



SANDYPINES  
RECREATIONAL COMMUNITY

# FOOTPRINTS

## IN THE SAND



**JANUARY 2026**

## PHONE NUMBERS

**Member Service** ..... 616.896.8315  
Nichole Milbocker .....Ext. 100

Fax Number..... 616.896.7409  
[MemberService@SandyPines.com](mailto:MemberService@SandyPines.com)

### Administration

Jeff..... Ext. 105  
[jeff@sandypines.com](mailto:jeff@sandypines.com)  
Kimberly ..... Ext. 109  
[kim@sandypines.com](mailto:kim@sandypines.com)

### Park Inspector

Jim Buchanan &  
Steve Helmer..... 616.896.7286  
[inspector@sandypines.com](mailto:inspector@sandypines.com)  
[jimb@sandypines.com](mailto:jimb@sandypines.com)

**Sales Office**..... 616.896.8315 Ext. 118

Kent Livingston.....Ext. 114  
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**Camping Office** .....616.896.8315  
Janele Tomes .....Ext. 103  
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**Communications** ..... 616.896.8315  
Ian Mitchell .....Ext. 107  
[ian@sandypines.com](mailto:ian@sandypines.com)

**Maintenance** ..... 616.896.8317  
Ben Ffelski, Supervisor  
[maintenance@sandypines.com](mailto:maintenance@sandypines.com)

Emergency - Pumpout..... 616.896.8317

### Emergency/

**Public Safety**..... 616.896.9006  
Steve Deyarmond, Emergency  
Services Director  
Paul Schaaf, Security Services Manager  
Fax Number..... 616.896.9182  
[security@sandypines.com](mailto:security@sandypines.com)

### Park & Garden

Chet Ryan.....616.896.9334  
[parkgarden@sandypines.com](mailto:parkgarden@sandypines.com)

### Recreation

**Department**..... 616.896.8315  
Abby Greenfield.....Ext. 800  
[Recreation@SandyPines.com](mailto:Recreation@SandyPines.com)

**Lake Monterey Golf** ..... 616.896.8118

Dave Ingles, Manager  
[www.lakemontereygolf.com](http://www.lakemontereygolf.com)  
[Golf@golflmgc.com](mailto:Golf@golflmgc.com)

**Laundromat Hours** – Open 24 Hours

## ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Jeff Sweitzer ..... Park President  
Kimberly Williams ..... Finance & Accounting  
Steve Deyarmond ..... Emergency Services  
Ben Ffelski ..... 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  
Jim Buchanan..... Park Inspector  
Paul Schaaf ..... Security Services  
Abby Greenfield..... Recreation

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Finance..... Ginny Hager  
Golf Course ..... Joe Zomerlei  
Long Range Planning..... Kevin Hager  
Rules ..... Kelly Johnson  
Safety & Security..... Rick Ives  
Lake Study..... Valerie Troschinetz  
Library..... Patience Pike

## OUR MISSION

We are dedicated to providing  
a fun and safe environment  
where families and friends  
create a lifetime of memories.



## RETAIL SERVICES

BBlessed316  
Therapeutic Center..... 616-422-7909  
[www.massagebook.com/biz/blessed316sandypines](http://www.massagebook.com/biz/blessed316sandypines)  
Dairy Dip ..... 616.405.5643  
Park & Garden Store ..... 616.896.9334  
Park & Garden  
Rental Office ..... 616.896.9888

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cory Berens.....(2028)  
Rick Day, Secretary .....(2026)  
Kolyn Giebel .....(2028)  
Ginny Hager, Treasurer .....(2027)  
Kelly Johnson .....(2028)  
Larry Munger .....(2027)  
Craig Van Beek, Chairperson .....(2026)  
Scot Wyman, Vice Chairperson.....(2027)

## 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](mailto:Jeff@SandyPines.com)

## Happy New Year, Sandy Pines members!

Wishing you many blessings in 2026. As the opening season approaches, we would like to share this month's updates. Opening the Sandy Pines gates is just around the corner! We can feel the excitement already!

