

FOOTPRINTS

IN THE SAND

FEBRUARY 2022



SANDYPINES
RECREATIONAL COMMUNITY
READY, SET, RELAX.

PHONE NUMBERS

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 Nicole Klinge.....Ext. 101

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memberservice@sandypines.com

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Kimberly Ext. 109
kim@sandypines.com

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

Pumpouts-Emergency Ext. 111

Sales Office..... 616.896.8315 Ext. 118
 Liz Robins Ext. 113
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Kent Livingston.....Ext. 114
kent@sandypines.com

Camping Office.....616.896.8315
 Janele TomesExt. 103
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 Ian MitchellExt. 107
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 Ben Fifelski, Supervisor
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Emergency/Public Safety..... 616.896.9006
 Steve Deyarmond, Emergency Services Director
 Keith Garvelink, Security Services Director

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Park & Garden

Jack Schmidt, Manager 616.896.9334
parkgarden@sandypines.com

Recreation Department... 616.896.8315 x 800
Cathie@SandyPines.com

Lake Monterey Golf616.896.8118
 Gary Peters, 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
 Keith Garvelink Security Services
 Ben Fifelski Maintenance
 Gary Peters Lake Monterey Golf Course

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Janele Tomes Camping
 Ian Mitchell Communications
 Jack Schmidt Park & Garden
 Jeff Hopkins..... Park Inspector
 Liz Robins..... Sales & Events Manager
 Cathie Strevel Recreation Manager

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Finance..... Ginny Hager
 Golf Course Joe Zomerlei
 Grounds/Maintenance Kel Kronemeyer
 Long Range Planning Kevin Hager
 Policy Joel VanKolker
 Rules Drew Torres
 Safety & Security Rod Burch
 Technology Bob Powers
 Lake Study..... Jim Buchanan
 Library..... Brandyce Barber

CLUBS

Senior Adult Activities Sue Stank

OUR MISSION

We are dedicated to providing
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RETAIL SERVICES

Outback Restaurant 616.719.6007
 Dairy Dip 616.405.5643
 Just Your Style 616.896.6788
 Park & Garden Store 616.896.9334
 Park & Garden Rental Office 616.896.9888

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ellen Carpenter, Chairperson (22)
 Jim Huck, Secretary (23)
 Ginny Hager, Treasurer (23)
 Kelly Johnson (24)
 Dennis King, Vice-Chairperson (22)
 Larry Munger (23)
 Paul Peppel (22)
 Stephanie Saypanha (24)
 Scot Wyman (24)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ~ MISSION STATEMENT ~

The Sandy Pines Board of Directors will
 provide positive leadership and manage-
 ment 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

February is a month of celebrating love and relationships as Valentine's Day approaches. Many of us will buy flowers, chocolates, or gifts for our loved one whom we wish to celebrate with. This month is also a good time to remember the ultimate love and relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who gave us the most prized gift of forgiving us of our sins. We are blessed to be loved by our God and His son who gave everything for us with his death on the cross.

President's Day is also this month. Please take time to pray for our nation as a whole. Pray for strength, wisdom, and guidance as we deal with many challenges in our nation today!

WINTER FESTIVAL

This month we are once again celebrating Winterfest at Sandy Pines. Come join us the first weekend of February. Our new Recreation Manager Cathie Strevel has many fun things planned with lots of food for all.

NEW SOFTWARE SYSTEM

Our new Member Management system is progressing well. The team is on schedule to Go Live with the new system in March 2022. Each department this month will be completing user training to ensure a smooth transition. Each department will be trained on the New Member Management system as well as the new Point of Sale system as needed. As with any new software and system transition, we will plan and train as best as possible. Please be patient with us as we start up and utilize the new system throughout the season.

2022 RENEWAL PORTAL

Please see Kimberly Williams', CFO, article on updates to the renewal process this year.

CART BRIDGE

This month you will start to see significant improvement in this project as tree trimming and excavation becomes complete in preparation for the bridge to be delivered and installed. Our new bridge will be delivered in four sections to be assembled on site. The bridge is to be delivered by mid-March 2022. Bridge completion is on track for Mid-April 2022.

POOL COMMITTEE

Our volunteers who support the Pool Committee are meeting this month. There has been a lot of work to review options for our park based on feedback from members last year. The committee is reviewing renderings, cost estimates and timing for options to present this upcoming season. We are excited to present to the members and receive feedback.

