring renewals each year you continue to have a mailbox. Member service cannot accept packages so remember you must have a mailbox with our address of 2741 136th Ave Unit #, Hopkins, MI 49328.

Spectrum Charter

If you have questions about your account you will need to reach out to Spectrum at 833-697-7328. Please refer to the Sandy Pines address: 2745 136th Ave (Example: Unit 4321), Hopkins MI 49328. This should get you directly to where Spectrum can look up your information and provide you with service. If you have difficulties with them you can reach out to us in the Member Service Administration Department. We will gladly try to help you out.

Sticker Pick-Up

We will begin STICKER PICK-UP when we officially open the gates on April 15th, 2024. You will be able to come into the Administration office to pick up the stickers that you will need for the 2024 season. You will need to be a member at that

site and we will require an ID for sticker pick-up. Whether it be your Sandy Pines card or a driver's license. We will offer a couple of extra Saturdays for **STICKER PICK-UP ONLY** prior to our every Saturday summer hours. These prior dates will be Saturday, April 20th and May 4th, 2024. Hours will be 8 am – 12 pm. Officially we will start our everyday Saturday hours on May 11th, 2024.

As a reminder you are always welcome to stop in or call Member Service, we love to see your smiling faces. We can't wait to see everyone come back and enjoy their Happy Place. If you are going somewhere on Spring Break safe travels! See you all soon!

WASH Cards

WASH Laundromat cards are now available for purchase. Swing by Member Services at the Administration Office to grab yours for just \$8, or head to Phase 1 Laundromat for a convenient purchase at \$10. Say goodbye to coin-operated hassle - these refillable cards are your key to enjoying the latest machines across all park laundromats. Get yours today and upgrade your laundry experience!

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE

BY PAUL PEPPEL BoardOfDirectors@SandyPines.com

Hard to believe that SP version 2024 is just around the corner. In just a few short weeks, members will return to rekindle relationships and get things ship shape for the season. The list may be long but the reward is well worth it. Nothing better than tidying your little slice of paradise, making it an oasis of which you can be proud. For the vast majority, this is the case and makes for a beautiful Park.

Unfortunately, there are a few folks who, for whatever reason, fail to meet basic guidelines regarding cleanliness and clutter. Up until now, rule enforcement has been spotty and inconsistent. Many members have become frustrated with select neighbors allowing their sites to become eyesores, seemingly without sufficient Park intervention to correct them. We have listened to your concerns and are taking action moving forward.

Rules currently are in place to help control disarray, however there are shortcomings. For instance, do you realize that with current guidelines in place, you only have to maintain your lot until Labor Day? And, with the current fine/point penalty implementations, the process to force member cleanliness could continue past Labor Day. The Rules Committee was entrusted to delve into this matter and provide input and suggestions to the Board. The following is a synopsis of our present rules, plus a look at more stringent regulations that are being proposed with more bite. Suffice to say, what has been happening to date doesn't seem enough to curb the problem.

The official cleanup day will remain on June 10th. In the past, a violation after June 10th would result in a \$100 fine with zero points and 14 days to correct. Every 14 days thereafter, if the problem wasn't corrected, fines and points would accumulate with no end date. This means the issue could remain unresolved through Labor Day.....when you were no longer required to maintain your site. The result was a big fat zero.

The new proposed rules will keep the beginning date on June 10th but extend the cleanliness expectation through season-end. A violation after June 10th will now result in a \$200 fine and three points. If the situation is not corrected in 14 days, a second violation will be issued accompanied by

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Board of Directors Update / Continued From Page 5

another \$200 fine and three points. Member and associate cards will be suspended until such time that the site has been satisfactorily cleaned. Having a total of six points can also result in membership review by the Board. As an aside, it should be noted that a second individual has been hired to work in the field of the inspector's office, easing the burden of a previously overworked, one-person department. Plus, the office will also have a new staff member to help with communication and allow Saturday morning hours. See the Park President's column this month for more details.