## Board Meeting

On January 16th, our first Board of Directors meeting for 2026 will take place. The main focal point will be our end-of-year 2026 financials, reviewed by our third-party accountants. As customary during the off-season, the end-of-year financials will be reviewed during a joint session with our Finance Committee and Board of Directors prior to the Board meeting.

The board will be addressing an open director vacancy. Earlier during the off-season, Pat Doezeema resigned due to the sale of the Doezeemas' membership. We thank Pat for her service to the park during her tenure on the board of directors. We wish her and her husband, Bob, many blessings on their new adventures. The board will review options per our Bylaws regarding the vacancy. Direction will be provided at this month's board meeting.

Updates on other projects and topics will also be provided. It will be held at the North Shore Building, but at 3:00 pm, rather than our normal evening time. This is to accommodate off-season schedules. We encourage members to attend if they are able. If you are not able to attend, please click on the Livestream at [https://www.youtube.com/live/100XIXQ-D\\_0](https://www.youtube.com/live/100XIXQ-D_0)

## Capital Investment Project

Our 10-Year Capital Reserve is nearing its end, and we're working on a plan to replenish funds for essential park infrastructure and amenities—such as CCs, roads, lake wells, pickleball and shuffleboard courts, and other aging facilities of a 54-year-old community.

Member dues cover some operational costs—about \$4.5 million of the \$8.4 million total (approximately 48%). The new Capital Investment funds we're requesting will be used strictly for park capital improvements, not wages, utilities, or general operations expenses.

With the current capital reserve expiring at the end of our 2027 season, we'll be asking members to reinvest in Sandy Pines to keep our community safe, enjoyable, and valuable for years to come. This investment helps maintain our premier status and supports rising membership values, which we have seen over the last 10 years.

Surveys will arrive this month—please share your honest feedback to help shape the future of our park!

## 2026 Renewals

Did someone say it is time for our 2026 renewals? Yes, it is that time of year again! Although our 2026 season started in October, we are preparing for the arrival of our members in the spring of 2026.

Our annual testing of live scenarios takes place the first week of this month. Our Go Live release of renewals to the entire membership is January 12, 2026. All renewal

information must be submitted by the end of February 2026. Confirmations of renewal selections will take place in March, with your selections appearing on your April 2026 statements. Stay tuned for sticker pick updates in future Footprints.

In preparation for 2026 renewals, our team has completed their normal off-season audits on items such as boat information, boat stake assignments, member and associate cards, and other items linked to membership sites. This is a great time to ensure everything is in order for your 2026 renewals. Stay tuned for more information and announcements regarding 2026 renewals through other communications such as RAVE, Facebook, and our official Sandy Pines Website.

Happy New Year and God Bless!

## Romans 15:5

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had.

## Ephesians 6:18

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.



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# MEMBER SERVICE NEWS

BY NICHOLE MILBOCKER [MemberService@SandyPines.com](mailto: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](mailto:MemberService@SandyPines.com)

## Important Dates

JANUARY 1st New Year's Day – Admin Office Closed  
JANUARY 12th Renewals Open (through February 28th)  
JANUARY 25th Member Account Balances & Quarterly Electric Due

## Renewals

Be on the lookout mid-month for an email with the opening of renewal for the 2026 season. Please review and make needed changes via your member portal under the Renewal tab. You will have six weeks (Feb 28th) to make all changes for the upcoming season. Submit ONLY once you have made all changes. Once submitted no changes can be made. You will need to call Member Service for assistance. If no changes are needed, please review and submit (all will remain the same). All renewal billings will be on the April statement.

## Member Account Balances

All members utilizing the payment plan must have a balance at or below the maximum January amount of \$861.15. All payments are due on the 25th of each month. Payment options are the same as always, check, cash, credit card or portal. To avoid any service fee with a credit card you must use your card in person. Payments are accepted at Sandy Pines Administration Office or at the Public Safety Office. We'd also like to thank you all again for your continued patience and support during our new system implementation. The system is working well as we continue to tailor to our Sandy Pines needs.