CLOSED BOARD MEETING

On Friday, February 4, at 2pm, the Sandy Pines Board of Directors will meet at the North Shore Center in closed / executive session, with a prepared agenda, to consider such matters as litigation, personnel, and/or the discipline of members.

Lastly, while we are celebrating Valentines Day this month with our kids, spouses and significant others, I pray we also celebrate God's love for us. While celebrating this month focused on love, please remember the word of 1 John Chapter 4:7-9:

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE

BY PAUL PEPPER BoardOfDirectors@sandypines.com

When traveling, I'm always on the lookout for places like Sandy Pines. The quest continues this winter in Florida. And you know what? They're out there, but priced far out of reach of the mainstream. Annualized, all told, we pay about \$250 per month in fees and dues, right? Looking for similar amenities in a park in the Sunshine State? Be prepared to fork out that much and then some....every WEEK!

Amenities at the park are so wide spread and varied that, if you can't find something to do, perhaps you should try a little harder. Just for fun, next season on a rainy day, jot down all the things that you can do on the days you are there. And, if there are some you haven't tried, why not

give it a whirl? You might be surprised....and rewarded. It'll also put into perspective what an incredible value we have at SP.

Some are quick to complain about yearly cost increases in the park. However, this year's hike of roughly 3% was actually only about half of the Consumer Price Index increase of over 6%. That's really good news for members, but, frankly, puts a strain on the park as funds collected struggle to keep pace with burgeoning costs. Fortunately, the administrative team does a remarkable job at allocating these funds appropriately, mitigating potential departmental shortfalls. A behind-the-scenes accomplishment that isn't acknowledged enough. Thank you!

In short, please take the time to truly grasp and appreciate all the things that make up Sandy Pines. Before lashing out, take a second and look around at all the park has to offer. There is so much positive here to chase away those negative thoughts. As always, we are here to listen and empathize at boardofdirectors@sandypines.com. Stay warm my friends and see you in the spring!

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FINANCE & ACCOUNTING NEWS

BY KIMBERLY WILLIAMS kim@sandypines.com

As we prepare for the opening of the new 2022 season, you will see changes with the introductory phases of our new software system. We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we work together through the process.

2022 Seasonal Renewal Portal

February 7, 2022, is the targeted date for all members to receive notification for your 2022 Renewals. Once you receive your email notification from Sandy Pines, you will need to do the following:

1. Every member must register for the new portal. You will receive an invitation code. DO NOT TOUCH the invitation code. Simply click on REGISTER.
2. Enter your email the invitation was sent, a new username and password. Click REGISTER.
3. You must update your profile, contact information and SAVE your changes.

4. Once this is completed, you can then review your RENEWAL information by clicking RENEWALS at the top of the page

We will be sending a link to a short video to show you how to complete the above. We will also be sending detailed written instructions for you to follow. Renewals are due by March 15, 2022. Any corrections or changes will show up on your April 2022 statements which will be mailed with your stickers.

Annual Dues Payment Schedule

For your reference and information, below is the payment plan schedule if you have elected to make monthly installments to pay for your 2021 Annual Dues and Assessments. Your monthly payment this year is \$330.19, and is payable on the 25th of each month, from October 2021 thru March 2022. This payment plan is allowed for dues and assessments only. (Please note, your December billing statement does include your quarterly electric and state unit tax, which must also be accounted for in your payment). To stay

current within the payment plan, your balance owed at the end of each month for 2021-2022 must equal the following on each date listed below:

• October 25, 2021	\$1,602.86
• November 25, 2021	\$1,291.76
• December 25, 2021	\$976.00
• January 25, 2022	\$655.50
• February 25, 2022	\$330.19
• March 25, 2022	\$0 – All dues and assessments paid

The best way to determine the amount owed on your account when following the payment plan is to take the current month's balance invoiced to you and subtract the correlating maximum monthly balance as highlighted above. For example, if your statement sent out on January 1st is \$1,000.00, subtract the amount highlighted

Continued on Page 5

above for Jan 25. \$655.50 and pay the difference of \$344.50.

If a monthly payment is missed, you will no longer be eligible for the monthly payment plan program and your account will go into a delinquent status, and a fee will be assessed per membership card to reactivate. If you have any concerns regarding making payment on your account, please reach out to myself or our Park President, Jeff Sweitzer.

