

# FOOTPRINTS

IN THE SAND

MAY 2022



**SANDYPINES**  
RECREATIONAL COMMUNITY  
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## PHONE NUMBERS

**Member Service** ..... 616.896.8315  
 Abbey Kooiman .....Ext. 100  
 Nicole Klinge.....Ext. 101

Fax Number..... 616.896.7409  
[memberservice@sandypines.com](mailto:memberservice@sandypines.com)

### Administration

Jeff..... Ext. 105  
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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  
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Kent Livingston.....Ext. 114  
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 Janele Tomes .....Ext. 103  
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**Communications** ..... 616.896.8315  
 Ian Mitchell .....Ext. 107  
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**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

Jack Schmidt, Manager..... 616.896.9334  
[parkgarden@sandypines.com](mailto:parkgarden@sandypines.com)

**Recreation Department**... 616.896.8315 x 800  
[Cathie@SandyPines.com](mailto:Cathie@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)

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## 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  
 Jack Schmidt ..... Park & Garden  
 Jeff Hopkins..... Park Inspector  
 Liz Robins..... Sales & Events Manager  
 Cathie Strevel..... Recreation Manager  
 Paul Schaaf..... Security Services

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

## CLUBS

Senior Adult Activities ..... Sue Stank

## OUR MISSION

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## RETAIL SERVICES

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 Dairy Dip ..... 616.405.5643  
 Just Your Style ..... 616.896.6788  
 Park & Garden Store ..... 616.896.9334  
 Park & Garden Rental Office ..... 616.896.9888

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS ~ MISSION STATEMENT ~

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





# PARK PRESIDENT NEWS

BY JEFF SWEITZER [Jeff@SandyPines.com](mailto:Jeff@SandyPines.com)

May is when we see the true blossoming of spring start to take effect. Activity in the park is no different. Members continue to return more and more each week from all over. We are grateful to see your safe return to the park. Thank You for stopping into the various areas of the park like Member Service, Public Safety and Park and Garden bringing treats, warm welcomes, and hugs. Our staff appreciates the positive comments and hellos. This month will continue to be busy for the staff, board, committees, members and volunteers as activities, events, projects, and important decisions start to ramp up. Members can stay up to date with what is going on by visiting our website, watching our social media posts, checking our bulletin boards, reading our E-News, picking up our Weekend Flyers, participating in our Board meetings and Face to Phase meetings. We are blessed to have many ways to communicate to our members things that are happening throughout our park and golf course. Visit our Communications update from Ian who has done great things with our website.

## New in 2022

We are excited to show off some new things throughout the park this season. Memorial Day is just around the corner this month. We have another opportunity to praise and remember those who fought for our freedoms and gave the ultimate sacrifice so we can live free in this great country. In remembrance of those who have fought, served, and died for our country, our awesome maintenance staff is excited to show off updates to our Veteran's Memorial. This talented crew did a fantastic job bringing it up to date while addressing some concerns our members had with their loved ones' bricks. The new veteran's wall with member names, new military branch emblems and led lighting has already spurred many positive responses from the membership. We encourage you to stop by especially at night to see this beautiful exhibit. God Bless America and God Bless those who sacrificed their lives for us!

Cart bridge is completed! We expect the bridge to be open for members to travel across by the middle of this month if not sooner. Our original

timing was delayed by 1-2 weeks based on supply chain issues with components. Paving, guard rails, fencing, lighting, and cameras will be complete to ensure safety for all who travel. Speed limit will be 5 MPH. Proceed with caution while enjoying the view of Lake Monterey as you travel from Phase 3 to Phase 6!

Our new member management system is up and running. We continue to tweak it as our staff maneuvers through it. We thank you for your patience as we iron out some of the bumps. We would like to once again send a huge Thank You to our Member Service team, Abbey Kooiman and Nicole Klinge, our Finance Team, Kimberly Williams and Shannon Dykstra, Janele Tomes in Camping, Liz Robins in Sales, and lastly Joyce Cook in Maintenance. This team once again went above and beyond as they opened Member Service two Saturday's in April to allow members to pick up their stickers. As a note, our regular Saturday hours do not start until this month (see Member Service update), but this team made it a priority to get returning members their stickers. We had a great turnout from the membership who were very appreciative of our team's service. Great job! Don't forget to stop in to pick up your stickers.

New vending machines have been placed around the park for member, guest, and camper convenience. Feedback from these groups

last year was that the old machines were rarely stocked and working. We moved to a new vendor and placed additional machines throughout the park.

Please check out our Recreation Department update for new activities that are on the calendar for this month.

## Things to Think About

Along with many new projects taking place in 2022, we have some decisions coming due this season and in the future. This is the month to start preparing for the decision-making process.

The Lake Committee presented studies based on lakes in Minnesota who are having similar reviews of wake surfacing, wake boarding and boats producing large amounts of energy displacing water impacting shorelines, lake bottoms and lake front property. The Lake Committee will be providing the board with updated language to the ballast rule to make a final decision moving forward. Until this language is provided, reviewed and voted on by the board, the board has decided to maintain the current ballast rule which is a ban from using your ballast on Lake Monterey.

We will be reviewing a couple Bylaw updates to clean up language to make them more current

*Continued on Page 4*

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to today. Per our bylaws, any recommended changes will be moved to a membership vote. We will keep you posted on old language and proposed new language in preparation for any membership vote.

