



**SANDYPINES**  
RECREATIONAL COMMUNITY

# **FOOTPRINTS**

**IN THE SAND**



**MARCH 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  
[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 - 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 Fifelski ..... Maintenance  
Dave Ingles ..... Lake Monterey  
Golf Course

## MANAGEMENT TEAM

Janele Tomes ..... Camping  
Ian Mitchell ..... Communications  
Chet Ryan..... Park & Garden Manager  
Dale Yoder ..... Food Operations Manager  
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

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[www.messagebook.com/biz/blessed316sandypines](http://www.messagebook.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)  
Paul Peppel .....(2026)

## 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)

March is here, and with it comes the first real hints of spring — longer days, a little more sunshine, and the promise of nights around the fire. This means it is getting closer to opening our Happy Place at Sandy Pines!

As we shake off winter and look ahead to spring activities, we're getting excited about everything this new season brings to our Sandy Pines community. Whether you're already counting down to your first golf cart ride of the year or just starting to plan the official opening of your site, March is the perfect time to dust off the gear, map out your 2026 plans, and reconnect with fellow Happy Campers who make this community so special.

In this month's Footprints, you'll find department updates, upcoming events, and helpful information to get ready for your Sandy Pines escape.

## Capital Investment Survey

Our capital investment survey wrapped up last month. Thank you to all our members who participated. Your responses, input and comments are extremely important in shaping our future investment priorities at Sandy Pines. Below are some quick highlights:

- 1,271 (58.7%) of our 2,163 members responded to our survey
- 67% of responding members support renewing this fund with appropriate economic adjustments
- 61–70-year-old members were the largest respondents (28.32%)
- Phase 4 members were the most respondents of all phases (24.31%)
- Highest number of respondents using the park are weekenders (34.78%)
- 1-5 years in the park were the largest respondents (32.18%)

The cross-functional team of board members, committee members, operations staff and third-party engineering firm will review the survey results to develop priorities and next steps. Survey results will be posted this month for all members to review. Stay tuned for future communications and opportunities to have your voice heard.

## 2026 Renewals

2026 renewals are complete. Our final numbers are 74.2% or 1,604 of our 2,163 members completed renewals this year beating our 2025 results of 70%. Excellent Job! Thank you to all who logged into your portals online to complete your renewals before the deadline. Thank you to our Member Service and Accounting Team, Nichole Milbocker and Shannon Dykstra, for working with our members to answer questions to help guide everyone through the process, making your renewals experience as smooth as possible. As a reminder, the remaining 25.8% of the members who have not completed their 2026 renewals, your 2025 renewal items will be carried over to the 2026 season.

Members will need to pick up their stickers at our administration office. Members will need to provide identification, sign off that they have received their correct

2026 stickers and provide any additional information if needed. As a reminder, only members can pick up your stickers. Associates, friends or other members cannot pick up your stickers.

Dates for sticker pick up are below:

- Starting April 13th (Monday - Friday) during normal office hours 8:00am – 4:00pm
- April 18th (Saturday) – 8:00am – 12:00pm Administration Building
- May 4-8 (Monday – Friday) – Normal office hours 8:00am – 4:00pm
- May 9 (Saturday) – 8:00am – 12:00pm starts in season Saturday Member Service office hours

If you have any questions, please contact Member Service. If stickers become available prior to April 13th, we will communicate with a RAVE and Social Media alert.

## Park Inspector and Contractor Expectations Day

The Park Inspector's office returns to regular full-time hours this month. Jim Buchanan will be back in his office starting March 9, 2026. The rest of his team will also be returning over the next couple of months, allowing the department to be fully staffed once again this season to meet our members' project needs.

On March 20, 2026, our annual contractors' expectations day will be held. This is the time for all contractors to meet with the Park Inspector to receive updates on permits, processes, procedures, rules and changes or updates from EGLE, the county or township. This is a great time to ensure expectations are communicated and met to have a great 2026!