As a reminder: All other member fees and charges billed to your account (outside of the annual dues and assessments) are due by the 25th of the subsequent month after being billed. You must add all other charges for services, electric, state unit tax, etc. to the monthly installment amount to stay within the balance plan displayed on page 5.

Payments can be made the following ways:

- In office with Member Service Mon-Fri 8am-4pm or Public Safety 24/7 – ([live payment posting](#))

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- Directly with your bank through online bill pay (your 4-digit site number and last name are your account number; Sandy Pines is the vendor, mailing address is the address on your statement) – (no additional fee) – ([includes processing time](#))
- Through USPS mail by mailing a check (no additional fee) – ([includes processing time](#))
- Online through our website (includes 3% fee) – ([live payment posting](#))
- Over the phone with Member Service or Public Safety (includes 3% fee) – ([live payment posting](#))

Please note a 3% convenience fee is charged for credit card payments made online or over the phone.



HAPPY CAMPER TEXT ALERTS

New SMS text opt-in for Members, Associate Members, Guests, and Campers

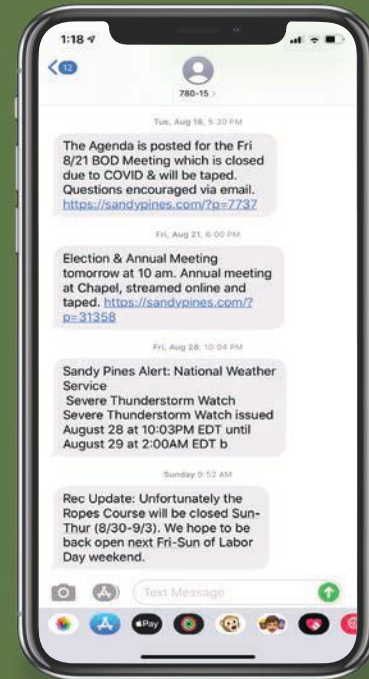
To Opt-In: Text "SANDYPINES" to 67283
To Opt-Out: Text "STOP" to 67283

Park news, event updates, weather alerts, cancellations, and closures.



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More information at SandyPines.com/Sms-Text-Opt-In



RECREATION NEWS

BY CATHIE STREVEL Cathie@SandyPines.com

Contact Information

Phone: 616.896.8315 x 800

Email: Cathie@SandyPines.com

As we enter February we think about Spring and continue to plan for the Summer. As activities continue to expand in 2022 Season, we encourage everyone to come out and volunteer, all volunteers need to be 13 or older and sign a waiver form. Some of the ways you can volunteer are ticket and bracelet sales, judging, working a game, passing out candy, or working a color station. We appreciate the dedicated volunteers of the past and looking forward to working with new volunteers in 2022.

Staffing for 2022 will take place in early April for the Recreation Department. We have several opportunities this year, please shoot me an email at Cathie@SandyPines.com if interested in employment. If you would like to be a lifeguard,

please obtain your certification by Mid May. I look forward to meeting everyone and building an awesome Summer Fun Team!

While the calendar is out and there are many activities planned for the 2022 Season, please keep an eye on social media as we will be rolling out several new activities this season. Some those activities including Superhero Weekend, BBQ Challenge, Hawaiian Luau, and Fall Fest.

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Mark your Calendar
for Upcoming May
Activities!

Cinco De Mayo

Saturday, May 7th

Flannel Fest Chili Cook Off

Saturday, May 21st

Memorial Day Weekend

May 27th - May 30th

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SECURITY NEWS

BY KEITH GARVELINK
keith@sandypines.com

Office Hours

Emergency Security Staff is onsite 24 hours/day.

Call Statistics and Type for December 2021

In December 2021 Security Services responded to a total of 179 incidents. The call numbers are unusually high for a December and are the result of numerous damage to property reports which were the results of high winds in the Park.

Call types and numbers appear below:

Building Alarm: 3
Animal Complaint: 3
General Assistance: 13
Conduct/Rule Violations: 21
Illegal Dumping: 2
Illegal Entry: 1
Medical: 1
Misc. Call for Service: 10
Open Door: 37
Parking Violation: 2
Property Damage: 67
Reckless Driving: 3
Speed/Traffic Violation: 6
Suspicious Incident: 9
Theft: 1

2021 End of Year Call Totals

For the year 2021 Security Services responded to a total of 1206 calls for service. The break down by month appears below:

January: 63
February: 48
March: 49
April: 59
May: 129
June: 167
July: 156
August: 97
September: 72
October: 77
November: 110
December: 179

Site Checks

Proactive site checks continue. Approximately 80% of Member sites have been checked to date.

