

# FOOTPRINTS

MARCH 2023

IN THE SAND



**SANDYPINES**  
RECREATIONAL COMMUNITY  
READY, SET, RELAX.

## PHONE NUMBERS

**Member Service** ..... 616.896.8315  
Nicole Klinge..... Ext. 101  
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

Jeff Hopkins..... 616.896.7286  
[inspector@sandypines.com](mailto:inspector@sandypines.com)

Pumpouts-Emergency..... Ext. 111

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

Kent Livingston..... Ext. 114  
[kent@sandypines.com](mailto:kent@sandypines.com)

**Camping Office**..... 616.896.8315  
Janele Tomes ..... Ext. 103  
[janele@sandypines.com](mailto:janele@sandypines.com)

**Communications** ..... 616.896.8315  
Ian Mitchell ..... Ext. 107  
[ian@sandypines.com](mailto:ian@sandypines.com)

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

### 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

Dale Yoder..... 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

Larry Finkbeiner, 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 Fifelski ..... Maintenance  
Larry Finkbeiner ..... Lake Monterey  
Golf Course

## MANAGEMENT TEAM

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

## 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

## OUR MISSION

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



## RETAIL SERVICES

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 ..... (25)  
Rick Day ..... (23)  
Bob Deckinga ..... (25)  
Ginny Hager, Treasurer ..... (23)  
Kelly Johnson, Vice Chairperson.... (24)  
Larry Munger ..... (23)  
Paul Peppel, Secretary..... (25)  
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](mailto:Jeff@SandyPines.com)

Blessings to all our Sandy Pines Members during this Season of Lent. This month is an important month to focus on honoring our Lord and Savior. We hope that all our members are safe and well as you prepare to return to our beautiful Sandy Pines next month. Wait! Next month we open?? Yes, that is correct! Next month marks the opening of our park! We are so close! We are excited for the upcoming season. We have been preparing diligently for your return.

## 2023 Renewals

Our 2023 renewals are complete. Thank you to over 70-percent of our members who utilized the member portal process to complete your renewals in a timely manner. Feedback from members and staff is that this year's renewal processing was much smoother and easier than our first year with the new system in 2022. Based on member feedback, we added the option to change or select a pump out plan to this year's renewals. This has been well received. We also added a weekly countdown reminder through our Communications Department. Reminders were posted online through various social media as well as weekly RAVE notices. For those members who did not complete your 2023 Renewals, your 2022 items will be carried over and charged accordingly. Our Finance team will be finalizing the 2023 renewal billing items this month. All charges will appear on your April 2023 statements.

## 2023 Stickers

This month the team is compiling all your 2023 Renewal sticker information. We will once again be placing your stickers into envelopes identified by MEMBER name and site. Members will be able to pick up and provide an acknowledging signature that you have received your stickers. Only members will be able to pick up your stickers. Members will need to show their Sandy Pines member card to confirm your site.

Associates will not be permitted to pick up stickers. Why are we only allowing members to pick up stickers? The simple answer to this question is that Members are responsible for their accounts and sites per our Rules and Bylaws. In the past, members have requested associates be able to get account information, stickers, etc. only to call the administration office challenging why Administration allowed this to happen,

stickers were never received by the Member and account information should never have been given. This puts our Admin Staff in a difficult spot. We will no longer be able to extend these requests to Members for their Associates. We will staff a couple of Saturday dates prior to the return to regular May Saturday hours to support member sticker pickup. Members may always pick up their stickers during regular office hours Monday – Friday 8:00am to 4:00pm at Member Service.

Pick Up dates will be as follows:

April 15	Saturday 8am – 12pm	Opening Day of the park
April 29	Saturday 8am – 12pm	
May 13	Saturday 8am – 12pm	Start of Regular Member Service Hours

## Financial Planning Session

Our annual budgeting process starts in April. In preparation for our 2023 capital budget, we will be meeting remotely with our board to highlight projects completed in 2022, forecasted projects in 2023 and through the remainder of our 10-year capital reserve. This will be an informational report out to the board in preparation for the first preliminary 2023/2024 budget to be generated and presented in April. Our focus remains for Sandy Pines to be financially stable and sustainable for generations to come. We continue to be financially strong. We have many infrastructure challenges heading our way that need to be highlighted and planned to be completed. As stated earlier, this is an informational meeting where no decisions will be made. Discussions from this meeting will then be carried over to the 2023/2024 for approval by the Finance Committee and Board of Directors through our normal process.