We sincerely hope and pray that no one reading this article will have to endure the rigors of multiple violations. That said, the Park spends countless hours keeping our Happy Place

beautiful. As do the vast majority of members. But there always seems to be that one place that we always cringe when passing by. We're also sympathetic to those with extenuating circumstances. Remember, there are clean-up personnel on the park contractor list as well as eager high school/college kids peddling their services via social media. Perhaps you could reach out to a neighbor, phone-a-friend as it were. The Park is loath to penalize and will do so only as a last resort. And I can assure you the Board takes no pleasure in passing more stringent laws with potential financial ramifications. Please, let's do our best to make the Park an aesthetically pleasing place. Let us know your thoughts at BoardOfDirectors@SandyPines.com. See you soon!

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INSPECTOR NEWS

BY JEFF HOPKINS Inspector@SandyPines.com

Hello April

Welcome to April! I trust you've all had a safe and restful off-season. This year promises to be filled with excitement and a host of planned activities. Before we dive into the new season, I want to give a shout-out to our maintenance team. Their tireless efforts not only during the season but throughout the year ensure that our park remains the welcoming haven

it is. If you happen to come across Ben or any member of his dedicated crew, please take a moment to express your gratitude for their hard work.

Spring Clean-Up Rules Update

As we gear up for the 2024 season, there are some changes to our Spring clean-up rules that I want to highlight. The Board of Directors will finalize these changes early in April, as they are crucial to maintaining the park's pristine appearance.

Here's a breakdown of the updated rules:

Members now have until June 10th to ensure their sites are clean. After June 10th, violations will be addressed as follows:

- **First violation:** Members will have 14 calendar days to rectify the issue (by June 23rd). A \$200 fine will be imposed, along with 3 points added to the member's account.
- **Second violation:** Members will have 7 calendar days to correct the issue (by June 29th). An additional \$200 fine will be levied, along with 3 more points. At this stage, a membership review will be conducted, and all access cards will be deactivated.

With these new guidelines, all issues will be resolved by the July 4th Holiday, which is 76 days after the park's opening on April 15th. Our park is a collective investment and a happy place for all, so let's each do our part in keeping it in its best shape.

I look forward to seeing you all this season. Take the time to explore the numerous enhancements made over the winter. Welcome back and enjoy the season ahead!

God Bless.

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FINANCE & ACCOUNTING NEWS

BY KIMBERLY WILLIAMS Kim@SandyPines.com

We extend a warm welcome to all members, campers, and guests for the upcoming 2024 season. We thank you for your commitment to Sandy Pines and your promptness in settling membership account payments. Monthly member statements are dispersed on the first business day via email and/or mail. The April 2024 statements, specifically, will be printed and mailed on Monday, April 2, 2024.