We discussed during the April board meeting a couple of key projects the park will be reviewing. Our current Phase 1 pavilion where board meetings used to be held needs major updates. We will be presenting a recommendation for replacing this structure with a new South Shore Building. Renderings will start to circulate over this month. As the board reviews this proposal, if accepted, it would be moved to a membership vote. This project would follow the FEMA grant funds process to support the cost of the building. A decision to utilize approved capital funds for a current pavilion or build a new structure will be brought forward to our membership.

The Pool Committee continues to review many options to address additional aquatic amenities throughout the park. As the committee narrows down their recommendations, we will

communicate next steps to our members. There are funds currently in the Capital Reserve for a pool, however, funds in 2017 are not funds in 2022. This means our membership once again will be tasked with deciding on a new pool.

Time is closing in on a couple of critical assessments. As we start the annual budgeting process this month, we will be revisiting the Lake Monterey Golf Course and Sandy Pines Wilderness Trails Capital Reserve assessments. The LMGC assessment is in year 7 of 10 while the Sandy Pines Capital Reserve is in year 5 of 10. Plans to start thinking about extending these assessments will be discussed while budgets are being reviewed. As our bylaws state, any changes or requested extensions will go to a membership vote.

Lastly, we have an opportunity to improve our Spectrum Charter products. Spectrum communicated to Sandy Pines this season the coaxial cable and modems used in our park are significantly outdated. They have proposed a new project that would require infrastructure upgrades

to bring the park up to date with providing live streaming TV and faster wifi speeds. This proposal would require a membership vote as the project will be extended to all members within the park.

As you can see from the above list of items in front of us, we may see much activity on the ballots this season. Stay tuned as more information is brought forward to the membership to prepare you to be part of the decision-making process.

### Happy Mother's Day

To all you wonderful mothers in our community, we wish you a very Happy Mother's Day. Your love, kindness, patience and nurturing has lasting effects on all of us kids! It is from a mother's love that children have an excellent foundation in life. God Bless all of the Mothers who are lovingly there for us!

As always, we are blessed to have great leadership from our board, strong performance from our operations staff and excellent members supporting all of us. We look forward to a busy season and ask for God to help fill us with knowledge and wisdom as we all make important decisions for our wonderful park and golf course. All things are done through Him!

"Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: 'Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.'" – Proverbs 31:28-31

"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way, it is not irritable or resentful, it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." – 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

### Memorial Day Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, during this month of remembrance for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms we enjoy every day, we consider how they have followed in the footsteps of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Please hold our servicemen and women in your strong arms. Amen.

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# BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE

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

Season #52 is finally underway after what seemed like an eternal off-season. Some visual changes are evident, a welcome reminder as to the amount of work that transpires even in the cold months. Ben and his maintenance team deserve multiple thumbs-up, be sure and say "Thanks!" each time you see their familiar white work trucks.

While improvements are necessary and welcomed, many also find great joy in reuniting with friends and neighbors. This familial atmosphere is a great draw at SP, creating memories that can last a lifetime. And for those relatively new to the park, fear not. You will undoubtedly find wonderful

people willing to share and help with anything you desire. We have a common unwritten goal at SP and just about everyone gets it. Hang around the park long enough and you too will have that "Aha!" moment.

This exists even away from the park. While in Florida this winter, by mere happenstance, we met another couple at a brewery. The four of us had been in the park cumulatively over 40 years yet we had never met before. When we did, though, it was like we were already friends. And we are, as we share that common bond that is SP. You can bet we will run into each other again this summer, this time intentionally.

So why not make a point this season to get to know a neighbor better, or perhaps welcome a newbie. Reaching out to a stranger isn't for everyone, but it's important to remember that you are a stranger here but once. Sandy Pines offers something for everyone and yet, despite our external differences, you'll find we're all very similar. We on the board always welcome your comments and suggestions at [BoardOfDirectors@SandyPines.com](mailto:BoardOfDirectors@SandyPines.com). Here's hoping we run into one another this season!

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## PARK UPDATE

### Restaurant and General Store Update

The Park wishes to provide an update on the Restaurant and General Store within our park. Many of our members may not be aware of pending litigation between Sandy Pines and Mark Ippel, the operator of "The Outback" and "The General Store" at Sandy Pines. We would like to bring the membership up to date regarding these issues.

An initial lawsuit was filed to resolve a landlord-tenant relationship between Sandy Pines and Mr. Ippel. When Mr. Ippel fell behind on payments that were due and owing under the Lease, the Park President spent several months during the fall of 2019 and the beginning of 2020 trying to patiently work through the deficiency. Ultimately, and over time, Mr. Ippel paid most of the amount due, but would not pay the final balance, which was primarily the utility usage incurred by The Outback / General Store. Sandy Pines pays the electrical bill, and Mr. Ippel pays that amount back to Sandy Pines at the end of the season, as part of a year-end reconciliation. This is the same process members pay for electric within the park, yet Mr. Ippel refused to pay.