## Lake Level

Snowfall this winter at times feels like it has been extreme when in reality it is probably more like a regular Michigan winter we should be used to! The results of this winter are a blessing for Lake Monterey and restoring its lake level. The lowest point of the lake last fall was 50" below the spillway grate. Currently, it is approximately 18" below the spillway grate. All pumps are on and continue to fill the lake including the Rabbit River Pump. With some additional snow melting, rain and prayers, we should have a full lake when the Park opens in April if not sooner. Prayers answered!

Thank you for allowing our team and me to serve the membership and Sandy Pines.

God Bless!

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.

**1 Corinthians 1:10**

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

**2 Corinthians 9:8**

# 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

March 1st	Permits may begin
March 8th	Daylight Savings Time begins (clocks forward)
March 9th	Contractor work resumes
March 17th	St. Patrick's Day
March 20th	Contractor Meeting
April 1st	Mail Room Opens

## Spring Is Here — We're Ready for You!

Spring has sprung, friends, and soon you'll be back. We're looking forward to your return, and the return of sunshine after a long winter season. As we prepare to welcome you back, here are a few things to keep in mind.

## CCs Currently Open

CC2  
CC5  
CC12  
Water Park  
North Shore Center

## Account Balance Reminder

Member account balances are due on March 25 of each month. This is the last monthly payment for anyone who chose to utilize this option for the 2026 dues.

## Boat Registrations

All members with motorized watercraft renewing with the state this year should send a copy of their registration to the Member Service Office. An up-to-date registration must be on file in order to pick up your watercraft sticker for the season.

Only motorized watercraft are required to be registered with the state.

## Bullpen Storage Rentals

We still have some rental storage availability for the upcoming season. Please call Member Service for availability and pricing options. Reach out early, as these rentals fill up fast.

All rentals are first-come, first-served. No pre-reservations for a future date are permitted.

## Mailroom

The mailroom will open for the season on April 1 for access. Only members with mailbox rentals can access the mailroom.

If you would like to reserve a box for mail and package deliveries, please contact Member Service for assistance.

## Portal Assistance

If you are having trouble accessing your portal or need help with setup, please call the Member Service Office. We are happy to assist you or send a link to access the portal.

## Helpful Hints When Opening Your Trailer

### Turning Water Back On

1. If you have a water filter, replace your filter without the cartridge.
2. Turn on water at the road/riser. Make sure it's your hose, or you could flood someone's trailer.
3. Faucets in the trailer will be open.
4. Hot water heater is open.
5. When lines are flushed of antifreeze and running clear, turn off your water.
6. Close the drain valve on your hot water heater.
7. If you have a water filter, insert a new filter and reconnect.
8. Turn off all faucets.
9. Turn the water back on.

### Hot Water Heater

1. Complete flushing of the water system.
2. Screw in (or close) the drain plug left in front of the heater.
3. Close the drain valve.
4. Turn on the gas.
5. Follow the heater's instructions to light.

## Stickers & Renewals

Stickers will be available for pickup when the season opens the week of April 15. Please bring your member card or driver's license for identification. Only members are permitted to pick up stickers.

Renewals are closed for the upcoming season. Hopefully, you were able to log in and make any needed adjustments for the 2026 season. All renewal charges will be billed on the April statement.



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# BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE

BY CRAIG VAN BEEK [BoardOfDirectors@SandyPines.com](mailto:BoardOfDirectors@SandyPines.com)

## Looking Ahead to the Season

We have reached March, and we are getting so close to being back at Sandy Pines! Beyond that, I am ready to golf!

My wife and I took a walk through the park the other day, and it was great to see so many of you coming out to check on your trailers after the winter months. There's something special about that first visit back — opening the door, looking around your site, and starting to dream about the season ahead. If you're like us, you're already talking about ways to improve your site or make a few upgrades to your trailer.

## Thank You for Your Feedback

I also want to sincerely thank everyone who took the time to complete the recent survey. Your input truly matters. The Board and Administration are carefully reviewing your feedback and will take it to heart as we plan the next steps in our capital investment strategy. These decisions are not made lightly, and your voices help guide us.

