

FOOTPRINTS

IN THE SAND

NOVEMBER 2022



SANDYPINES

RECREATIONAL COMMUNITY

READY, SET, RELAX.

PHONE NUMBERS

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

Fax Number..... 616.896.7409
MemberService@SandyPines.com

Administration

Jeff..... Ext. 105
jeff@sandypines.com

Kimberly Ext. 109
kim@sandypines.com

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

Pumpouts-Emergency Ext. 111

Sales Office..... 616.896.8315 Ext. 118

Kent Livingston.....Ext. 114
kent@sandypines.com

Camping Office.....616.896.8315
Janele TomesExt. 103
janele@sandypines.com

Communications 616.896.8315
Ian MitchellExt. 107
ian@sandypines.com

Maintenance 616.896.8317
Ben Fifelski, Supervisor
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

Park & Garden616.896.9334
parkgarden@sandypines.com

Recreation Department..... 616.896.8315
Abby Greenfield.....Ext. 800
Recreation@SandyPines.com

Lake Monterey Golf616.896.8118
Larry Finkbeiner, Manager
www.lakemontereygolf.com
Golf@golflmgc.com

Laundromat Hours – Open 24 Hours

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Jeff Sweitzer Park President
Kimberly WilliamsFinance & Accounting
Steve Deyarmond Emergency Services
Ben Fifelski Maintenance
Larry Finkbeiner Lake Monterey Golf Course

MANAGEMENT TEAM

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

OUR MISSION

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Park & Garden Rental Office 616.896.9888

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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

We give Thanks for many things this month. We thank our brave men and women who have given so much to our country this coming Veteran's Day. As Harry Truman once said, *"Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices."* Please take the time this month to shake a hand, hug a loved one or simply say "Thank You for your service," to those who have fought and risked their lives to protect our freedoms in this great country. We are truly blessed to have each and everyone who has served to protect us.

With Thanksgiving taking place this month, it is also the kickoff to the holiday season. It is a good time to give Thanks to our God for bringing families together to celebrate all we are Thankful for every day. If you know of someone who does not have the blessing of family close by to celebrate, please consider opening your home and Thanksgiving Day traditions to adopt those who may be alone.

Here at Sandy Pines, the month of November continues to progress with our off-season projects. We are finalizing our Member Service and Golf Course interviews to add a couple of new members to the team. Stay tuned for further announcements and introductions.

Employee Quarterly Celebration

If you are not aware, it is the belief of Sandy Pines to continue to give Thanks to our wonderful staff. Every quarter we pull the team together to celebrate birthday's and service dates. Typically our celebrations bring out the best of our staff's cooking talents through a pot luck. This month we celebrate the staff for all they have done. If you have the opportunity to say Thanks when you call Member Service or send a note to any of the departments, please do so. We are truly blessed with a caring and talented team.

Projects

We have selected a new payroll and HR system to help streamline processes and make our finance and HR team become more efficient. The team reviewed four software companies over the last

2-months. We have received staff feedback that our current provider is outdated, not user friendly and challenging to get information. This change will help our staff have access to their information at their fingertips.

Our Dynamics 365 solution provider who built our member management system and member portal will be onsite this month. The team armed with member feedback is working on a list of improvements. The expectation is that these improvements will be ready by January renewal time to improve our members' experience and ease of use.

Spectrum Internet meetings continue to take place. As Spectrum finalizes the design and placement of their new equipment, members may witness technicians walking around your sites. Please do not be alarmed as Spectrum is working hard to survey the Sandy Pines property to properly place lines and equipment.

Phase 2 Pool request for proposals are expected to be back this month. We will be meeting with surveyors and contractors to review the site for upcoming construction. Last month we met with some of the Phase 2 members to receive feedback and input on how to make this area ready for increased use. Their feedback is greatly appreciated. We will start our planning with our Public Safety and Maintenance teams to start implementing some of these suggestions next season.

Strategic Planning

Our annual Strategic Planning with the Sandy

Pines staff will take place this month. We will be discussing expectations for 2023 when you return to the park. It was also highlighted during our October Board of Directors Workshop to focus on a 5-year strategic plan for the park. We will be gathering input from the team on ideas for the next 5 years.