A second lawsuit was filed involving Sandy Pines' efforts to collect money due and owing under the Contract between Mark Ippel and the previous owner of the restaurant and store. Mr. Ippel

purchased The Outback assets from the previous owner and still current member of the park. Mr. Ippel refused to pay in-full to the previous owner under the contract. Lacking the resources to pursue litigation as the sale of the restaurant and store assets were to be the previous owner's retirement, the previous owner assigned her interest in the Purchase Agreement and related documents to Sandy Pines. When Mr. Ippel again refused to pay the amounts due and owing under the contract, Sandy Pines filed this second lawsuit to recover the balance that was owed (which was \$25,500). Mr. Ippel proceeded to file a number of counterclaims against Sandy Pines.

Ultimately, Sandy Pines filed with the Court, asking the Court to dismiss all of Mr. Ippel's counterclaims and enter judgment for Sandy Pines. On April 4, 2022, the Allegan County Circuit Court entered an Order, dismissing all of Mr. Ippel's counterclaims, and entering Judgment for Sandy Pines and against Mr. Ippel in the amount of \$25,500 (plus costs, interest and statutory attorneys' fees). In addition, Sandy Pines is pursuing recovery of its attorneys' fees and court costs pursuant to Article IX, Section 5 of the Sandy Pines' Bylaws, as Mr. Ippel is a member of Sandy Pines. It is possible, of course, that Mr. Ippel may appeal this decision. If he does, he will need to post a bond for the amount owed under the Judgment.

There are still a few pending matters in the initial lawsuit (the Landlord-Tenant case). Sandy Pines has filed with the Court to dismiss Mr. Ippel's counterclaims as well. In addition, Sandy Pines is asking the Court to rule, as a matter of law, that the Lease term expires April 30, 2022, as clearly outlined in the Lease. The current Lease with Mr. Ippel is clear stating, "The term of this lease shall commence May 1, 2018 and shall terminate April 30, 2022". Despite this clear and unambiguous language of the Lease, Mr. Ippel is arguing that the lease term should be extended for another year. All of this remains in the Court's hands. Similar to the other case, Sandy Pines intends to pursue recovery of its attorneys' fees and court costs, pursuant to the Bylaws as well as the terms of the Lease.

Why do we bring this to your attention now? Again, we are simply writing to inform you of the status of the lawsuits between Sandy Pines and Mr. Ippel. It has been a long journey, with many delays due to COVID and other matters outside of our control. Notwithstanding, Sandy Pines fully believes that justice will ultimately prevail in both cases. We hope to provide another update to the membership following Court hearings taking place this month. Thank you for your patience in this matter.

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# MEMBER SERVICE NEWS

BY ABBEY KOOIMAN & NICOLE KLINGE [MemberService@SandyPines.com](mailto:MemberService@SandyPines.com)

## Off Season Office Hours

Monday – Friday: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Saturday (Starting May 14th): 8 am to 12 pm

Sunday: Closed

## Important Dates

5/7 - Flea Market

5/14 - Saturday Pump outs & Member service hours start (Sat member service hours 8am-12pm)

5/20 - Board of Directors Meeting

5/21 - Face 2 Phase Meeting & Park and Garden Flower Sale

5/27 - Marina Opens, Parkwide Scavenger Hunt #1 Starts

5/28 - Memorial Day Flea Market & Pancake Breakfast

5/30 - Administration office Closed.

## Contact Information

Phone: 616-896-8315 x 0

Fax: 616-896-7409

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

May is finally here and we couldn't be more excited. The month of May brings so many wonderful things, the start of summer, Memorial Day and it's when most of our members venture back to Sandy Pines. We also have some exciting things going on this month so make sure to check the calendar for those events.

Our system switch is well underway, and we wanted to thank you all for your patience as we get everything worked out and built up. It's been a lot of work, but we are confident you will appreciate the new features as much as we have. We are still working out some kinks related to the online payment portal, scheduling pump outs and the link to sign up for flea markets. In the meantime, if you call the office, we can help you out with scheduling any of these items.

## Spectrum/Charter

Now that we are back in the full swing of things spectrum techs will be back in the park, we have a vast list of installs to get done as well as a

few things on our service call list. If you require a service call, please give member service a call and we will get you added to the list to give the techs when they come out. As soon as the modems arrive, we will also start calling to get those installed. You do need to be present to have that modem installed and you will want to have a router present as well so the tech can test the connection.

## Sticker Pick Up

We still have some stickers here in the office for members to collect. To reiterate, you can pick up your stickers at the member service office during any open office hours. Those again are Monday through Friday 8am to 4pm and starting May 14th Saturdays 8am-12pm.

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# FINANCE & ACCOUNTING NEWS

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

The 2022 season is upon us and we are so blessed to meet and greet each of you back for another great summer!

## 2022 Seasonal Renewals

Renewal statements were processed, and your stickers are available for pick-up in the Administration office. We will be receiving confirmation from the member when the stickers are received and verify everything on your membership account is correct. Payments for these statements are due April 25, 2022.

I would also like to personally thank each of our members for your patience and diligence in keeping up with your accounts while our staff is adjusting to the new system in preparation for this season. Your commitment to Sandy Pines and the support of our staff is greatly appreciated.

## Financial Statement Review

The Board of Directors met April 22nd, 2022 to review the November 2021 through March 2022 financial statements for both SPWT and LMGC. A copy of the financial statements can be found on the newly renovated website under the FINANCE page.