As many of you indicated, the lake remains a top priority for the Board — and we recognize that it is deeply important to the majority of our members as well. We share that commitment and will continue working toward thoughtful, long-term improvements that protect and enhance one of Sandy Pines' greatest treasures.

## Upcoming Work Session & Meeting

On April 13th, the Board will be holding a work session to focus on our long-term capital planning and other priorities. This session will allow us to take a deeper dive into the feedback, review options, and begin shaping clear next steps. Our Board meeting will be held the Friday after the work session.

## Looking Forward

Spring is just around the corner, and there is a lot of good work ahead. I look forward to seeing you back in the park very soon.

# FINANCE & ACCOUNTING NEWS

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

## Welcome to the 2026 Season

We are excited to welcome you back for the 2026 season. After an intense winter, the recent warmer weather has been a welcome sign of the summer ahead. We look forward to another great year together at Sandy Pines.

## Financial Review

The upcoming Finance Committee and Board of Directors meetings, which will include a review of the updated financial statements through March 2026 year-to-date (YTD), are scheduled for April 2026. Once the financials have been reviewed and approved, they will be posted on the Sandy Pines Website under the "Finance" section for member access.

## FY2026 Financial Focus Projects

Throughout the off-season, the Finance team and staff have worked extensively on the rollout and transition to our new point-of-sale and accounting system. While there have been some minor transitional adjustments, we are pleased with the overall implementation and performance of the new system.

Looking ahead, our primary focus for FY2026 will be a comprehensive review of the year-to-date capital improvement projects and an evaluation of upcoming capital needs, particularly in relation to the expiration of the Capital Reserve assessment. Ensuring the long-term sustainability

of our facilities remains a top priority, and we are committed to maintaining appropriate funding for future improvements.

We encourage all members to participate in the upcoming workshops and town halls, where we will share updates and welcome feedback throughout the summer.

## Annual Dues and Assessment Payment Schedule

Members who have elected the six-month payment plan for Annual Dues and Assessments are reminded that all balances must be paid in full by the end of March 2026.

To remain current, balances should not exceed the following amounts by the dates listed:

- **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)

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to Sandy Pines. We look forward to a wonderful 2026 season.

# RECREATION NEWS

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

The countdown is on; we are just a month away from the water turning on and activity levels picking up around the park. We have lots of exciting plans for this season and need your help to make it all happen.

## Job Opportunities

We are looking for lifeguards for the 2026 season. Anyone 16 and older is welcome to apply. Applications can be found on the website under Careers.

Additionally, we will also need end-of-season lifeguards. If you are available on weekends in August and September, please consider applying.

## Volunteer Opportunities

With so many events planned, we need your support to help them run smoothly. Please visit the volunteer page on the website to see all available opportunities:

<https://sandypines.com/volunteers/>

We are especially in need of volunteers for **Family Fun Day**.

## Spring Event — May 2

Our Spring Event will be held on **May 2** at the Golf Course; a great way to kick off the season.

Enjoy a cornhole tournament open to all ages with prizes, along with games, activities, and crafts. There will be a planting station where you can purchase a flower pot to decorate and fill with succulents. You are also welcome to bring your own pots to fill with \$2 succulents.

More information is available on the online calendar.

## Memorial Day Service

We are still looking for a guest speaker for the Memorial Day Service. If you know someone who would be a good fit, or if you are willing to speak, please reach out.

## Online Calendar

The Communications Team has been hard at work updating and adding events to the online calendar. Be sure to check it regularly for important dates and event details.

## Holiday Fireworks

One of the most common questions we receive is: When are fireworks at Sandy Pines?

Fireworks are held for the **4th of July** and **Labor Day**.

This year, the 4th of July falls on a Saturday, so the day will be packed with events and activities, including the parade in the morning and the fireworks show at dusk.

Labor Day fireworks will be held on **September 5**.

Please note: there are **no fireworks** during Memorial Day Weekend.

## Summer Book Club Preview

The Library Committee has asked us to share the June Book Club selection early so members have time to read and prepare.