## Spectrum Charter

We continue to meet regularly with Spectrum Charter in preparation for our new TV and Internet to go live next month in the park. Construction within the park continues to progress nicely. Current timelines are on track for an April 15 implementation, weather dependent. The laying of new fibre lines will be complete this month with the focus moving to connecting new nodes and public WiFi. Starting April 15, 2023, members can call to set up their accounts.

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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



## Park President News / Continued From Page 3

Members cannot call earlier than April 15, 2023. If members do call earlier than April 15, 2023, Spectrum Charter will not recognize Sandy Pines as an account as the service has not been completed and turned on.

Members will have from April 15, 2023, through Memorial Weekend to get new accounts established with Spectrum Charter, order professional installation or equipment for self-installation and connect your new service. Please plan accordingly. We have confirmed with Spectrum Charter that current service utilizing your old modems will continue until members receive their new equipment for installation. This overlapping service will end June 1, 2023.

We are working to develop a team of members to help with checking in old returned equipment and checking out new equipment for self-installation. Based on feedback from social media, we are seeing most of our members (75% - 80%) will be ordering their equipment for self-installation. This means approximately 1,700 plus members will have equipment delivered to our Administration office. We have an excellent staff, but will need some help in receiving, checking in and checking out equipment. Please reach out to Member Service at [MemberService@SandyPines.com](mailto:MemberService@SandyPines.com) to inquire about how you can help

### Phase 2 Pool

Our contractor selection for the Phase 2 Pool project has been delayed to later this month. Both contractors, FCC and Lakewood Construction, have presented excellent proposals. Both proposals are within budget and have been reviewed by the Pool Committee. Follow up design changes have been requested with adjustments to current proposed costs. We will finalize the official awarding of this project this month. Timing will remain secured for a Fall 2023 start of construction. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting project!

### Preseason Staff Prep

Our staff remains ready to serve our members for the upcoming season. Training in CPR, First AID, Respect in the Workplace, De-Escalation and more have taken place already or are taking place throughout this month. We are also meeting with staff for their pre-season evaluations to ensure goals and expectations are met throughout the season.

We are also meeting with Committee Chairs to discuss areas of opportunities and focus for 2023. Some committees may have a change of scope and new faces. As always, our park is a great place to be due to our members AND volunteers. We encourage members to become active on committees to better understand what decisions are being made to move the park in the right direction as well as become part of the decision-making process.

Lastly, we Thank You, our Members and Board of Directors, for your continued support. We have an awesome, hard-working staff preparing for the upcoming season. We could not do it without all your positive support! We are blessed with this wonderful place we call our Happy Place. Please know that our Board, staff, committees and I strive to make the right decisions for this awesome place God has granted us. As we prepare for your return, let us also prepare for next month's Easter celebration of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Genesis 2:7** - Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

**Ecclesiastes 3:20** - All go to one place. All are from the dust, and to dust all return.

**Joel 2:12** - "Yet even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.

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## MEMBER SERVICE NEWS

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

### Office Hours

Monday – Friday: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Saturday & Sunday Closed (Saturday hours begin May 15)

### Contact Information

Phone: 616-896-8315 x 0  
Fax: 616-896-7409  
Email: [MemberService@SandyPines.com](mailto:MemberService@SandyPines.com)

### Important Dates

4/1 Annual Renewals, Quarterly Electric & State Tax Billed (Due in full 4/25)  
4/15 Gates Open & Water is Turned on for the Season (weather permitting)  
6/1 Boat Registration Deadline  
6/10 Site Clean-Up Deadline

7/1 Quarterly Electric & State Tax Billed (Due 7/25)  
10/1 Annual Dues, Final Adjusted Electric, & State Tax Billed (Due 10/25)  
10/15 Water is Turned Off for the Season (weather permitting)

Can you believe it is March? Your renewals should all be completed as of February 28th. If you did not login into the member portal to make any changes your renewals will remain the same as last season. If you still need help with getting into the portal please contact us in the Administration office. However, we will not be able to make any changes but this will allow you to access everything you need or need to know with your member account and Sandy Pines.