The Board will be meeting May 20, 2022 to review the April 2022 Financial Statements for both SPWT and LMGC as well as the first draft consideration for the 2022-2023 season budgets. Please refer to the Finance page on the Sandy Pines website for all financial updates.

A financial summary for both Sandy Pines Wilderness Trails, Inc. and Lake Monterey Golf Course, LLC as of March 2022 Year-to-Date; is provided below:

## SPWT:

- Operation cash is \$630k or 21% above the prior year March 2021 balance, with the receipt of new season payments, etc... \$84k of LMGC receivables on the LMGC financial statements will be reimbursed and reduce this cash balance in the month of April 2022.
- Asset Replacement Cash, Capital Funds, is \$789k or 185% over the prior year March 2021 balance with the receipt of 2022 Capital Reserve Dues.
- The FEMA receivable reimbursement is currently recorded in the OTAR (Other Receivables) account.
- Total Net Income is approximately \$56k or 3% higher than prior year, March 2021 YTD.
- Total Income for SPWT is \$320k over prior year and 35% under the annual budget for the fiscal year, which the difference will be recouped through operations during the 2022 season.
- COGS for the year is 12% higher than prior year. Timing differences in purchase of COGS created the increase in Park and Garden Inventory and decrease in Happy Shack inventory.
- Total Operating Expenses as of March 2022 YTD is \$175k over prior year with 59.1%

remaining to reach the budget for fiscal year 2022. Other Operating Expense makes up \$103k, Income Tax makes up \$9k and Property Tax \$23k of the \$175k difference.

- Total Other Income had a significant decrease over the past 5 months with the Schwab Investments. There are no concerns as this is expected with the current financial environment. The overall decrease is equal to \$87k.
- Administration has an overall \$36k reduction in total income March 2022 YTD. Merchandise Sales is down \$1.5k (prior year included 50th Merchandise), Inspection Income is down \$2.5k, Sticker Income is down \$2k, Flea Market Income is down \$2.5k, and Newsletter Ad Income is down \$19k. Administrative

*Continued on Page 8*



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wages is down \$100k as a result of staff changes over the past years. Tree Removal Expense is \$13k higher than prior year with timing of clean-up in green areas.

- Maintenance Income is up \$8k as a result of timing with winterizations and holding tank income is up \$10k this March 2022 YTD. Overall Maintenance Expense is \$70k over prior year and half of the increase is related to salary adjustments and HR changes,
- Security Total Income is \$35k March 2022 YTD compared to prior year and specifically related to Sticker Income. Salaries is up just \$10k with the reduced staff and significant overtime payouts through the YTD. Health Insurance is up \$12k and relates to the changes in family demographics with new hires on board.
- Recreation Income is showing an increase of \$2.8k and is attributable to great success with the Winterfest. COGS is down with the current structure and timing of preparation for

the season. Social Activities is up \$5k with timing commitments to lock events in for the season. The increase in wages is attributable to staffing restructure with a Recreation manager year around.

- Under Resort, Member Electric Income is \$50k higher than prior year due to the prior year rate and usage flowing through current year assessments. Lake Development Income is \$83k higher with the fee structure changes to help support the lake. Lake Maintenance cost March 2022 ytd is \$30k higher than prior year.
- Golf Cart Rentals is showing a \$9k increase in income March 2022 ytd.
- Retail Bullpen Storage Income is down \$13k and due to the restructure of the new software system. Income catch-up will come in the new season with the true-up of reservations. The \$10k increase in gasoline expense is only used internally and is held in inventory in the tank currently.

- Sales Commission Income is \$47k higher than prior year March 2022 ytd and Transfer Fee Income is down \$20k. Many FSBO are moving to sales within the park. Seasonal camping income is up \$15k and Camping Income is up \$70k from prior year March 2022 ytd. The increase in Salaries and Wages in Sales is due to organization wide staff restructure. Rental Expense is up \$9k and attributable to TLC done within the cabins and sites in the off-season.

### LMGC:

- Activity overall within the LMGC Golf Course was minimal and comparable to prior off-season reports.
- \$84k of LMGC receivables on the LMGC financial statements will be reimbursed and reduce this cash balance in the month of April 2022.

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## RECREATION NEWS

BY CATHIE STREVEL [Cathie@SandyPines.com](mailto:Cathie@SandyPines.com)

### Contact Information

Phone: 616.896.8315 x 800

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

The 2022 Season is here, and the Recreation Department is ramping up. We are in the process of finishing up the paperwork of roughly 55+ employees for this summer. In the next few weeks, we will be conducting ropes course training, orientation, and preparing for the new activities this month. Cinco De Mayo on May 7th and a Flannel Fest Chili Cookoff on May 21st. All the activities for the summer can be found on our new website.

As we continue to add activities and events in the Rec Department, the need for sponsors becomes an important part of the success of these activities and allows us to add more into the end of the summer. We can customize a package, please call me and we can discuss what works best for your business.

How can you sponsor an activity? Here are a few examples:

1. Title sponsor for the Chili Cookoff, Duck

Derby, Teen Weekend, Cardboard Boat Race, or Hawaiian Luau.