**June Book Selection:** *The Stolen Life of Colette Marceau* by Kristin Harmel

The Summer Book Club will meet on June 8. If you enjoy historical fiction and great discussion, this is a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow readers.

View full event details here:

<https://sandypines.com/event/summer-book-club/2026-06-08/>

# COMMUNICATIONS NEWS

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

As we head into the 2026 season, staying informed is the best way to make the most of your time at Sandy Pines. From event updates to weekly highlights and partnership opportunities, here are a few ways to stay connected this summer.

## Digital Calendar

We encourage everyone to check out the Digital Calendar on our website. We spent a great deal of time this off-season working with the Recreation team to ensure our events include as much information as possible, along with fresh, easy-to-read layouts.

There are a ton of new, fun events and returning classics planned for this summer — this is the best place to stay up to date.

View the calendar here:

<https://sandypines.com/calendar/>

## E-News

Have you subscribed to our E-News? This weekly email is sent throughout the regular season and will be ramping up in the coming weeks as activity increases around the park.

Our E-News includes department updates, Digital Footprints, Board of Directors meeting updates, and more. It's open to anyone to sign up, and you can subscribe or unsubscribe at any time.

Sign up here:

<https://sandypines.com/e-news/>

## Advertising Opportunities

If you are looking to advertise with us this summer, now is the time. Please review our opportunities here:

<https://sandypines.com/wp-content/uploads/media-kit-partnerships.pdf>

If you have questions or would like assistance with recommendations, I am more than happy to help.

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

# SECURITY NEWS

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

## Office Hours

Emergency Security Staff is onsite 24 hours/day.

## January 2026 Call Stats

In January 2026, Public Safety responded to 42 calls for service. The breakdown of the calls are:

Alarm .....	1
Assist .....	10
Damage to Property .....	5
Illegal Dumping .....	1
Illegal Entry .....	2
Medical .....	1
Open Door .....	18
Reckless Driving .....	2
Tree Down .....	2

## Summer Dates

The Public Safety Department will be conducting group Youth Golf Cart Testing on June 6 and July 18. They will be held at the North Shore Center lower level from 9:00–10:30 am.

There will be a Boater Safety class held at the North Shore Center on June 13. The sign up for this class will be through the DNR website.

## Flea Market/Craft & Vendor Reminder

Just a reminder for the Craft & Vendor events (formerly the Flea Market) this season. For everyone's safety, golf carts are not permitted in the Flea Market area. Pets are also not allowed in the Flea Market area.

## Watercraft

Just another reminder to monitor the length of your boats in the water. The rules regulate the length of your watercraft:

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.

Deck boats are not pontoon boats and must be 20' in length or less.

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# PARK INSPECTOR NEWS

BY JIM BUCHANAN [Inspector@SandyPines.com](mailto:Inspector@SandyPines.com)

Hello Contractors & Members,

Spring is coming, and the Inspector's Office is getting ready to serve you again. We are working on the permit process to improve communication and make the experience even better for everyone.

Please remember that permits must be placed where they can be clearly seen from the road, and work cannot begin without an approved permit. As outlined in the rule book, our office requires **5 to 7 business days** to approve permits. Once approved, permits will be placed in the box outside our door for pickup before work begins.

Contractors may begin work on permitted items starting **March 9, 2026**.

Our experienced team — Cindy, Steve, and Jim — will be here this season to assist you.

Thank you for helping make our park even better. See you soon!

Cindy, Steve & Jim



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# SAFETY NEWS

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

## Infrastructure & the Future of Sandy Pines

Infrastructure is the backbone of any organization. Items such as our electrical grid, drinking water/wells, sewage/drain fields, waste disposal/compactors, paved roads, amenities, the dam, the marina, our vegetative waste dump, and park buildings all play a critical role.

Park Management, Long Range Planning, the Finance Committee, and the Board of Directors have been reviewing park infrastructure with engineers to determine priorities, costs, and timelines. Planning for the future provides stability and solvency.