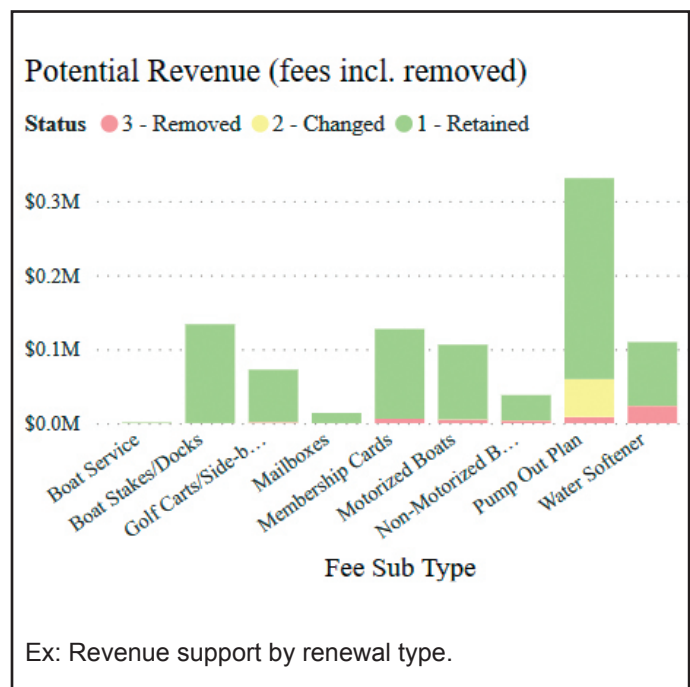
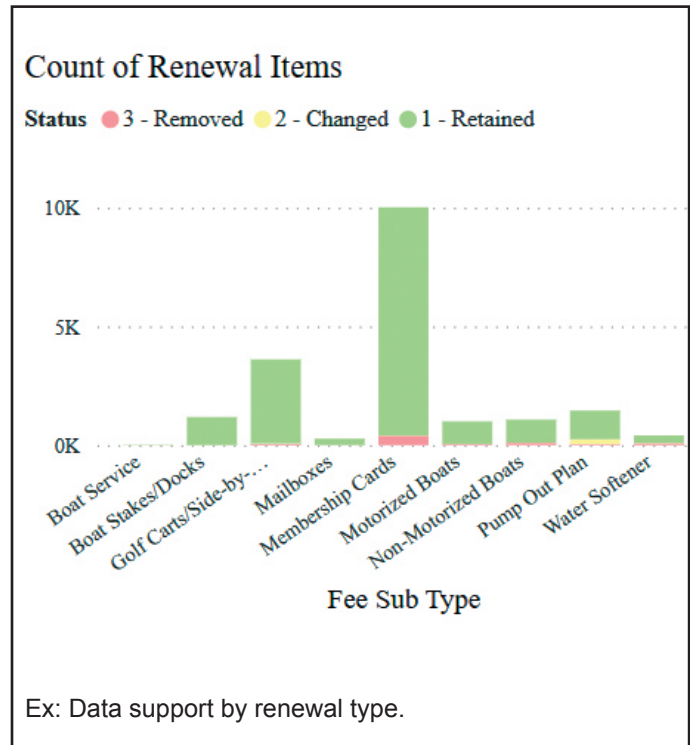
The Sandy Pines Board of Directors and Administration plans to meet in May to initiate a review of the preliminary budget for the 2025 season, addressing both operational and park capital needs. Monthly reviews and adjustments will be carried out by the Administration in collaboration with the Finance Committee and Board of Directors throughout the season. The primary focus of this review is to ensure not only the financial stability of Sandy Pines in the upcoming season but also for the park's legacy in the years to come. As we approach the end of Capital Reserve funding, attention will be directed towards essential projects in the park's best interest. While several items have been budgeted for the future, the continuation of these projects will be contingent on the success of a new capital funding plan, a significant focus for the Finance Committee and Board of Directors, with membership approval, prioritizing the park's best interests.

Sandy Pines Board of Directors and Finance Committee members will meet in the month of April 2024 to review and approve the November 2023 through March 2024 Financial Statements. Approved financial statements can be accessed on the webpage at www.sandypines.com/members/finance. The May 2024 BOD and Financial Committee meeting will also include the first review of the Preliminary Budget for the 2023-2024 season.