2. Your Company name on the wristbands, or banner for Family Fun Day.
3. Sponsoring Cardboard Boat heat races or category winners.
4. Putting your name on the Rainbow Color Run banners, or shirts.
5. Sponsor a Hotdog and Brat Bars with banners.
6. Sponsor an Amazing Race Team.

In 2022 we will be doing a Volunteer Reward Program. Every time you volunteer for an event, we will add one ticket in your name to a drawing for some very nice prizes. These prizes will be drawn and distributed at "The Volunteer Luncheon" hosted by Jeff and Cathie at the end of the season. This will include those that volunteered at the Winter Fest.

Our flag does not fly because the wind moves it. It flies with the last of each soldier who died protecting it. A very sincere thank you to all that served!

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Mark your Calendar  
for Upcoming May  
Activities!

Cinco De Mayo

Saturday, May 7th

Flannel Fest Chili Cook Off

Saturday, May 21st

Memorial Day Weekend

May 27th - May 30th





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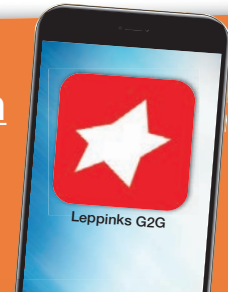
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# CAMPING NEWS

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 and welcome back! We have been busy over the winter updating our cabins and trailers and doing inventory, making sure campers will have everything they need while enjoying their stay with us. Every cabin and trailer has been inspected and cleaned, ready for your friends and family! Our trailers have brand new dishes, pots and pans, coffee mugs, and cups. New sleeper sofas have been replaced in three of the trailers, and we have all new mattresses in Phase 1, Phase 3, and Phase 5 cabins. We still

have campsites, trailers, and cabins available for the 2022 season! 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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# SECURITY NEWS

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

## Office Hours

Emergency Security Staff is onsite 24 hours/day.



## INTRODUCTION

Hello! My name is Paul Schaaf and I am the new Public Safety manager at Sandy Pines. I have been with Sandy Pines for the past year working in the public safety department, and just recently took on this new position. Prior to being at Sandy Pines, I worked as a police officer for 24 years. I live in Jenison with my wife, Wendy, daughters, Hope and Emma, and dog, Coconut. I look forward to meeting all of you and having a fun, safe season. You can contact me by email at [Paul@SandyPines.com](mailto:Paul@SandyPines.com), or by phone at 616-896-9006.

## March Statistics

In March of 2022, Security responded to a total of 43 incidents. The types of calls appear above:

Alcohol	1
Assist	5
Golf cart/Vehicle	1
Illegal/Improper dumping	4
Lost and Found	1
Open door/window/gate	13
Property damage	9
Speed/Traffic	3
Suspicious	3
Tree/storm/weather	3

## Golf Cart Testing

It's that time of year again for new golf cart drivers (12 years and up) to get their licenses. We know that this is an exciting event for these kids and want to make sure they can get their licenses. We have several group testing dates set for groups of 50, first come first serve. We will also be conducting testing at the Public Safety Office, as time allows. The current group dates are:

May: 7 – North Shore Building (4-5:30PM)

May: 21 – Phase 1 Pavilion (9-10:30AM)

June: 4 & 18 – Phase 1 Pavilion (9-10:30AM)

July: 16 & 30 – Phase 1 Pavilion (9-10:30AM)

August: 13 & 27 – Phase 1 Pavilion (9-10:30AM)

Sept.: 10 – Phase 1 Pavilion (9-10:30AM)

Please bring proof of age and a parent or guardian must be present to sign a hold harmless clause and approve the youth to operate a golf cart. Cost is \$10 and will be billed to the membership site.

## Public Safety Office Update

The Public Safety Office is not requiring appointments this summer. We are open, and happy to serve you. ....

# SAFETY NEWS

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

## Golf Cart License Plates

If you have not picked up your Golf Cart License plates, please stop at the Public Safety Office to pick up your plates. Please bring your golf cart with you so Public Safety can apply a golf cart vehicle identification number to your golf cart at the time your license plates are issued. It is presently required that all golf carts in the Park have license plates displayed on the front and rear.

The golf cart license plate should be in a position that is always clearly visible and unobstructed.

## Contractors Signed In As A Guest To Perform Work In The Park

Presently contractors that are not registered contractors with the Park must have a guests pass submitted by the Member/owner of a membership and be signed in as guest. The Member/Owner of the Membership must be present while the contractor is in the Park.

Currently the rules committee is discussing contractors and whether the member must be present with contractors signed in as guests.

## Watercraft & Personal Flotation Devices

If you have a watercraft you may want to take the time now to have it checked and serviced before the summer season. If you wait until the summer boating season you may experience a long wait time for repairs or tune-ups. Summer is only so long. Take the opportunity now to have maintenance and preventative maintenance taken care of so you and your family can utilize your watercraft for the summer.

Check your flotation devices condition. If you have torn or ripped flotation devices replace them. If your youth have outgrown the personal flotation device replace them with a proper fitting flotation device.

If you have a watercraft in the park it must display a Sandy Pines issued watercraft sticker. Four types of watercraft stickers are available with different uses or permissions.

- 1) Land Motorized watercraft parking decal.

This watercraft decal permits the member to put in the water and pull out of the water and store on the site or in the bullpen.