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CAMPING NEWS

BY JANELE TOMES
Janele@SandyPines.com

Contact Information

Phone: 616.896.8315 x 103
Email: Janele@SandyPines.com

Hello! We are in the midst of winter but we can think warmer thoughts! Camping reservations for this year are well underway and we still have plenty available for your friends and family. Sandy Pines has 59 campsites throughout the park that we rent out, and we also have five park model trailers and ten rustic cabins. The trailers and cabins are not pet friendly, but we welcome furry friends on a leash at any of our rental campsites. We do offer an associate discount for our associate members, and we also offer a 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, which you can do after you make your reservation online. Your refunded amount will go back onto your card you used at time of purchase. Reservations can be made directly from our website at www.sandypines.com. If you have any questions or would like me to book a reservation for you, please give me a call at 616-896-8315 ext. 103. I would love to help and look forward to hearing from you!

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SAFETY NEWS

BY STEVE DEYARMOND Steve@SandyPines.com

Its Winter in the Park

During the winter months Sandy Pines is in an area that accumulates a great deal of snow because of lake effect snowfall. It is very common that areas west of US 131 only get a dusting or a few inches and Sandy Pines can have several inches or a foot or more of snow. It is always a good idea to check local weather forecasts before visiting Sandy Pines in the winter months. Sandy Pines is in storage mode in the winter months. This means that roadways may be snow covered, drifted, or unplowed. Snowbanks along the roadway can become very high, crusted and ice covered preventing you to enter the driveway on your site. As snow accumulates side streets may become one lane. Deep snow can be very exertional to walk through.

If you plan to come to Sandy Pines in the winter months, please understand the stress that shoveling can have on your body. The American Heart Association advises that shoveling snow can be a very stressful activity with the cold elevating your blood pressure, while constricting your coronary arteries. It is termed the “perfect storm” to have a cardiac event. Just a couple of minutes of shoveling can cause increased heart rate.

It is not uncommon each year for persons to have cardiac events or even cardiac death after shoveling. If you have cardiovascular risks, a sedentary lifestyle, obesity, are a smoker or former smoker, have diabetes, high cholesterol, or other health issue you are at greater risk of having a cardiac event. Please plan and refrain

from shoveling snow if you have health issues. Your family and loved ones will appreciate that you are still with them.

Sandy Pines does not salt and sand the roadways. Please be aware of icy road conditions within the park. Maintenance attempts to salt sidewalks and building entrances but are not here on weekends. Please be careful as you get out of your vehicle or walk to facilities.

If you are a snowmobiler, please drive in a responsible manner and on the roadways. The roadways become icy and your ability to steer or stop is greatly reduced. Please operate responsibly in the park. Please be respectful of other persons property and not drive across sites.

If you spend time in your camping unit ensure that your furnace is properly venting, vent is not covered by snow and install a carbon monoxide detector and smoke detector in your unit.

Mitigation, Consideration, and Prevention

We all think of Sandy Pines as quiet, peaceful, safe, and friendly place to spend time with our families.

As with any type of property that we visit all places have varying risks. We have perceptions, right or wrong, about traveling to or through various destinations. One of the highly sought of places to select to stay, visit or vacation is a place in which you and your family can be and feel safe. This is true with most destinations and true with Sandy Pines. Safety and feeling of wellbeing

and safety has value and this value reflects to increased value in your property as well as peace of mind not to mention the protection of our greatest asset – our families.

Sandy Pines is a very safe community. We let our youth travel on golf carts, let our youth bike around the park, leave our trailers unlocked, permit youth to roam freely and walk around the park without fear of something bad.

Sometimes it is the small everyday things that ensure individuals and families safety. Our speed limit of 10 mph in the park may be a good example and seem ridiculous to some people from the outside but it has served the park well for almost 50 years without a fatality. Yes, we have had some accidents but any community of our size and traffic should expect some mishaps. For people walking, riding bikes, and traveling on golfcarts we are a safe community. Sometimes we grumble about this or that rule or enforcement of the rule. The rules of the park are the baseline of protection for you and your family's safety. Compliance and adherence to rules on your part and people on your membership makes this organization, property, and facility safe.