## Portal

If you are having trouble logging into your portal or have not yet set it up, please contact Member Service for assistance. Your portal is a great tool for all kinds of information having to do with your Sandy Pines Membership. The portal allows you to access and change personal information as well as allowing you to schedule a pump out, signing in guests, update renewal, view end of year electric, you may even access your billing and

make payments if you choose.

## Billing

Members, when sending a check via bill pay or personal, please make sure that you are using the correct address. Many are having issues with the USPS returning their checks. Sometimes it's as simple as the address being incorrect. If you are using the correct address below and are still experiencing issues, you may need to contact your local post office to find a solution. Please rest assured it is NOT Sandy Pines returning the payments, as they haven't even been delivered for processing. Please use the address below:

Sandy Pines  
2745 136th Ave.  
Hopkins, MI 49328

Sending continued warm well wishes wherever you are spending your winter!

# COMMUNICATIONS NEWS

BY IAN MITCHELL [Ian@SandyPines.com](mailto:Ian@SandyPines.com)

## How We'll Be Communicating in 2026

As we head into the 2026 season, we want to share how Sandy Pines will continue communicating important information throughout the year. Using the right channel helps ensure you receive timely, accurate updates when they matter most.

- **Footprints Magazine** – Monthly highlights, park updates, and important information
- **RAVE Alerts** – Weather, safety notifications, and urgent communications
- **Email (E-News)** – Deadlines, reminders, and key announcements
- **Website & Events Calendar** – The most up-to-date and reliable source for event details
- **Facebook** – Event reminders, photos, community engagement, and day-of updates

Each platform serves a specific purpose, and together they help keep our community informed and connected throughout the season.

## Behind-the-Scenes Planning for the Season Ahead

While the park is quiet during the winter months, a lot is happening behind the scenes. Our team is actively finalizing the 2026 events calendar, organizing social media schedules, building E-News layouts and plans, and preparing communication tools to ensure clear and consistent updates throughout the season.

If you're ever looking for information, these resources should help point you in the right direction. And as always, if you have questions, feedback, or communication suggestions, please don't hesitate to reach out—we're always happy to help.

Thank you for staying connected, and we look forward to another great season at Sandy Pines.



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# FINANCE & ACCOUNTING NEWS

BY KIMBERLY WILLIAMS

[Kim@SandyPines.com](mailto:Kim@SandyPines.com)

Happy New Year!

The Board of Directors and Finance Committee will meet on Monday, January 12, 2026, to review the financial statements for the period ending September 30, 2025 (Fiscal Year End 2025), as well as the statements for October 31, 2025, for both Sandy Pines Wilderness Trails, Inc. and Lake Monterey Golf Course, LLC.

Upon approval, the financial statements will be posted on the Sandy Pines website under the Finance section. These statements are unconsolidated and do not include tax-basis adjustments. They are currently in the final stages of review with SPWT's external accountants in preparation for the 2025 tax filing.

A summary of the Fiscal Year End 2025 financial statements for both entities will be shared after review and approval by the Finance Committee and Board of Directors.

## Annual Dues and Assessment Payment Schedule

Members enrolled in the monthly installment payment plan for Annual Dues and Assessments should note the following:

Monthly payment amount: \$440.28

Due date: 25th of each month

Payment period: October 2025 through March 2026

This payment plan applies only to annual dues and assessments. To remain current, your outstanding balance must not exceed the amounts listed below on the specified dates:

October 25: \$2,105.72

November 25: \$1,697.03

December 25: \$1,282.20

**January 25: \$861.15**

February 25: \$433.79

March 25: \$0.00 — *All dues and assessments paid in full*

### How to calculate your payment:

Subtract the maximum allowable balance for the applicable date from your current account balance.

Example: If your January statement of December activity shows a balance of \$1,500.00, subtract the January 25 maximum of \$861.15. Your payment would be \$638.85.