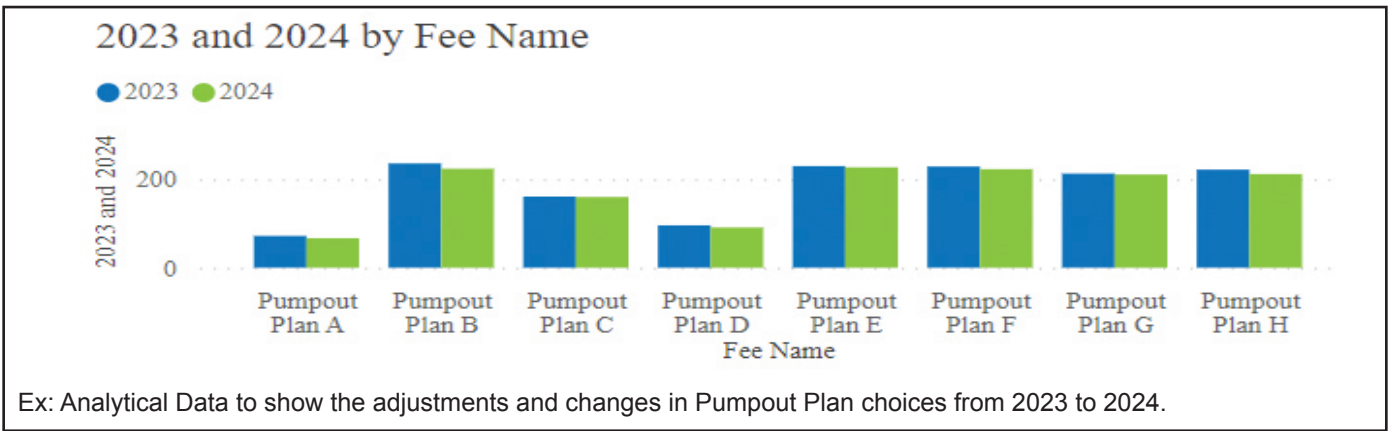
This month of April closes out the payment cycle of the Annual Dues and Assessments and its 6-month payment plan. This balance was required to be fully paid by March 25th, 2024. Your April 1, 2024, billing statement will include renewal charges specific to your individual site for the 2024 season (Prox card renewals, boat and golf cart stickers, boat service, and pump-out plan requests), along with your quarterly electric assessment and state unit tax. Renewal information for each member was uploaded to the Dynamics member portal for review and approval by March 1st, 2024. Payment for these renewal charges will be invoiced on your April Member Statement and is due on April 25th, 2024. Special office hours for the pick-up of member stickers will be provided by the Administration.

An exciting feature of the new Dynamics platform for renewals is the development of Power BI reports, which assist Administration in targeting review and reconciliation of renewal analysis. This reporting has markedly improved the efficiency and optimization of the renewal process, minimizing discrepancies, and will instill greater confidence among members in the new system's procedures.

Here's a preview of select charts that offer comprehensive insights from the Renewal Data perspective.



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We look forward to leveraging the Power BI reports within Dynamics for various organizational purposes in the future.

look forward to welcoming the Sandy Pines Community and families back for a wonderful season ahead.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your member statement or account, we are happy to assist. We

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RECREATION NEWS

BY **ABBY GREENFIELD** Abby@SandyPines.com

Summer Employment

Applications for summer employment can be found on our website under the Career tab. If you know anyone seeking summer employment opportunities, please keep us in mind.

With the addition of our new pool, we require more staff who are lifeguard certified. Applicants over the age of 16 are welcome to apply, with a valid lifeguard certification being a requirement. Sandy Pines covers the cost of certification after completion of a full season with us, as these certifications are valid for two years. At the beginning of the season, an additional in-water certification, performed on-site, is necessary. If you have any questions regarding certification requirements, please don't hesitate to contact us.

We also have a limited number of positions available for General Recreation Staff, open to individuals aged 15 and older. General Recreation Staff typically assist with activities in the Happy Shack, weekly events, and weekend activities. Additionally, we are seeking Ropes Course Operators, who

must be at least 17 years old. Training for these positions is provided on-site.

Volunteers

We've established a volunteer page on our website containing information about events and activities, along with sign-up links. We welcome both familiar and new faces to volunteer if interested and able. If you have questions about the events and volunteer opportunities, please reach out to Abby@SandyPines.com.

Cinco de Mayo

This year, Cinco de Mayo festivities will take place at the golf course. Tacos will be available for purchase, and there will be an array of outdoor games and activities suitable for both children and adults. Additionally, the succulent planting bar will make a return, with succulents available for one dollar each. Please bring a small container for planting.

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SALES NEWS

BY KENT LIVINGSTON

Kent@SandyPines.com

Sales Update: Filling Up the Schedule

As we eagerly anticipate opening day, our sales schedule is becoming more robust. The mild winter this year has provided our team with opportunities to secure new listings, successfully negotiate accepted offers, and close deals.

Listing Lookout

Our new Listing Lookout email list is gaining momentum, with nearly 120 people already signed up. Help us spread the word by sharing this exciting opportunity with others.