We will also be kicking off another FEMA project to meet the FEMA timeline. Based on feedback from our members, we will be focusing on smaller projects. Currently, we are developing plans to replace CC's 1 and 2 with the focus of safety in the form of smaller storm shelters for Phases 1 and 2. Stay tuned for updates on these projects.

Finally, on behalf of our Sandy Pines and Lake Monterey family and my family to yours, Happy Thanksgiving! Please enjoy this time with family, friends and loved ones as we kick off the holiday season. Faith and Family come above all else. All things are possible through HIM!

"For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer." 1 Timothy 4:4-5

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." 1 Chronicles 16:34

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." Colossians 3:15

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." Colossians 4:2

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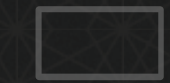
Sandy Pines Member E-News

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

You can always subscribe, manage your contact details, unsubscribe at [SandyPines.com/E-News](https://www.sandypines.com/E-News).



SANDYPINES
RECREATIONAL COMMUNITY



BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE

BY PAUL PEPPEL BoardOfDirectors@SandyPines.com

As we lament the closing of the 2022 year, the off-season presents an excellent time to evaluate your behind-the-scenes affairs at the park. Something that few want to discuss (but should) is the issue of what happens to your unit and membership should the unthinkable happen to you and your co-member. An unpleasant task to be sure yet vital to ensure that your legacy will continue as you and your heirs see fit. An investment in a good estate plan might be something to seriously consider.

It's important to remember that at Sandy Pines, you own your unit. It's titled and is passed on according to Michigan law for title transfer. But the membership itself is different as you have purchased the right to use space and facilities on an annual basis. It is not tangible and doesn't automatically transfer to your next of kin. It can be transferred only in the ways stated in the Sandy Pines handbook. That's where a good estate plan comes in handy. The handbook allows for post-death transfer of your membership by Will or Trust (or default Michigan law). Having your membership coordinated with a trust comes in handy as it can

aid the transition of your membership to individuals of your choice.

Protecting your assets privately, and hopefully with a minimum of aggravation, can be a benefit in general of trusts. They give you the advantage of avoiding the probate court process. It is critical to make sure that the type of trust you use at Sandy Pines meets the criteria spelled out in the handbook, requiring that you provide a Certificate of Trust to the park. An experienced estate planning attorney is a must when planning for future transition of your membership (and your assets, in general).

While not a blanket recommendation, Sandy Pines' Attorney, Mike Lichterman is a lawyer with an office in Grandville that you may want to consider should you choose to gather more information. He is a former member of the park and very familiar with the proper decorum for handling this delicate matter. He also hosted a town hall meeting this past season as part of the July 2022 Face to Phase meeting and covered many of the common

questions about this topic. There was even a great Q & A portion with insightful questions from many of you, the members. Video of the Face to Phase is on Sandy Pines' Youtube channel. We encourage every member to watch it and discuss any questions with their personal estate planning Attorney. Keep in mind that that this is in no way legal advice. We recognize that everyone's situation is unique. Board members, member service and the park president are ill-equipped to discuss estate planning as we know just enough to be dangerous. Best to consult an estate planning attorney of your choice as it would probably be wise to at least inquire and learn. Yes, it'll cost you a few dollars. But peace of mind can't be measured in greenbacks.

Enjoy your time away from the park and we will see you in another 160 days or so. Don't hesitate to reach out to us about anything (except estate planning) at BoardOfDirectors@SandyPines.com

Happy turkey month!

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it's our community too.**

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FINANCE & ACCOUNTING NEWS

BY KIMBERLY WILLIAMS Kim@SandyPines.com

Sandy Pines staff is working hard this off-season to update our financial software systems and tie up loose ends from 2022 and begin the new year reporting for 2023. The completion of the 2022 year-end financial reports are still being finalized and will be reviewed independently by our Accounting Firm, the Finance Committee and the Board of Directors. We will be sharing the final financial updates of the 2022 year after these reviews in the January 2023 Footprints.

We still have members stating they are not receiving their Invoice Statements during the month. The Statements are always mailed with postage or emailed out within the first week of every month. Statements are also available online and by request of the Member Service desk. Many individuals are also coming in with Statement in hand and paying their bill. Sandy Pines would like to ask that if you have requested and are not receiving your statement in the mail, please check with your local carrier or if you have requested an email and not received, please check your spam. Sandy Pines has limited control after the statements are sent. Please do not assume you do not owe on your bill if you have not received your bill. Every member is still responsible for any balance due on their account. If you are unsure please use the online portal to go to your Online Billing and find the most current statement at any time. We are also more than happy to assist you if you have questions as well.