The costs and decisions involved in replacing and maintaining infrastructure can be overwhelming. We have many facilities and amenities, and many are aging. Developing a 30–50 year plan for replacement is a challenging project when working within the current budget and available funds. Without adequate funding, projects will not happen. Failing to plan is a failure in itself. A clear timeline outlining when, what, how, and cost is imperative in determining replacement and upkeep. The last ten-year capital assessment plan provided the means to complete necessary maintenance and improvements. Many items were accomplished because of member trust in supporting the capital investment proposal.

The Park has been transparent in its activities, and in many cases, physical improvements are visible. Other items in the background, such as accounting software, golf tee-time systems, camera systems, or card access systems, may not be visible but have a direct impact on customer transparency, access, and safety.

## Member Input & Survey Feedback

The Park asked for your opinion and priorities, and more than half of the membership responded. Social media comments suggesting a conspiracy to increase dues and fees are farthest from the truth. Management, Finance, Long Range Planning, and the Board work in the best interest of the park and your investment. The park's infrastructure, amenities, and appearance have a direct influence on the marketability and value of your membership. The survey was an opportunity to express your priorities.

The capital assessment/investment that will be proposed in the future will provide the financial means to maintain what we have and replace aging items. The goal is to have a plan moving forward to ensure Sandy Pines is well maintained and able to make necessary infrastructure replacements. Successful passage of the proposal will ensure financial stability and help protect the park for future generations. This foresight is in your best interest to protect the value of your membership and investment.

## Rising Costs & Financial Reality

In less than a decade, the cost of goods and services has increased dramatically. Prices rose during the COVID-19 pandemic and, in many instances, have not decreased. We have seen this in our own personal budgets. Inflation is a

reality and a burden on current and future budgets.

The cost-of-living increase allowance in the Sandy Pines Bylaws has not kept pace with inflation and real cost increases. Annual cost-of-living increases attempt to cover rising costs of goods and services but commonly fall short and do little to fund infrastructure replacement. Cost-of-living increases are intended to keep us at the same level. Maintaining the same level does not provide funding for major renovations or improvements.

Every item has a finite lifespan. Whether this is underground water systems, wells, the electrical grid, equipment, paved roads, the dam, buildings, or software. All must be maintained and, at some point, replaced.

In the February newsletter, the CFO indicated that dues account for 34% of park revenue. The remaining 66% comes from fees, membership sales, renewals, cable TV and internet, and other income. A graph in the February newsletter shows operational costs rising faster than inflation, highlighting the importance of proactive budgeting and long-term financial planning. Management, the Finance Committee, and the Board have been determined to protect membership from steep increases.

## Property Value & Marketability

The condition and appearance of facilities and infrastructure directly relate to park property value and membership marketability. The salability of your site/membership depends on the facilities, services, activities, safety, and amenities provided. A rundown campground or resort with aging amenities that fail to provide a safe environment for you and your family will directly affect membership value and salability.

Years ago, the membership voted on equipment replacement and building maintenance. Several proposals appeared on the election ballot. Unfortunately, some items were voted down. The Board of Directors sometimes had to consider and impose special assessments to replace failing infrastructure, purchase necessary equipment, or acquire property. These decisions were not always popular but, in the short and long term, continued to protect Sandy Pines.

Other than membership dues, park fees are the only other means of revenue. The Park has been conservative in protecting members from large fee increases. \$200,000 was moved from the operating budget to capital. Increases in guest camper rates and seasonal camper rates have occurred. Eventually, items on the fringe, those that do not directly affect member/owners, will be at a premium, and member/owners will see fee increases.

## Grants, Projects & Cost Savings

Sandy Pines Management and the Board of Directors have completed projects that resulted in direct cost savings to memberships. To the benefit of all members, Sandy Pines

*Continued on Page 9*

## Safety News / Continued From Page 8

has worked on grants from FEMA and the Michigan Dam Safety Unit in recent years.