Opportunities for Sellers

As our schedule fills with showings and tours, our listing agreements are being fulfilled, creating fewer opportunities to find new members their Happy Place. If you're considering selling, consider our sales team to list your membership. Listing with us offers several advantages, including:

- **Extensive Marketing Reach:** We utilize social media platforms and our website to reach a wide audience.
- **Assistance with Title Work:** We assist with completing the title work and submit it to the Secretary of State's office.

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Testimonial

Here’s what one of our satisfied clients, Shelly, had to say about her experience working with our sales team:
 “My husband and I are thrilled to be new owners at Sandy Pines! We had been searching for the perfect unit for some time and found it thanks to Kent Livingston! Kent was incredibly responsive, showing us multiple units and answering all our questions. He was professional, knowledgeable, and incredibly accommodating. From placing an offer to closing,

the process took only a few short weeks. I highly recommend Kent to anyone looking to buy a unit at Sandy Pines. We are incredibly grateful for everything he did for us and look forward to our first season at Sandy Pines!”

Buy/Sell with Sandy Pines

If you’re ready to find your Happy Place or looking to sell, don’t hesitate to reach out to our dedicated sales team. We’re here to help make your Sandy Pines dreams a reality.

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SECURITY NEWS
 BY PAUL SCHAAF Paul@SandyPines.com

Office Hours

Emergency Security Staff is onsite 24 hours/day.

February 2024 Call Stats

In February 2024, Public Safety staff responded to a total of 34 calls for service. Here’s a breakdown of the calls and their numbers:

Assist.....	8
Illegal Dumping.....	3
Open Door.....	16
Property Damage.....	4
Suicidal Subject.....	1
Suspicious Situation.....	2

Safe Summer Guidelines

With the upcoming season, it’s crucial to ensure everyone’s safety. Here are some important rules to remember regarding cart safety:

- Persons must be properly seated and may not stand on the golf cart while it is in motion.
- Feet and legs should remain inside the golf cart while it is in motion.

- Passengers are not allowed to sit on the laps of drivers.
- Seating should not exceed the capacity designated by the golf cart manufacturer.
- Cell phone use while operating a golf cart is prohibited.
 - o Just like on state roadways, cell phone use must be hands-free. Consider installing cellphone holders in your cart to keep your hands free for driving.
- The speed limit in the park for all modes of transportation is **10 mph.**

Lake Monterey Reminders

As we enter boat season, please be aware that any use of the ballast function or modification to boats with the intention of creating waves for activities is strictly prohibited. **Wake surfing in any form is not permitted.**

Let’s ensure a safe and enjoyable 2024 season ahead!

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HAPPY CAMPER TEXT ALERT

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE SMS ALERTS & STAY UPDATED ON PARK EVENTS INCLUDING ALERTS, CANCELLATIONS, UPDATES, & MORE!

To Opt-In: Text “SANDYPINES” to 67283
 To Opt-Out: Text “STOP” to 67283

YOU MAY SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE AT ANY TIME



SAFETY NEWS

BY STEVE DEYARMOND Steve@SandyPines.com

Dam Repair Update

The engineers are continuing to work on the drawing and coffer dam design. Piping continues to occur along the

outside of the 54" corrugated pipe. A proposed schedule for bidding has been developed and reviewed by Sandy Pines, the engineers, and the Drain Commission.

Lake Monterey Dam Bid Package Schedule				
Project Start Date		04-Mar-24		
Project Name:		Lake Monterey Dam Bid Package		
#	Activity	Start Date	End Date	Working Days
		Mar-04-24	May-10-24	
1	Develop Bid Package for Contractors in coordination with Allegan County Drain Commission and Sandy Pines	Mar-04-24	Mar-28-24	19
2	Review bid package with group at Monthly Dam Meeting	Mar-28-24	Mar-28-24	1
3	Any Changes or additions added to Bid Package	Mar-28-24	Apr-04-24	6
4	Advertise for project - Public Notice bid opportunity	Apr-01-24	Apr-17-24	13
5	Meet with Contractors - Pre-bid meeting - on site walk through, review of plans and question/answer with engineer.	Apr-18-24	Apr-18-24	1
6	Bid package released to Contractors	Apr-18-24	May-02-24	11
7	Opening of Bids - 10:00am 5/2/2024	May-02-24	May-02-24	1
	Review of submitted bids by Engineers, Drain Commission and Sandy Pines	May-02-24	May-09-24	6
8	Select and award Construction Contract to Contractor by Drain Commission	May-09-24	May-09-24	1
9	Engineers, Drain Commission, Sandy Pines and awarded Contractor meet to review design, materials, accounting and invoices, and project schedule.	May-10-24	May-10-24	1
Total Project (working days)		60	Mar-04-24	May-10-24