If a monthly payment is missed, eligibility for the installment plan will be forfeited and the account will move into delinquent status. A reactivation fee per membership card will be assessed. If you have concerns about making payments, please contact myself or Park President Jeff Sweitzer as soon as possible.

Reminder: All other member fees and charges (outside of annual dues and assessments), including services, electric, and state unit tax, are due by the 25th of the month following the billing date. These charges must be added to your monthly installment payment to remain within the balance requirements outlined above.

## Payment Methods

Payments may be submitted using any of the following methods:

- Online through the Sandy Pines website
- By mail
- Administration Office drop box
- In person at the Administration Office during regular business hours
- At the Public Safety Office after hours

Please note: A 3% convenience fee applies to credit card payments made online or over the phone.

We look forward to a great 2026 and wish you many blessings in the new year!

# SALES NEWS

BY KENT LIVINGSTON

[Kent@SandyPines.com](mailto:Kent@SandyPines.com)

Thinking about selling your place at Sandy Pines? Our Sales team is here to help guide you through the process and answer any questions.

Do you have friends or family members who have shown interest in Sandy Pines? Sandy Pines continues to grow through referrals from our own members. If you love it here, tell your friends about us—we're always happy to help answer questions, explore available listings, and introduce new families to the park.

Winter is a great time for planning and conversations, even if a purchase or sale is further down the road. If someone you know may be interested, feel free to send them our way.

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# SAFETY NEWS

BY STEVE DEYARMOND [Steve@SandyPines.com](mailto:Steve@SandyPines.com)

## RAVE

Sandy Pines utilizes RAVE to notify members of weather threats, watches, events, or special communications through cell phones and email addresses. This is the primary means Sandy Pines uses to help keep you and your family safe and informed about important updates and calendar events.

We are currently working with software developers to automatically update RAVE contact information. This will improve efficiency by saving staff time and ensuring members who have sold are removed while new members are uploaded into the system more quickly.

A recent review of member records indicated that over 700 memberships utilize the same mobile phone number and the same email address for both members/owners. Please review your membership data (email addresses and phone numbers) and contact Member Service to add your spouse's email address or phone number to park records.

The park will be sending a mass email to members during the off-season to confirm that we have your current contact information on file.

The Park will be sending a mass email to members acknowledging that we have your contact information during the off-season.

## Membership Card Renewals

Each year, Sandy Pines provides members with the opportunity to review the membership cards attached to their membership. This review process will take place from mid-January through February.

To review the membership cards associated with your membership, please access your Member Portal.

Individuals eligible for membership cards include owners of memberships, their children, grandchildren, grandparents, significant others, and designated associate members, as defined in the Member Handbook.

Memberships that are not current on dues and have had their membership cards deactivated will be subject to a reactivation fee of \$50 per card. Please ensure your account is current to avoid penalty fees.

## Walleye Planting

One thousand walleye, measuring 6" to 8", were planted in November. While walleyes are not native to Lake Monterey, they have been planted previously as a sport fish.

Below are estimated growth rates, maturity stages, and weight expectations:

- 1 year: About 10 inches long
- 2 years: About 14 inches long
- 3 years: A male is considered mature and about 12 inches long

- 4 years: A female walleye begins to outpace males in size
- 5 years: A female walleye is mature and about 14.2 inches long
- 10 years: About 19.1 inches long and weighs approximately 2.6 lbs
- 15 years: About 23 inches long and weighs approximately 4.5 lbs
- 20 years: About 26.2 inches long and weighs approximately 6.7 lbs
- 25 years: About 29 inches long and weighs approximately 9.4 lbs

The average male walleye typically lives between 15–20 years. Female walleyes live significantly longer, with an average lifespan of approximately 25 years, and potentially longer if left undisturbed.

Walleyes can only see in shades of red and green, as they lack blue and yellow pigments in their eyes. This makes them especially effective at detecting contrast and movement in low-light conditions, which is why bright-colored lures—such as chartreuse, yellow, orange, and white—tend to work well.