- 2) Water motorized watercraft parking decal. This decal permits the member to park at a boat stake on the water at their assigned boat stake.
- 3) Water non-motorized watercraft decal. This decal permits a non-motorized boat to park at an assigned boat stake on the water.
- 4) Non-motorized watercraft parking. Permits the non-motorized watercraft to park on land at the members site or at a dock.

Watercraft may not be stored in the green area. Watercraft must display a Sandy Pines registration sticker.

## Membership Cards

Member/owners, their spouses, children, parents, and grandchildren may have membership cards to access Sandy Pines. If you need membership cards for any of the previous stop at the Public Safety Office. Membership cards must be ordered by the member/owner of the membership.

## Leaf Dump

Please do not bring items from home to dispose of in the leaf dump. The compactors at the leaf dump are for items that come from the Park. A recent quick review of who brings items from home indicated that 37 of 50 people that brought items from home were associate members.

Card access may be changed in the future for persons other than owners/members. Access by associates will still be permitted into this area with golf carts. Please relate to your associate members and grandchildren that the compactors at Sandy Pines are only for items from within Sandy Pines.

## Proximity Card Upgrade

If you currently have a membership card that activates a gate by swiping your card at a card reader at a gate you may upgrade to a proximity card at no cost. If you have a magnetic wipe card be aware that in October of 2022 the swipe card readers will no longer function for card access.

If you have the small proximity disk on the back

of your membership card we will not be updating these cards at no cost. The small disk on the back of the card is a proximity device.

## E-Bikes

Are E-bikes permitted in the park? Yes  
In a recent Rules meeting E-bikes were discussed. It was stated that no rules in the Sandy Pines rule's handbook prevent the use of an E-bike in the park. These are not considered motor vehicles by the State of Michigan. E-bikes must follow traffic regulations and signage within the park. E-bike must comply with the State of Michigan's definition and operation of E-bikes. E-bikes must have a label indicating the class of E-bike.

*Continued on Page 12*

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**Jerry: 616-896-6780**  
**616-862-4338 - cell**  
**Harold: 616-422-2289**

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[Facebook.com/Jamestownpatio](https://www.facebook.com/Jamestownpatio)



## Safety News / Continued From Page 11

Under Michigan law, an e-bike is defined as a device that is equipped with the following:

- A seat or saddle
- Fully operable pedals for human propulsion
- An electric motor not greater than 750 watts

In addition, U.S. Federal law considers electric bicycles in the same category as traditional bicycles providing, they meet certain conditions:

- Maximum speed of 20 mph when using motor-only power\*
- Motor power does not exceed 750 watts (1 h.p.)

### MICHIGAN E-BIKE LAWS SPECIFY CLASSES OF ELECTRIC BICYCLES

- **Class 1** – The motor provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance after the bicycle reaches 20 mph..

- **Class 2** – The motor is able to propel the bicycle without human power but cannot provide assistance at speeds exceeding 20 mph.
- **Class 3** – The motor provides assistance only when the rider (14 or older) is pedaling and ceases to function when the bicycle reaches 28 mph. A Class 3 e-bike is also equipped with a speedometer.

In Michigan, riders under 18 or those operating or riding on a Class 3 e-bike must wear helmets.

While other e-bike riders are not legally required to wear helmets, doing so is recommended. If you are wearing a helmet, you reduce your odds in sustaining a serious injury in the event of an accident.

The law specifically excludes e-bikes from the definition of “motor vehicles,” which is the

same for mopeds and motorcycles. This means purchasing auto insurance for an electric bike isn't required. However, it is recommended that e-bike owners contact their insurance agent to see if it is covered under their homeowner's or renter's insurance policy. It is suggested to purchase a rider on your homeowner's or renter's policy. There is also bicycle-specific insurance.

### Job Openings at Public Safety

Public safety has positions open as a gate attendant in phase 3, Public Safety Office staff and Public Safety Patrol Staff. These openings are for Full time seasonal and part time seasonal. If interested, please stop by the Public Safety Office and pick up an application or send a resume to [Steve@SandyPines.com](mailto:Steve@SandyPines.com).

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## SALES & EVENTS NEWS

BY LIZ ROBINS [Liz@SandyPines.com](mailto:Liz@SandyPines.com)

### Trusts

Welcome back everyone! Sandy Pines is hoping for an amazing season. With many old members leaving and new ones coming in we need to talk about a subject to protect your membership and personal items. Trusts. If you wish to leave your membership and personal items to anyone, a trust is necessary to avoid probate. Please provide SP with a copy to put on file. Then we will have it recorded in the system. There is a form that needs to be signed and you can get that at member service. Please refer to the handbook for more details. See pages 8 & 9. You can find the handbook online at [SandyPines.com/Members](http://SandyPines.com/Members)

and scrolling down until you see the Handbook/ Rulebook button. Or if you are reading this online you can simply click this link: [Sandy Pines Handbook](#).

### North Shore

Sandy Pines is pleased to have a dual-purpose FEMA building for shelter and special events. Last year was the first time the membership used the space. There were many events, parties, remote workers, and Sandy Pines group activities that were held. For the most part it went smoothly. Any event reservation and/or usage of the space needs to be communicated to the

Events Manager via email, call, or walk in. Each space will be designated to a member or group. To avoid overlapping or overbooking we need to have the space reserved! There will be many Sandy Pines groups occupying the space with preapproval. We want to avoid and conflict or confusion. As always please leave the space as you found it.