Continued on Page 12

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Auto-Owners
INSURANCE

As indicated in the proposed bid package schedule we plan to select a contractor to replace the 54" Corrugated pipe, complete the required work on the upstream embankment of the Dam, and install a toe drain on the downstream embankment of the Dam by May 9, 2024. We continue to monitor the water flow. At present no significant change is occurring. Should a change in water flow occur we will consult with the Engineer, the Drain Commission, and the Michigan Dam Safety Unit for a more urgent solution. The Dam Risk Reduction Grant awards will be announced on April 15th. Hopefully, our submission for grant funding is awarded to reduce costs.

CC#1 FEMA Storm Shelter Progress

The Michigan State Police Hazard Mitigation team has provided Salem Township with the documents to accept the FEMA Hazard Mitigation grant that would fund the Tornado safe room to replace CC#1 at Sandy Pines. The proposed Tornado Safe room would serve as a multipurpose facility. The safe room would be a shelter and would serve as a restroom facility, a cooling center, and a triage location in the event of a disaster. This facility will have a backup power generator that supplies power to the safe room as well as water well(s). We intend to power the water wells during power outages to provide water for 300 campsites during outages.

The Hazard Mitigation Grant is a 75% Federally funded and 25% Non-Federal recipient match. The Federal Share of the FEMA grant is \$917,332.28, Non-Federal share (Sandy Pines) is \$305,777.43 for a total of \$1,223,109.71.

The Federal and Non-Federal funds portion is for hardening costs or for design and materials that protect the occupants. Other expenses exist that are soft costs such as paint, flooring, roofing, toilets and urinals, and other items that are in addition to Federal Share and Non-Federal share. Funding soft costs can be as much or more than the non-federal share amount. Sandy Pines has anticipated replacing CC#1 and has planned to fund the replacement with funds set aside for this project. FEMA projects and Township projects have procurement policies, and the project will be eventually put out for bid by Salem Township.

Geese

If you live along the edge of the lake, it may be common for you to have some friendly visits from the local population of geese. It's great to see some wildlife and watch their interactions. The bad comes when they leave behind their droppings in your yard or on your patio for you to find later on the sole of your foot or shoe.

Sandy Pines has applied for a permit for egg and nest destruction. You can help by reporting nesting geese in your area by calling Sandy Pines Public Safety (616) 896-9006 and advising of the location of the geese and nest.

Once again, this year the State will not permit a roundup of geese. In the application for nest and egg destruction, the USDA Wildlife Services makes the following statements regarding geese roundups:

The last two years, the Canada Goose Round Up Program was cancelled because of the detection of High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 in wild birds in the state. Unfortunately, the disease has continued to persist in wild birds and mammals throughout the state and there continues to be cases in backyard poultry flocks. Avian influenza is a virus that can infect wild birds and both free-ranging and domestic poultry such as chickens, turkeys, quail, and geese.

With HPAI still present in the state, it presents a clear and important threat to wildlife and domestic poultry facilities. The DNR is cancelling the Canada Goose Round Up Program again for 2024 because of the risk of transporting HPAI around the state with the relocation of large numbers of Canada geese.

With the cancellation of Canada goose round up and relocation, the DNR is encouraging nest and egg destruction to resolve conflicts.

A goose can leave a half of a pound of excrement on your lawn. The excrement is commonly the most undesirable part of having geese on the lake. Human-use areas such as lawns, beaches, walkways, and shorelines can have excrement. These are the human/geese interface areas. Not the place that you can walk around barefooted. Goose feces near the water can be washed into the lake during times of heavy rains and degrade water quality.