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## Member Service News / Continued From Page 4

### Account Balances

All Members, especially those who utilized the payment plan, must have their account balances to zero by March 25, 2023. Renewal billing items, along with quarterly electric and quarterly unit tax will make up your April statements, which are due in full by April 25, 2023. (There is no payment plan for renewal fees.) Subsequent bills for the season are due in full by the 25th of each month.

### Bullpen Spots

The Sandy Pines Bullpen can be used for the storage of anything on wheels that doesn't safely fit on your Site. Boat trailers/boats, campers, storage trailers, extra vehicles – anything on wheels that can be easily moved can be easily stored in the Bullpen. Spaces book quickly once we are in season, so if you know you want a space, please see Member Service to complete your reservation form. For details on spaces and pricing, call Member Service or view our Sandy Pines website. Unless you book an Annual space, we do not hold spaces from year to year. Your reservation/payment begins at booking date.

### Flea Market Spots

- Don't forget to go ONLINE and reserve your flea market spots.
- All spaces are \$45 each and can only be reserved by Sandy Pines Members. Members may reserve spaces for Associate Members, family, or friends who will need to be registered and signed in as guests with a guest pass displayed in their vehicles. Items not complying with the Park rules, may not be sold. (i.e. firearms, weapons, fireworks, Sandy Pines merch or logo without park approval, etc.) Please see the Sandy Pines Handbook for more information. Food licenses are required to sell food. Refunds are not available for cancellations.
- Spaces are 10 x 20 feet and are marked by silver discs in the ground. Please double-check that you are in the correct spot before setting up. Please be courteous and neighborly with your fellow vendors.
- Setup runs from 7:00 am to 9:00 am. The Flea Market runs from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm. Tear-down runs from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Please adhere to setup and sale hours for fairness to all vendors.
- Vendors may park their vehicles in the Maintenance lot or at their Flea Market Spot. Please do not park in office parking lots, block Maintenance Garage Doors, or Park & Garden Store Access as this disrupts the flow of Saturday park business and can cause issues in case of emergencies.
- Vendors and their Member sponsors are responsible for removing their own boxes and trash. Please do NOT leave trash beside the barrels; you must take it with you. Failure to do so will risk citation to the Member; the area is under surveillance.

- In case of inclement weather, the Flea Market may be canceled or rescheduled. This decision may be made as late as Saturday morning. Alerts will be sent via text and email to members in our directory. Alerts will also be posted on our website in the Blog & News Section and posted on our Facebook Page. Sorry, there are no refunds for cancellations.

### Pets in Swimming Areas

We just recently had a question arise about animals in the swimming areas.

From the Handbook: Pets: (Amended 09/22/2017) 1. A domestic or tamed animal that is kept for companionship or pleasure. 2. Must be maintained and controlled on a leash for both cats and dogs. 3. Members are responsible for cleaning up after their pets. 4. Pet pens, houses, and runs are not allowed. 5. Pets may not be tied or staked in green areas, beaches, or on other sites. 6. The pet must be confined to the member's site when staked or tied up. 7. No pets will be allowed in Sandy Pines buildings unless by special permission. 8. No pets are allowed in designated swimming areas, restricted areas or Flea Markets. 9. Barking dogs that are a nuisance are a violation of the neighbor's rights. 10. Cats left outside are a nuisance and are a violation of the neighbor's rights. 11. The Park reserves the right to eject pets that are a threat to the safety or peace of others. 12. Public Safety Officers have a right to contact Animal Control regarding any animals that are left unattended for more than 24 hours.