If you have any questions, please or email me at [Liz@SandyPines.com](mailto:Liz@SandyPines.com) or call me at 616-896-8315 Ext 113.

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## CHAPEL NEWS

BY DAVE VAN NOORD

### May Chapel Schedule

Worship at the North Shore Building at 10:00 AM

May 8 Dave Van Noord speaking on our chapel summer theme  
“The Goodness of God”

May 15 Rev. Carolyn Cammenga Emeritus

Worship at the Lakeside Chapel at 10:00 AM

May 22 Rev. Ken Van Wyk Emeritus

May 29 Todd Van Ek Mission India

Opening gospel concert at the Lakeside Chapel at 6:00 PM  
May 29 3 Heath Brothers (a favorite group from last summer)

Pancake Breakfast at the Flea Market from 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM  
May 28 featuring regular pancakes, chocolate chip pancakes,  
blueberry pancakes, sausages, and beverages!

Everyone Welcome!!

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# LAKE MONTEREY GOLF NEWS

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

We are so excited to get this season underway enjoying the fresh outdoors and hunting for our golf ball. The month of May already has plenty to look forward to.

## The 19th Hole Grill at Lake Monterey Golf Course

Come join us for lunch at "The 19th Hole Grill" at Lake Monterey Golf Course. One of our new features starting May 16th, we will be offering lunch specials from 11:00a.m. until 1:00p.m., Monday through Friday. Each week we will advertise through the weekend flyer, Sandy Pines and Lake Monterey Golf Course websites. You can also see the weekly menu on an advertising board at the clubhouse. Last but not least you can check out the menu through email blast for the upcoming week. Each weekday we will feature either a sandwich basket or a main dish with sides. To top off your meal we will have a dessert available if you so choose. Even if you don't golf, stop out and have lunch. Mention this

article and receive 10% off the total cost of your meal through the end of May.

## Special Ribbon Cutting and Covered Bridge Dedication

On Saturday, May 21st, we are planning a fun get together to honor those that donated and devoted their time to put the final touches on our new covered bridge. Come see the final phase of having lights put on the bridge and the plaques. We will serve burgers and hot dogs on the grill at special pricing. Come, enjoy yourself in the games that include corn-hole contest, putting contest, chipping contest and others. Food will be served starting at 11:00 am. Recognition to the ones that worked on the bridge will be at 1:00 o'clock along with a special ribbon cutting ceremony. Proceeds from the sale of food and drink will be used for future special projects at the golf course. Everyone is welcomed to partake of the fun.

Other special events coming up in June:

- June 11th - Karaoke  
Watch for special announcement regarding some exciting new details about Karaoke day.
- June 15th - Junior Golf League  
Starting at 9:00am, Leagues running 6 weeks on every Wednesday morning.
- June 18th - Poker Run with lunch  
More details to follow.
- June 25th - LMGC Member/Guest  
Starting at 8:00am. Details still to come.
- June 26th - Father/Child Outing  
Details to come.

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## Our Golf Season is here!!

- "The 19th Hole Grill at LMGC" lunch special running every Monday through Friday throughout the season.
- Leagues are forming now! Anyone interested can stop in the pro shop to get information on spots still available.
- May 21st Covered Bridge Ribbon Cutting Day.
- June 11th Karaoke - watch for details.
- June 15th June Golf League - running for 6 Wednesdays.
- June 25th - The LMGC Member/Guest Outing.
- June 26th - Father/Child Outing - at 1:00pm.
- July 30th - Red Tee Challenge

# COMMUNICATIONS NEWS

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

## Website

The New website is LIVE! Head over to [SandyPines.com](http://SandyPines.com) to take a look!

There are plenty of new features with the intention to make the new website easier to navigate and find the things you need! The new calendar is my personal favorite feature - be sure to check it out in the list view! You can also subscribe to the calendar right on your cell phone.

There are still a few minor projects we are working on for the website. We will continue to make updates and wrap up the remainder of our projects on the back end! Thank you for your patience.

The goal is to keep the website lean and as up to date as possible. This will help when searching for items!

We hope you enjoy the new site. As always, keep an eye out on our various communication channels as there will be a few exciting new things launching on the website this year!



## E-News

As our E-News continues to grow, it is becoming one of our most important tools! The E-News is an email campaign that is sent out every Friday during the regular season, and every other Friday during the off season. This email blast will be sent directly to your inbox, and features everything from Park Event & Activities Information,

Frequently Asked Member Questions, Park Alerts & Updates, and all things in between. It is easy to subscribe! You can scan the QR code below, or just head over to [SandyPines.com/E-News](http://SandyPines.com/E-News), and fill out the "Subscribe to our E-News" form. You may unsubscribe from these emails at any time.

## Sandy Pines OFFICIAL Facebook

The Sandy Pines Official Facebook page is another great tool to follow what is happening during the day to day at Sandy Pines! Our official Facebook page can be found at [Facebook.com/SandyPinesWildernessTrails](https://www.facebook.com/SandyPinesWildernessTrails). We are aware that there are multiple other pages on Facebook, and those pages are great for asking quick community questions. However, the communications department does not have access to those pages and can not answer your questions directly on there. If you have any questions feel free to message the Sandy Pines Facebook directly! We try our best to answer all messages within 24 hours.