Edward Jones

> [edwardjones.com](http://edwardjones.com) | Member SIPC



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# SECURITY NEWS

BY PAUL SCHAAF [Paul@SandyPines.com](mailto:Paul@SandyPines.com)

## Office Hours

Emergency Security Staff is onsite 24 hours/day.

## September 2025 Call Stats

In September 2025, Public Safety responded to 84 calls for service. The breakdown of the calls are:

Abuse of Staff .....	1
Animal Complaint .....	1
Assist .....	12
Disorderly .....	1
Larceny .....	1
Medical .....	1
Open Door .....	19
Suspicious .....	3
Traffic .....	3
Tree Down .....	1
Trespass .....	1
Watercraft .....	1

## Watercraft Length

I know that we are in the middle of winter, but I want to talk boats. The watercraft that are allowed on the lake have length restrictions. The rule is listed below. For those that have Deck boats, those are not considered to be pontoons. Those fall under the 20' rule. Please make sure your boats are adhering to the length rule. We will be looking for and measuring boats that may be in violation.

B. Length permitted: 1. Watercraft may not exceed 20' in length with the exception of a pontoon boat that may be 24' in length. 2. The length of a watercraft is determined by the distance measured in a straight line from the tip of the bow to the end of the stern. A pontoon boat's length is measured by the length of the deck, fore to aft.

## Park Rules

As people are in the park during the winter, please remember to follow the traffic rules. This applies to carts, vehicles, and snowmobiles. The rules still apply even though there are fewer people in the park.

## Holidays

I hope you and your families had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Thank you all for a great 2025 year and we look forward to 2026.

## Sincere Sympathy

*Sympathy is extended to:*

**Karen Whitney**, site 0238, on the loss of her husband, **David Whitney**, on December 5, 2025.

# CAMPING NEWS

BY JANELE TOMES [Janele@SandyPines.com](mailto:Janele@SandyPines.com)

Happy New Year! I hope all of you had a wonderful and blessed holiday season. Let's enjoy the winter scenery while it lasts because before you know it, spring will be right around the corner!

Here is what is going on in 2026!

Camping reservations really start to pick up after the new year. Please spread the word to your family and friends. We love to share our happy place!

## Rates

- Campsites: \$80–\$90 per night
- Cabins: \$125–\$140 per night
- Trailers: \$190–\$275 per night

## Camping Options at Sandy Pines

Sandy Pines offers a variety of accommodations, ensuring that every guest can find the perfect fit for their camping experience. You can easily reserve a campsite, rustic cabin, or park model trailer online through our website. With flexible dates and a range of options, booking your stay is quick and simple.

## Campsites

Sandy Pines offers spacious campsites designed for traditional camping. Whether you're bringing your own tent or RV, these sites provide the perfect base for outdoor adventures and lifelong memories.

## Rustic Cabins

If you're looking for a more comfortable camping experience, our rustic cabins provide the ideal blend of outdoor charm and indoor convenience. These cozy cabins include comfortable sleeping arrangements, lighting, air conditioning, and a mini-fridge. Perfect for campers who want the experience of the outdoors without sacrificing comfort.

## Park Model Trailers

For those seeking an even more comfortable stay, Sandy Pines park model trailers offer a fantastic option. These fully equipped trailers include modern amenities such as air conditioning, and full kitchen, and a living area, ensuring that your stay is both comfortable and convenient. Park model trailers are perfect for families who want to enjoy all the benefits of camping with the added comfort of home.

## Discounts Available

We proudly offer a **10% discount** for:

- **Associate Members**
- **Military guests** (both active duty and veterans)

Thank you for your service! To apply these discounts, please contact the Camping Department directly.

## How to Book

Reservations can be made:

**Online:** [www.SandyPines.com](http://www.SandyPines.com)

**By phone:** Call **616-896-8315 ext. 103**

I'd be happy to assist you—see you soon!



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