This information can also be found in the handbook/rulebook on page 19.

### TV and Internet

Please continue to keep your eyes open for emails, alerts, and raves on what is going to be happening with the new internet and cable tv. You can find a list of FAQs on our website! We will do our best to keep members informed and updated.

**We would truly like to thank you for all your patience and kindness during our 2023 renewal process. Please don't hesitate to call or come into the office! We always like to see your smiling faces. We are looking forward to this upcoming season. Spring is just around the corner!**

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## Scott's Carts Plus, LLC

2756 136th Ave. • Hopkins, MI 49328

269.793.8777

ScottsCartsPlus.com

### Golf Carts

- Sales
- Service
- Parts
- Accessories



### Boats

- Service
- Parts
- Accessories
- Shrink Wrapping

NEW/USED/RECONDITIONED - GAS & ELECTRIC CARTS FOR SALE

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE

BY PAUL PEPPEL [BoardOfDirectors@SandyPines.com](mailto:BoardOfDirectors@SandyPines.com)

Much of the off-season work by the Board focuses on the budget. Not just the annual obligations, but a multi-year plan. This allows us to not only anticipate and prepare for known needs, but also to create a monetary cushion for the unknown. This board (as well as those in the recent past) is blessed with financial acumen, having the sense to create a rainy-day fund should an emergency arise.

Some of the knowns? Many of our CC's are 40-50 years old and, while serviceable, will need significant repairs or replacement in the near future. Steps are already being taken to convert two of them (CC's 1 and 2) to storm shelters as was done most recently in Phase 3. The potential for FEMA assistance money remains though the process is arduous. Should the government agree to our petition, the majority of the hard costs would be absorbed by Uncle Sam.

Both PSO buildings at the main gate and the Phase 3 entrance will be needing attention as will the mail room. The ice cream shop is likely the oldest building in the park. Vehicles and equipment used by both the PSO and maintenance have limited life spans. Our drain fields can only disperse so much waste, thus the possibility of needing more is always present. Our road system is in decent shape however Michigan winters can wreak havoc and dramatically increase upkeep.

Everyday inflation is eating at everyone's income and the park is no different. The balance between juggling saving for

the future while accommodating today's increasingly costly needs can be tricky. As all board members are also members of the park, we feel the same financial burden felt by all as needed monies are raised via dues and member votes. The Board is attempting ways to shift some of the burden away from members by raising rental rates for camping, cabins, and golf carts. The North Shore building is also a potential outside revenue source as it can be utilized via rentals for large groups. Outside sponsors are also used to offset costs in large Park events. Food trucks benefit member palates while also providing a small income stream.

In short, it's important to remember that member dues pay for less than 50% of the Park's annual budget. The balance is supplied by numerous other sources. We're doing our utmost to try and provide the best experience for all without too much of a dent in members' wallets. And again, we're also planning for the future so that our children and beyond can continue to enjoy all that SP has to offer. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us at [BoardOfDirectors@SandyPines.com](mailto:BoardOfDirectors@SandyPines.com) with your suggestions, questions, or comments. Our decisions always factor in member needs and wishes so, please, let us know your thoughts. All the best to you and we'll see you next month!

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# FINANCE & ACCOUNTING NEWS

BY KIMBERLY WILLIAMS [Kim@SandyPines.com](mailto:Kim@SandyPines.com)

A lot has been going on behind the scenes to prepare for the 2023 season! The Administration office has been very busy acclimating and training in the Dynamics system and implementing many new features to help guide and provide more capabilities for members to manage their accounts. We encourage members to stay in tune with the frequent updates and member news communication as we continue to work through the new system.

## Renewals

The Renewal reviews and approvals by members were due by Tuesday, February 28th. Administration and Accounting will be finalizing the final processing, reconciling and March 31st billing of renewal charges on the April 2023 statement. Please note that Renewal Statements will be processed and sent on the first business day of the month, April 3, 2023. Please allow time for receipt of your statement within that first week.