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SCAN TO VIEW
SANDY PINES
DAM UPDATE VIDEO

 **SANDYPINES**
RECREATIONAL COMMUNITY

Safety News / Continued From Page 12

So how do you reduce the number of visits to your lawn?

1. Don't feed the geese. Feeding the geese will encourage the geese to return to your lawn and they really don't need your assistance. They are wild – don't make them reliant upon you.
2. Put up two string fences around the perimeter of your lake front lawn. One string about 6" in height and a second about 18" in height.
3. The grape flavoring found in concord grapes (methyl anthranilate) is said to be a deterrent to geese. Repellants are found online or in homemade recipes with grape Kool-Aid. The spraying of your lawn with grape flavor concentrate may deter the geese. Methyl anthranilate in geese deterrent solutions can be expensive and cost over \$100/gallon.
4. The use of mylar balloons, cut-outs of predators, and even strobe lights are possible alternatives that can be purchased online.

5. Use a motion-activated sprinkler.
6. Use white swan decoys in front of your lakefront.
7. Use on-shore silhouettes of predator animals.
8. Use reflective pinwheels.

Geese are part of the natural environment. Some are residents and some are passersby. They are outdoors 24 hours a day. Most of us do not want to be the 24-hour-a-day deterrent. Their persistence in wanting to eat your lakefront grass will most likely win over your attempt to deter them. It's part of living on a lake and interacting with nature. A combination of deterrents is said to be more effective than just one solution.

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CAMPING NEWS

BY JANELE TOMES Janele@SandyPines.com

Contact Information

Phone: 616.896.8315 x 103

Email: Janele@SandyPines.com

Spring has sprung! We are looking forward to welcoming our members back this month, as well as our campers. We will be running a half off special on our campsites April 21 through May 19, please help us spread the word! With the warmer weather our phones have been busy with eager campers and dates for summer camping are really filling in. If your family and friends are looking for specific dates to camp please do not have them wait.

We offer campsites, rustic cabins, and rental trailers, and campers can camp for up to two weeks at a time with a week off in between. The cabins all have newer mattresses, and the trailers have had items such as couches and cooling units replaced where needed, and kitchenware upgraded. The rental trailers have all of the comforts of home including internet and WIFI. These rustic cabins and trailers are a great option for those that do not have a travel trailer. Campers have access to all of our wonderful amenities, receive a discount on golfing and apparel, fish our beautiful lake, and enjoy our many activities. Please check out our events calendar online! We do offer a 10% discount for our associate members, and we also offer a 10% military discount for anyone who has served or is serving in the military. Thank you for your service! You will need to contact the camping department to have the discount applied. Reservations can be made directly from our website at www.SandyPines.com, or please give me a call at

616- 896-8315 ext. 103. I would love to help and answer any questions you may have!

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2024

CAMPING RESERVATIONS

NOW OPEN!

(616) 896-8315 Ext. 103

www.SandyPines.com/Make-Your-Reservation/

LAKE MONTEREY GOLF NEWS

BY DAVID INGLES David@GolfLMGC.com

Spring weather has arrived!

Although it should be celebrated constantly, this month we truly celebrate our risen Savior and Easter! We look forward to spending time with our family and friends. Dave and Tyler (our new superintendent) have been hard at work getting the equipment and golf course ready. We have already seen quite a bit of play the past month and a half. April will be busy, and we are hoping that we will be blessed with some nice weather. Looking forward to seeing everyone.

Memberships

We have updated our pricing for golf memberships for 2024 on our website. Click on the pricing and specials tab, scroll down to the membership section. We will be signing up golf memberships starting April 1st.

Cleanup Day

We are planning to have our cleanup day on Saturday, April 6th. We will start at 9:00a.m. with lunch provided. We plan on having hotdogs, chili and a few sides. We are looking for a good number of volunteers to help with the clean up

and serving food. We will hold a drawing for a free golf membership for one of the lucky volunteers.

Please check with the clubhouse in the days leading up to this event for updated information.