We hear the word never used often. It's never going to happen here. I must suggest that never is a long time. A time so long that many of us will be gone before never ever ends. The clock is always clicking for the potential of something to happen. I can remember a near drowning when the indoor pool was present, I can remember a near drowning on the phase 1 beach, I can remember a drowning through the ice and a drowning in the summer by the Marina. Unfortunately, I can state that it is most probable that a drowning will occur in the future. My point is that we should expect an occurrence of something in the future and prepare and plan for that occurrence. Our statement should be “It's going to happen here” how do we prepare.

Sandy Pines is an organized operation with member advisory committees. Each of these committee's specialize in an area to enhance Sandy Pines whether it be a better experience

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Sandy Pines Member E-News

Our Member E-News electronic newsletter is sent weekly and features monthly departmental Footprints updates, ongoing park news, alerts, and reminders.

You can always subscribe, manage your contact details, unsubscribe at SandyPines.com/E-News.



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for you and your family, increased safety, review future projects or concerns, future endeavors, and our finances. The people that serve on these committees are the people that take on tasks assigned by your Board of Directors, review and consider member input and discuss matters and make recommendations to the Sandy Pines Board. To simplify the content of these committee's work is most likely about your safety, maintaining the property, reviewing new projects, and determining if we have the monetary resources to make the project happen. It is the intent of these members to improve our facility.

Our Board serves the members of this park without compensation. Traveling to and from the park and expending time to ensure this organization is financially stable, a quality recreation facility, a safe facility, and a well-maintained facility. Board members also serve a liaison on advisory committees extending their commitment. It is large personal commitment that these individuals assume. Most people/members do not have the time, motivation or drive to serve in this capacity.

Many things are discussed each year at the staff level, at committees and at the Board level for consideration. For the most part these items discussed are for you and your family. It is about the

recreational organization, its facilities, amenities, and the safety of persons within this park.

We talk about things like the Golf Cart Bridge, the Storm Shelters, about pools, about buildings, programs and we talk about the lake. Some of these are about our recreational experience and some are about the safety of our families. As mentioned earlier safety has value and very commonplace in discussion about everyone's wellbeing.

Mitigation is the process to prevent and plan for potential risk to reduce injuries and fatalities. Once again when we hear comments about projects that it hasn't happened in the past 50 years and its never going to happen. These are short-sighted. As I indicated earlier never is a long time, and far past all our mortal lives. Its very probable that something will happen in the actual "Forever" time frame of never because that is what we say when we say never. In the past I understand events or accidents are going to repeat themselves or occur for the first time. When we talk about 26th street I have witnessed several traffic fatalities on this street. 26th & 142nd (numerous injuries and fatalities), 140th and 26th St. (numerous injuries and fatalities), 136th & 26th St. (a fatality and injuries), 134th

and 26th St. (fatalities and injuries). It is a matter of time before a severe injury or fatality occurs at the intersection where construction of the bridge will occur. Kids, youth, adults distracted or with something on their mind other than driving will most likely be the cause. The Mitigation of the Bridge from Phase 3 to Phase 6 is about preventing a death or multiple deaths. It is about preventing loss of life or an injury that could have devastated outcome for a family or families and even for people surviving. It is the park protecting your most valuable asset – your family. As with many things the clock is always ticking, risk is always present until we try to lessen the possibility.

Mitigation in other areas is ongoing. We continue to work with FEMA, the State of Michigan and local Government to provide safety to residents in the event of severe windstorms and tornadic events. The reality is that recreational units fail poorly in severe wind and tornadic events. Trees crush trailers, wind projected debris can penetrate recreational vehicles, camping units can be tossed around and as a result many people can be injured or die. Our problem is having adequate shelter for our residents that provides a high confidence of safety and protection for our

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2022 Calendars!