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# PARK & GARDEN NEWS

BY JACK SCHMIDT [Jack@SandyPines.com](mailto:Jack@SandyPines.com)

Murphy's Law always works. Plans to start softener installation stalled by freezing temperatures. We did place tanks by the units but did not hook them up. As the weather gets warmer we will be coming around to finish the install. Thanks to our water softener customers for understanding the delay in installing the softeners. At this point, most of the softeners have been delivered.

Even though the store does not open for retail sales until May 21st we are still here and you can stop buy if you need propane, RV products, and softeners. We will have someone in the store from 10 am to 4 pm each day starting on April 25 who will be stocking shelves but can assist you in needs.

The park is coming alive again and in a few short weeks we will be open during regular hours. Just to remind all the members we are currently installing water softeners and making deliveries by appointment only. Two ways to get in touch with the store is to call 616-896-9334 and leave a voicemail and we will call you back or email us at [ParkGarden@SandyPines.com](mailto:ParkGarden@SandyPines.com). Be sure to include your phone number and site number and we will contact you by phone or a return email.

If you are interested in getting a reservation for a golf cart you can email the following information and we will send you a confirmation for the dates you request. Be sure to include the Date to pick up and to return; time for pick-up (during store hours); type of cart (4 or 6 passenger); Site

number; phone number and email address. Or you can call 616-896-9888 and leave a voice mail. Remember that the holiday weekends and garage sale days are very busy and order your carts early. We have a 24-hour cancellation period so if you need to cancel a cart order you can do so 24 hours before the rental time with no expense. If you don't cancel until the day of the rental there is a charge of 1 day rental. Regardless of the pick up time the cart is always due back to the store by 10 am each morning. You can also reserve the golf carts online by going to the Sandy Pines website and clicking on the button for reservations.

If you are in need of a power washer to clean your site we will have two available to rent from

*Continued on Page 15*



the store. We will have small tools available for rent this year and adding more as the need arises. The rental Center hours are Monday Through Thursday and Saturday from 9 am to 4 pm; Friday from 9 am to 7 pm; and Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm.

For those wanting to pick up a water softener for self-install, we will be at the store weekdays setting up inventory so just stop by during regular hours. Saturday will be by appointment only. Deliveries can be made of bulk products Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

**Store hours this year will be full time starting on May 21. We will be open from 9 am to 4 pm Monday through Saturday. Sunday hours will begin on June 5th and will be from noon to 4pm.**

We are currently stocking the shelves for the season. If you don't find an item you need on our shelves let us know what you need and we will attempt to stock it for the membership.

Also remember that the Park and Garden can fill or exchange your propane tanks. WE DO FILL PROPANE.

Remember that even though we might be a little more expensive than the large stores outside the park – The Park and Garden profit goes to help Sandy Pines. We are here to serve you.

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## PARK INSPECTOR NEWS

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

Hopefully you all are getting settled in for a great 2022 season. It's been a long winter and I'm sure we are all ready to enjoy the comforts of our park and to see old friends. Lots of new things have gone on this winter within the park from our great maintenance team and outside contractors including the addition of our new bridge. I just wanted to touch base on a few things this month. In last month's footprints I stated that the clean up deadline was the beginning of June. The actual deadline date is June 10th, sorry for any confusion. With that being said, there is plenty of time for us all to make our sites looking great for the season. Some reminders to take into

consideration to minimize fees for noncompliance are:

1. Sticks/brush clean up
2. Lots cleaned of trash and unwanted items
3. Mold or moss growing on unit siding and or roof
4. Lots just looking their best

We all enjoy and deserve to have the park we love looking its best. Also, if you are on a park pump out plan please keep the path to your valve clear and easy for our team to get in and out safely and efficiently.

I will start doing park drive throughs after June 10th to make sure we have all taking care of our lot clean ups and deciding on violations if they are needed. I am working with my tree contractors for tree removal/trimming in the green spaces. So if you see any please let me know and I will get them on the list.

Thanks for everything you all do to make our park really shine.

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### *Sincere Sympathy*

*Sympathy is extended to:*

**Carolyn Nielsen**, site 803, on the passing of her husband, **Gary Nielsen**, on March 22, 2022. Sympathy is also extended to their children Larry Nielsen and Tara (Jim) Babbitt, three step children; Trevor (Lori) Tooker, Traci (Rick) Costen, and Jason (Bethany) Tooker, several grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

The family of **Sue DeGroat**, Site K284, on her passing on November 20, 2021. Sue was a member of Sandy Pines was 1976. She is survived by her children: Alida (Roy) Hause, Joel DeGroat, Jacqueline (Jason Rice) DeGroat; sister, Martha Lee Davenport, and their families.

**Gloria Gabrielse**, site 45, on the passing of her husband, **Frank Gabrielse**, on February 23, 2022 in Florida.

The family of **Malcolm (Mal) Scott**, who passed away on March 1, 2022, at the age of 89. Mal lived and enjoyed his life at Sandy Pines, where he was an avid golfer for over 30 years at Lake Monterey Golf Course. Mal is survived by his son, Michael (Patricia) Scott, site 459, of Battle Creek, and several grandchildren.



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