The dam project cost approximately \$1,400,000. Had park staff not worked with the State of Michigan Dam Safety Unit to secure a grant, the liability/assessment would have been around \$650 per membership. Instead, the cost per membership was around \$300. This project was not optional but a mandated requirement. Other dams in Michigan have been removed, resulting in the loss of lakes. Failure to work with federal, state, and local government agencies and remain in compliance could have resulted in the loss of our lake. Our dam is classified as a high-hazard dam that was labeled in poor condition. Government agencies do not want to assume potential risks to human life. Although this project was required and resulted in cost savings, management and the Board still faced criticism for the assessment to repair the dam.

Phase 3 had two convenience centers that were past their usable life. Park staff worked with Salem Township, the State of Michigan, and FEMA Hazard Mitigation to replace both convenience centers with storm shelters. The total cost for both was approximately \$896,000. The park's final cost was around 40% of the project.

At present, Sandy Pines is working with Salem Township, the State of Michigan, and FEMA to replace CC#1 with a storm shelter/convenience center. In April 2025, FEMA issued a notice stating that hazard mitigation projects that had not started construction would not be funded. The State of Michigan recommended that projects stop as funding was uncertain. We have recently been advised that projects may be funded and have asked Salem Township to request a nine-month extension from the State of Michigan and FEMA.

### Safety & Storm Preparedness

Sandy Pines management, the Board, and storm shelter committees have worked on several projects to replace infrastructure while improving safety. Sandy Pines is a campground where residents live in recreational vehicles, which fail poorly and offer little protection in severe storms. We have had near misses in the past and a tornado over Sandy Pines last year. Fortunately, only property damage occurred. Your family's safety should always be part of the plan. We surely do not want to look back and say we should have done this or that after a loss.

Members sometimes question projects such as storm shelters or the 26th Street bridge. Comments such as "Maybe we just need stick-built buildings or a traffic light" arise. The answer is life safety; life is precious and irreplaceable. The bridge over 26th Street was built to prevent injury or death. Convenience centers and the North Shore Center were built as storm shelters designed and engineered to last 50 years or more, require little maintenance, and provide near-absolute protection. Families sheltering must have confidence that the building will protect them. Lives are irreplaceable. While building for less may be possible, it would not improve safety. Cheaper buildings may result in questionable protection over the next 50 years.

### Closing Thoughts

I have worked for Sandy Pines for over 40 years. There has been distrust of management and the Board in the past. Distrust often resurfaces when money and increases are mentioned. Conspiracy stories, rumors, and gossip have often been unfounded. Management, committees, and the Board of Directors have you and your family's safety, recreational experience, and investment in mind.

I encourage you to go directly to the source with your questions to form your own opinions and gain understanding, whether that be management or a Board representative. Do not rely on gossip or social media. A plan to review infrastructure, replacements, priorities, and goals should have been made long ago.

Present management and Board members are faced with aging infrastructure, which can honestly be overwhelming. Funding to maintain and replace infrastructure and amenities will be one of the largest challenges moving forward. Members/owners and their families will be the recipients of what is decided. Expect a cost to replace aging infrastructure; nothing is free. What we do in the next year or so will influence present and future generations and memberships.



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# SALES NEWS

BY KENT LIVINGSTON [Kent@SandyPines.com](mailto:Kent@SandyPines.com)

## Spring Is in the Air... And So Is the Excitement

Spring is in the air at Sandy Pines. As the weather warms up, so do the phones! More and more people are reaching out, looking to get plugged into our wonderful Sandy Pines community.

Whether you're searching for the perfect weekend getaway or you're ready to purchase your own unit, I'm here to help guide you through the process from start to finish. My goal is to make the experience smooth, informed, and enjoyable.

If you — or someone you know — is interested in joining our community, don't hesitate to reach out. With the season approaching, new listings are becoming available regularly, and activity is picking up quickly.

## Stay Ahead of the Market

If you want to stay ahead of the game, the best way to do that is by signing up for our Listing Lookouts email list. This is the fastest way to be notified as soon as new listings hit the market.

You can subscribe through the Sales tab on our website so you never miss an opportunity to find your perfect site — or help a friend or family member find theirs.

In a market that moves quickly, being informed first makes all the difference.