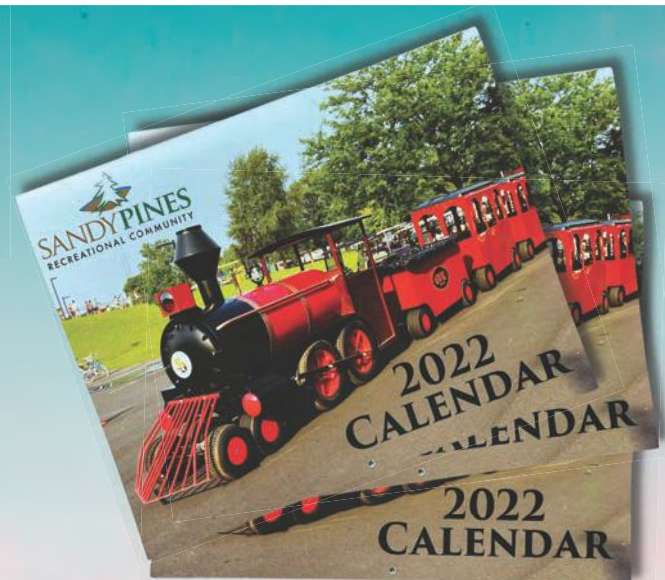
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purchase your calendars today!

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park population. Many of the bathrooms within our park are stick build and 50 years old and were not designed as shelters. It is thought that the bathrooms provide more protection than a recreational vehicle but do not have the space to shelter to accommodate everyone and become overcrowded. Because of overcrowding, lack of space some people do not seek shelter at a bathroom placing them and their families at a greater risk of injury or death. Other risk factors are the age of our residents with young and old being a higher risk of injury or death in traumatic events. Not everyone has a home close by to take shelter. In the summer months Sandy Pines represents 81% of the population in Salem Township. In the potential event of a direct hit of a tornado local Fire, Police and EMS resources would be overwhelmed. Hospitals would be overwhelmed also. We have had some nearby Tornadoes within a few miles of Sandy Pines. Once again it is not that a tornado will never happen but when. Preparation, planning and considerations for that event is ongoing.

When you wonder about what the park is considering for future endeavors, please understand that the projects commonly have a baseline of intent to provide protection and safety

to you and your family. Safety has value in many aspects including your real property value, ability to sell your property, the perception of safety on this property and willingness to visit or stay and the safety of you and your family.

Mass Casualty Training

Salem, Hopkins, Overisel, Dorr Fire Departments and Wayland Area EMS met for Mass Casualty Training at the North Shore Center.

The scenario was a weather event of straight line winds with major damage and 100 patients. The departments indicated are the surrounding Fire Departments and mutual aid partners of Salem Fire.

This table top exercise was broken down to several groups handling the weather event/destruction in various sections/phases of the Park. Each group had 100 injured patients of varying injuries or death.

SALT triage a CDC national triage method was taught. Each group sorted or triaged the severity of injuries, and developed a plan of how to get persons evacuated (severest injured first) to a hospital for care.

Sandy Pines is a densely populated property. Populations can exceed 25,000 persons in the peak of the season. After a weather event obstacles (fallen trees, autos, camping units blocking the roadways) may impede or restrict access. In wooded areas persons may be trapped by trees falling on their units. Traffic may also decrease effective response of first responders.

Trailer to trailer search and triage by fire fighters was discussed as access may not be possible with vehicles. Regional search and rescue teams were discussed and considered for deployment.

Lastly the reunification of family and location of area of reunification was discussed.

Although much more thought and preparedness is needed in this area we should be thankful for the time spent by these departments and the commitment to train on site in preparation for a severe incident.

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COMMUNICATIONS NEWS

BY IAN MITCHELL ian@SandyPines.com

Website Update

We are working diligently to get the new Sandy Pines website live before we open the gates for the season! Expect to see a sneak peek of the home page in the coming weeks, keep an eye out

for that on our Social Media Pages. We hope to make all information more accessible and easier to find for all members and employees. We are very excited to share it with you all!

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SALES & EVENTS NEWS

BY LIZ ROBINS Liz@SandyPines.com

Welcome to the North Shore Building

Rent this space! Sandy Pines is happy to offer this dual-purpose building for a number of events. The North Shore building has a beautiful open, beachfront space with the ability to host classes, workshops, weddings, graduation/retirement parties, corporate events, etc. We have a vendor list of amazing local caterer's, bartending, and entertainment. Sandy pines can help with most of your party needs. Cleaning, security and parking is included in the pricing. Please contact Liz Robins via email at Liz@SandyPines.com for a tour and pricing

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*With Sincere
Sympathy*

Sympathy is extended to:

Gregory Breen, Site 1061, on the passing of his wife, **Janet "Jan" Breen**, on October 23rd, 2021.

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OUR LATEST NEWS & UPDATES!



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