## Financial Review

The Finance Committee and Board of Directors will be having a joint committee meeting to review the independently reviewed Financial Statements and Tax Filing for the 2022

season during the month of May. The specific date is to be determined. The financial statements reviewed and approved up to November 2022 are posted and available on the Sandy Pines website under Finance.

The Finance Team and Administration is committed to the financial stewardship of the organization and ensuring the financial stability and success of Sandy Pines into the next season and years to come.

The May Board of Directors meeting will include a full review of financial statements from December 2022 through April 2023, in addition to the first draft consideration for the FY2024 Budget. The financial statements for December 2022 through April 2023 will be available online for members after the conclusion of the approval at the May Board meeting. The majority of the focus on the operational and capital budgets will include a response to the inflation affecting many companies nationwide. Sandy Pines has noticed this in great part with the increase in construction costs within the scheduled capital projects. Sandy Pines has managed to work with these rising costs with specific planning, budgeting

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# RECREATION NEWS

BY **ABBY GREENFIELD** [Recreation@SandyPines.com](mailto:Recreation@SandyPines.com)

## Upcoming Event

We are in full prep mode for the upcoming season. As we prepare for the summer events, there is another "out of season" event fast approaching, Cinco de Mayo. The Cinco de Mayo party will take place on Saturday, May 6th at the Phase 1 Indoor Pavilion and lawn. Join us for walking tacos, pinatas, succulent planting, and indoor/outdoor games.

## Summer Employment

We are always grateful for the wonderful staff we have in the summer, and cannot wait to see who joins the team for the new season. Hiring information will be out soon, so please

keep an eye out. Recreation starts hiring at 15 years old. We are always in need of lifeguards, must be 16 or older. Feel free to reach out to [Abby@SandyPines.com](mailto:Abby@SandyPines.com) for more information.

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## Finance & Accounting

### *Continued From Page 6*

and cost comparisons, however, there is strategic planning to ensure this success going forward. As we continue to budget and plan for these projects at rising costs, we will keep the membership informed with regular updates.

## Member Accounts

If you have followed the monthly payment plan for dues and assessments for the 2023 season, the final payment must be paid in full as of March 25, 2023. The April 2023 statement will include the billing of annual renewals specific to each site. Blessings to each of you as we continue to prepare for your arrival in the 2023 season.

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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.

## Call stats for 2022

The following is a break down for the calls for service from 2022. These are the percentage of total calls taken per Phase:

Phase 1 .....	30%
Phase 2 .....	12%
Phase 3 .....	9%
Phase 4 .....	19%
Phase 5 .....	16%
Phase 6 .....	9%
Condos .....	1%
Golf Course .....	2%
Off Property .....	2%

## License Plates

This is another reminder that your Golf Carts need to have a license plate on the front and back of your cart. Your cart must also be registered with the Public Safety Office, and have a VIN sticker put on the steering shaft. These rules are to help identify the carts in the park, and make sure that they belong in the park. There are fines and points that can be assessed for violating these rules. We are looking for compliance without having to issue violations, so please make sure your carts are properly registered.

## Access Cards

Your old mag strip cards are no longer going to work to get you in the park. If you have not transitioned to a Proximity card, please stop in to the Public Safety Office to get your new card. There is a \$10 fee for the new Proximity card if you turn in your old mag card. If you do not have the mag card to turn in, the fee is \$20 for the new card.

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## SIGN UP TO HAVE THE FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND

DIGITAL MAGAZINE SENT TO YOUR EMAIL!



SCAN THE QR CODE ABOVE OR HEAD  
TO SANDYPINES.COM/ FOOTPRINTS  
TO SUBSCRIBE!

YOU MAY UNSUBSCRIBE AT ANY TIME

# SAFETY NEWS

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

## Hazard Mitigation Grants

Two FEMA Hazard Mitigation grants were submitted in January 2023 to replace CC#1 and CC#2 as dual-purpose bathroom / Storm shelters. The State of Michigan Hazard Mitigation Team indicated that they may fund the proposed grant for CC#1 and the Second grant for CC#2 would be submitted nationally in competition with other projects.