Course Improvements

Over the winter, we did some tree removal and trimming of trees on several holes. Do not worry, we left plenty of trouble for our golfers. Most of the work was done to open up shots into some greens and also to get more sunlight onto some greens and tee boxes. We do not predict any great improvement to scoring...we highly recommend getting a lesson to help with that!

New Products

Stop by the clubhouse and check our new products and clothing. We will once again have Yatta Golf shirts, that were such a big hit last year. If you prefer something a little more tame, we will also have new solid color polos and ¼ zips.

Continued on Page 15

COMMUNICATIONS NEWS

BY IAN MITCHELL Ian@SandyPines.com

Advertising

If you own a business and are looking for a prime opportunity to showcase your products or services to the community of Sandy Pines Members during the 2024 season, we invite you to get in touch with us. At Sandy Pines, we value and support local businesses, and we offer advertising opportunities that can help you reach our engaged and active membership base. To discuss how you can promote your business within our community, please reach out to us at Communications@SandyPines.com. We look forward to exploring how we can collaborate and make the upcoming season a memorable one for our members and your business alike. You can find our 2024 advertising packet here: <https://sandypines.com/wp-content/uploads/media-kit-partnerships.pdf>

Wall Calendars

2024 wall calendars are now available for purchase at Member Service and Public Safety! Wall calendars are \$12 when picked up in person, or \$15 for delivery (charged to your account). We have heard your feedback about previous wall calendars and made the background on the dates white! This improvement makes it even easier for you to write down and manage your events and deadlines. Don't miss out – grab your calendar today and make 2024 your most organized year yet!

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2024 Calendars!

Contact Member Service to purchase your calendars today!

616-896-8315 x 0

\$12 Picked Up, \$15 Shipped
(charged to your account)



Lake Monterey Golf News / Continued From Page 14

We are also adding Bridgestone Golf to our collection of balls and gloves.

Employees

Our employees will be returning to work on April 16th. If you or someone you know would be interested in earning some free golf, we are looking for starters and rangers. It's a very easy and enjoyable position and gets you all the golf you want.

Golf Course Rules

Please be mindful of the following rules of the golf course:

- Absolutely no personal coolers or bringing alcohol or beer to the course.
- Always bring your Sandy Pines member or associate card. Not all our employees know all the members and associates. Bringing your card will help us get to know you.
- Knobby tires and six-seater golf carts are not permissible on the golf course.
- **Proper golf attire is required. No tank tops allowed. Men's shirts must have sleeves. Women's tops must be golf attire.**
- groups of 5 players or more are not allowed without prior permission.

- Pace of play is very important for all our customers. If you are slowing up play you might be asked to move ahead a hole or two. If it is a continual problem we may ask you to leave and come back at a less busy time.

Let's make golf fun for everyone by following these rules. We appreciate your cooperation.

We are excited and looking forward to seeing everyone in the spring and the time when we can say again, "Let's go golfing!!!"

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Follow Us on Social Media!

GET CONNECTED FOR ALL OF OUR LATEST NEWS & UPDATES!



on Facebook @SandyPinesWildernessTrails



on Instagram @SandyPinesOfficial



on YouTube @SandyPinesWT



on Twitter @SandyPinesWT

Sincere Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to:

The family of Robert Matlock, site **K43**, who passed on March 6, 2024.

Shelley Pruiksma, site **K71**, on the passing of Owen Pruiksma on February 22, 2024.

The family of Eugene Schmid, site **K189**, who passed on February 19, 2024

VACATIONLAND SALES

616-896-8371 | Sales@VacationlandSales.com

OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM DECEMBER – FEBRUARY AND WILL REOPEN ON MARCH 1ST!

ALL QUESTIONS & CONCERNS WILL BE ANSWERED VIA OUR E-MAIL WHILE AWAY!





SANDY PINES
RECREATIONAL COMMUNITY
2745 136th Avenue
Hopkins, MI 49328

PRSR STD
US Postage
PAID
Grand Rapids, MI
Permit 1



Stay up to date on all things
Sandy Pines online!



www.SandyPines.com