## A Reminder for Sellers: Golf Cart License Plates

For those who are selling their site this season and plan to keep or independently sell your golf cart, please remember to remove the license plates (both front and back) and turn them in to Public Safety.

This helps ensure a smooth transition and keeps our records up to date. The license plates belong to the membership that is being transferred, so turning them in is an important step in the selling process.

Thank you for helping keep everything organized and running efficiently.

## Financing Opportunities

There have been recent conversations, and several people have reached out regarding financing options. Below is the current list of vendors that provide financing opportunities:

### Orbis Funding

Kevin Barker  
616-460-0721  
[kbarker@orbisfunding.com](mailto:kbarker@orbisfunding.com)

### 21st Mortgage

Lindsay York  
800-955-0021 ext. 1262  
[lindsayyork@21stmortgage.com](mailto:lindsayyork@21stmortgage.com)

## Triad Financial Services

Anna Stewart  
800-522-2013 ext. 2247  
[astewart@triadfs.com](mailto:astewart@triadfs.com)

## AutoMHatic

Jeff Anderson  
616-893-2767  
[janderson@automhatic.com](mailto:janderson@automhatic.com)

If you have questions about financing or would like to talk through your options, I'd be happy to connect and point you in the right direction.

Spring is an exciting time at Sandy Pines. New listings, new opportunities, and new families preparing to make memories. If you're thinking about buying or selling, let's connect.

Edward Jones

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



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# CAMPING NEWS

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

Hello Sandy Piners! There's something about the first hint of spring that makes us start counting down to the camping season. As opening day gets closer, the excitement builds! Soon the gates will open, campfires will glow, and another unforgettable season will begin.

To kick off the season, I am offering 50% campsites from April 17 to May 17. Please help spread the word!

Regular season costs:  
Campsites costs are \$80-\$90 per night  
Cabin costs are \$125-\$140 per night  
Trailer costs are \$190-\$275 per night

Sandy Pines offers a variety of accommodations, ensuring that every guest can find the perfect fit for their camping experience. They 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.

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 many memories.

If you're looking for a more comfortable camping experience, Sandy Pines rustic cabins provide the ideal blend of outdoor charm and indoor convenience. These cozy cabins feature all the essentials, including comfortable sleeping arrangements, lighting, air conditioning, and a mini fridge. The cabins are perfect for those who want to enjoy the camping experience without sacrificing too much comfort.

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, a full kitchen, and 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.

We have a 10% discount for associate members and a 10% military discount for those who are currently serving or have served in the military. Thank you for your service! To apply these discounts, please contact the camping department directly. You can make reservations via our website at [www.SandyPines.com](http://www.SandyPines.com), or give me a call at 616-896-8315 ext. 103 - I'd be happy to assist you. See you soon!

# LAKE MONTEREY GOLF NEWS

BY DAVID INGLES [David@GolfLMGC.com](mailto:David@GolfLMGC.com)

Believe it or not, it is almost spring! The weather has not been very friendly this winter but warmer days are ahead. We are hoping for a warm and pleasant March so we can let golfers enjoy our course.

## Course Improvements

We have big changes coming to LMGC for the 2026 season! We finished up a couple of projects at the end of last season. One being the bridge behind 18 green, and the other being a new bunker wall on hole 14. Both were greatly needed and look very nice.

As many of you have heard, we are going to extend two holes on the back 9. We will be converting holes 13 and 17 into par fours. The work on hole 13 has already begun. We are waiting on Mother Nature to cooperate so we can start working there again. Our goal is to have these changes ready by midseason. It will be fun to watch the progress throughout the spring and summer.

## Golf Pricing

We have been working on the pricing for the 2026 season. We had a tentative plan at the end of last year, but we are making some small changes. We will have everything listed by the time you read this post.

## New Golf Carts

We have made a big upgrade with our golf cart fleet for the 2026 season. It will be a nicer and quieter experience for anyone who needs to rent a cart. We also increased the number of carts we will have available.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone in the near future. Until then, please stay safe and healthy.

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