The proposed project for CC#1 will be reviewed by FEMA but has a high potential to be funded and successful. These grants are a joint project with Salem Township and Sandy Pines. The proposed buildings will be 50' x 63', be designed as a P-361 tornado shelter and is designed very similar to CC#5. The facility will also have a backup generator that will power the CC during power outages and power the water well at CC#1 during power outages to provide water to campsites.

FEMA will award projects starting this summer. The proposed construction timeline would start in September and end by April of the next season.

As buildings, amenities, and infrastructure items age and deteriorate many projects in the future will have to be discussed and funded. Presently the park is working on the lake/dam. In the future the aging CC's will have to be addressed, the aging drain fields will have to be replaced, the roads will have to be resurfaced, wells will have to be maintained and replaced. Just as your equipment ages and must be replaced the Park's equipment also has to be replaced. It is unrealistic to not look into the future and prepare for the replacement and maintenance of the infrastructure and equipment of the park.

## Membership Card Renewals

Sandy Pines has transitioned to proximity cards. If you or your family members have not transitioned to a proximity card, please take the time to transition before next spring. The cards with the magnetic black stripe on the back of the cards will no longer work to provide park access. To transition to the proximity card please bring your old magnetic stripe card to the Public Safety Office. A replacement or to transition to a proximity card is \$10. If you do not have or have lost your magnetic stripe card the cost is \$20 for a new card.

## Infrastructure and Funding

Sandy Pines our getaway and happy place. We stop in, invite guests, spend the summer, have the grandkids over, utilize the facilities and far removed from our thoughts is the backbone of this organization. Infrastructure.

When should we start thinking about the condition of and infrastructure of our park? Most likely several years prior to now. The Park is aging. Things do not have an infinite life span. Have you ever driven by a drain field and thought maybe that needs to be replaced. Most likely not. Drain fields are not exciting, recreational, or entertaining but are part of our infrastructure. Infrastructure is commonly not thought of and hidden from clear sight. Some infrastructure requires

regulatory change or change because of costs or insurance such as the park gas pumps. Other items of infrastructure such as the Dam we drive over but rarely think of it needing to be repairs or replaced. A closer look and inspections reveal that it is in satisfactory condition but needs some updates.

Times have changed regarding inspections, who inspects, the quality of construction, and the quality of materials. In the 1970's when Sandy Pines was constructed most building permits and inspections were done by a person that the township hired. Today specialized persons oversee construction, compliance to specifications geo technical surveys and the use of better materials. Renovation projects have found poor masonry walls, electrical conduit deteriorated within buildings, demolition of buildings has been a result of poor foundations or buildings that should have had been placed on pilings, present building built near swamps without pilings in which the floors buckle. These are just a few items. The fact is that structures age and deteriorate. It is an ongoing process.

When is the time to think about replacing and upgrading infrastructure. For lack of funding many items have been put off for several years. Convenience centers will eventually have an end of life. Waterwells and pumps will need to be replaced, the roads will have to be resurfaced, roofs will need to be shingled, renovations and repairs after lessors leave.

Our park infrastructure is in comparison to rust or a form of oxidation. A very slow process of oxidation that goes unnoticed until it crumbles. Unlike fire another form of oxidation that is very fast and noticeable. Fire has the "Oh my Gosh" factor – rust has the "didn't know it was going on" factor.

To maintain this facility equipment is needed whether this is vehicles, backhoes, mowers, water wells, playground equipment, chairs beside the pool, water heaters, HVAC systems, tractors, dump trucks, picnic tables, lighting, fitness equipment, card access equipment, campsite improvements, resurfacing courts, replacing electrical equipment or replacing pump out trucks.

I have been told that the park is flush with money. I have seen a lot of years of the park and its finances. At present I would say that we are stable, we have good management team and a responsive, focused, and aware Board. Sandy Pines is a bargain. People spend more to vacation for a week than members pay for the entire season. Property taxes on second homes are easily more than dues. The reality is that decisions are made daily and monthly on which projects to keep. Memberships have the best value ever seen. People are selling memberships for much more than in the past. Value of your membership is also reflected on the condition of the park, its amenities and safety.

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## Safety News / Continued From Page 8

In the next 10,20,30 years some things are going to have to be replaced. Preparation and planning will have to occur. We do not want to be at the point of rapid oxidation of fire with the "Oh my Gosh" factor many years into the future or in the slow oxidation of rust factor of "I didn't know" factor. This is why we need to think and plan of what plans and projects that we need to do in the next 10, 20, 30 years into the future. Thirty years seems far into the future but is most likely the only way that the park will survive, maintain member value, and not crumble.

When you see proposals and projects within the park, when you see improvements made, additional amenities added, when you see staff maintaining, updating and repairing remember these have direct value associated to your membership. If allowed to slowly rust and crumble your value will also slowly deteriorate.

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## EMPLOYEE TRAINING UPDATE

We continue to work on new Employee Training Programs in the offseason! The majority of our Full Time staff has gone through CPR and De-Escalation Training. We will continue to add training to better improve our staff!



## Follow Us on Social Media!

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on Facebook @SandyPinesWildernessTrails



on Instagram @SandyPinesOfficial



on YouTube @SandyPinesWT



on Twitter @SandyPinesWT

## Sincere Sympathy

*Sympathy is extended to:*

**Dave Gunter**, site D143, on the passing of his wife **Kathleen Gunter** on October 11, 2022.

**Kim & Dave Kaylor**, Site #N312, on the passing of her Mother **Pat Jones** on November 22, 2022.

**Barbara Beissel**, site 0470, on the passing of her husband **Edward Beissel** on December 30, 2022.

**Jerald Engelsman**, site 849, on the passing of his wife **Carol Engelsman** on January 7, 2023. Condolences also to Carol's brother **Roland Grit** and his wife **Cindy**, site 6010.

**Margaret Faidley**, site 1277, on the passing of her mother **Harriet Faidley** on February 12, 2023.

# INSPECTOR NEWS

BY JEFF HOPKINS [Inspector@SandyPines.com](mailto:Inspector@SandyPines.com)

Hopefully everyone is getting excited for our April opening and the beginning of the 2023 season.

As I said back in January, each month I wanted to focus on a couple of things that I see in my travels through the park that need attention. One thing I have noticed and has been brought up by our state electrical code enforcers is that the service wire that your unit plugs into the meter at the road needs to be in conduit as does the other end at the unit. The entire line does not need conduit just where it comes out of the ground to the meter. Both the 30/50 main and the 20 amp service line need to be in a conduit sleeve. It is a fairly easy fix for you to do it yourself or contact my office. You can also look on the contractor's list as there are many that can do it for you. I would ask that you have this done by the spring clean-up deadline. The state has communicated they will be back this season to ensure these changes have been completed.

I have been working on the boat stake waiting list this off-season and trying to address how many stakes are truly

available as it has been many years since this has been evaluated. So I ask for your patience to anyone of you that have been waiting for one. Once I get an accurate number I will go through the list and assign them accordingly

My annual contractor meeting will be on March 29th for all our approved contractors. This time is for open floor discussions with them about policies and procedures. A few things I will be discussing with them are the use of our Sandy Pines Contractor reviews, timeliness and follow-through, and how I will address issues going forward. Our members are our top priority and contractors that do not uphold the park's expectations will not be tolerated.

I hope you all have had a safe winter and look forward to seeing all your familiar faces next month.

God Bless!

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# CAMPING NEWS

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

## Contact Information

Phone: 616.896.8315 x 103

Email: [Janele@SandyPines.com](mailto:Janele@SandyPines.com)

Hello! The opening of our camping season is starting soon and we would love to have your friends and family book a rental with us! Campsites, cabins, and trailers are really starting to fill up for the 2023 season, especially on weekends. We do have plenty of Monday-Friday options available. We offer camping in two week blocks with a week off in between for those campers looking to stay multiple times in a season. Our popular trailers for rent have new dishes, pots and pans, coffee mugs, cups, and a little home décor has been added. New sleeper sofas have been replaced in three of the trailers, and all of the cabins have new mattresses. 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](http://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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# LAKE MONTEREY GOLF NEWS

BY LARRY FINKBEINER [www.LakeMontereyGolf.com](http://www.LakeMontereyGolf.com)

Wow!!! It's March already!! For some, I'm sure that winter seems to be dragging on. I can assure you that it's not the case for me. There is still a lot to get prepared for and seems time is running out. In less than a month, I will be back at it getting things set up in the clubhouse and working on cleaning up the golf course.

## League and Outings

We continue to prepare for the beginning of the season. If you have any questions or are looking to join a league or would like to start a league, please email me at [Larry@GolfLMGC.com](mailto:Larry@GolfLMGC.com). We will also be posting a few new leagues that we will be starting. Be sure to follow us on Facebook or our website at [www.LakeMontereyGolf.com](http://www.LakeMontereyGolf.com) for the latest up to date events.

*Continued on Page 11*

**Cleanup Day**

We are planning to have our cleanup day on April 8th. We will start at 9:00a.m. and plan to have 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. In the event of uncooperative weather, we will reschedule for the following Saturday, April 15th.

**Chili Cookoff**

Our first outing for the year is going to be a Chili cookoff scheduled for Saturday, April 29th. Yes, this sounds a little early, but we are hoping to bring those that are out getting their lots ready for the season to also enjoy a little leisure time. We are planning on having music, corn hole tournament, and vendors available. Again, we could use some volunteers to help prepare and work that day. Also, looking for participants to prepare their favorite chili recipe. Please email me at [larry@golflmgc.com](mailto:larry@golflmgc.com) if you are interested in either of these. More information will be posted shortly with the details.

**“The 19th Hole Grill” at Lake Monterey Golf Course**

We are planning on starting the lunch program April 17th with a limited menu. We hope you can stop in and grab a bite to eat.

**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 to be scanned. Cards must be scanned once for each nine you are playing.
  - 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.

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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**PARK & GARDEN NEWS**  
BY DALE YODER [ParkGarden@SandyPines.com](mailto:ParkGarden@SandyPines.com)

Wow! Its hard to believe we open next month for another great season.

We are working hard to get ready for the summer. Don’t forget to order your golf cart for the upcoming season. Holidays and big events reservations fill up fast. Golf carts this year are \$65.00 for a 4-person and \$80.00 for a 6-passenger cart. You can go online and reserve them anytime or after April 7th you can call the rental office to make a reservation.

We are also planning on getting water softeners out after April 17th (weather dependent) as quickly as we can. We will also be getting the store ready and the bins filled. If you are in

need of stone, mulch, topsoil, or even leaf bags we will have them for you. You can call the store, after April 17th to set up deliveries of what you need or we will be in and out of the store and you can stop by and grab whatever you need.

The Park & Garden store will officially open May 20th and so will the Marina.

We hope you enjoy the rest of your winter season wherever you are and we look forward to seeing you all in the spring.

God Bless!

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**CHAPEL NEWS**  
BY DAVE VAN NOORD

As Chapel Coordinator, I invite all of you to join us this summer for a Season of Praise at our beautiful outdoor chapel. Yes, “Praise to our God” is our summer theme. We have so many reasons to PRAISE Him. Our God has poured his love into each of us. We talk to Him through prayer and He always hears and answers. Because of our Savior, we live in freedom that only a Christian can understand. Our God is so faithful and so good. As believers, we live in joy and peace. Join us this season with friends and family as we lift our voices in PRAISE.

Please check out our summer schedule for 2023. We have a new website that is up and running. Go to [sandypines.com/chapel](http://sandypines.com/chapel) and you will find our complete schedule for the season. You will find links to the Sunday morning worship services, the Sunday evening concerts, Vacation Bible School, and many other activities. Be sure to mark your calendars with the favorites that you simply don’t want to miss. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Blessings!

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