For your reference and information, below is the payment plan schedule if you have elected to make monthly installments to pay for your Annual Dues and Assessments. Your monthly payment this year is \$406.91, and is payable on the 25th of each month, from Oct 2022 thru March 2023. This payment plan is allowed for dues and assessments only. To stay current within the payment plan, your balance owed at the end of each month for 2022-2023 must equal the following on each date listed below:

▪	October 25	\$1,975.28
▪	November 25	\$1,591.90
▪	December 25	\$1,202.76
▪	January 25	\$ 807.79
▪	February 25	\$406.89
▪	March 25	\$0.00– All dues and assessments paid

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

Payments can be made online through our website, by mail, within the Admin office drop box, at the Administration office (during regular business hours) or at the Rangers' office. Please note a 3% convenience fee is charged for credit card payments made online or over the phone.

If at any time through the off-season you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or message us. Thank you all for being a part of the Sandy Pine Community!

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CAMPING NEWS

BY JANELE TOMES Janele@SandyPines.com

Contact Information

Phone: 616.896.8315 x 103

Email: Janele@SandyPines.com

Hello! Camping is now open for the 2023 season! We had a very busy season this year and we loved seeing so many new faces discovering our wonderful park. Our popular trailers for rent 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, along with new mattresses coming for Phase 4. 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 to the card you used at the time of purchase. Reservations can be made directly from our website at www.SandyPines.com. If you have any questions or would like me to book a reservation for you, please give me a call at 616- 896-8315 ext. 103. I would love to help and look forward to hearing from you!

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COMMUNICATIONS NEWS

BY IAN MITCHELL
ian@SandyPines.com

Off-Season Updates

The team is working very hard to make improvements in all departments! Please try to stay up to date with what is going on at Sandy Pines during the off-season. We have multiple channels of communication to fit your needs. If you are not already be sure to Like and Follow on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter.

Please also consider subscribing to our E-News for department updates, news, and instructions while you are away!

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SCAN TO SIGN UP



FOR OUR E-NEWS!

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SECURITY NEWS

BY PAUL SCHAAF
Paul@SandyPines.com

Office Hours

Emergency Security Staff is onsite 24 hours/day.

Call stats for September 2022

Public Safety staff responded to 97 calls for service in September 2022. The types of calls and numbers are:

- Alarm- 4
- Alcohol- 1
- Animal- 4
- Assault- 1
- Assist- 12
- Curfew-1
- Damage to property- 2
- Disorderly- 5
- Illegal entry- 7
- Larceny- 3
- Lost/Found property- 3
- Medical- 8
- Noise- 2
- Open door- 11
- Parking- 5
- Property damage accident- 5
- Rules- 1
- Suspicious situation- 15
- Threats- 1
- Traffic violation- 6

Reminder

As the year winds down, and there are fewer people in the park, please remember that the park rules still apply. Public Safety is still on staff and enforcing the rulebook. This includes enforcing the speed limit and illegal dumping. Please make sure you are following the 10 mph speed limit in the park. Also, remember that bringing in trash from outside the park to dispose of is against park rules.



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LAKE MONTEREY GOLF NEWS

BY LARRY FINKBEINER www.LakeMontereyGolf.com

It's time for the snow to start flying and for the golf course to take a break during these winter months. I can't tell you enough, just how much I have enjoyed the past golf season. I appreciate all the compliments, the well wishes, the comradery, and just seeing everyone that came out to enjoy the golf course.

Even though we are not open now, there will be plenty for us to do in the off season. We will be implementing a new point of sale/tee sheet program. We are hoping this will make checking in and cashing out easier for everyone. It is our hope to have most of our employees trained in the off season so we will be ready for everyone next spring.

I will also be working on several new ideas for next year. It is probably a little too soon to let you know what these are yet, but as we get these programs set up, we will let you know about them in future editions of the Footprints.

The clubhouse will be closed until April 1, 2023. Please be mindful if the chains are up the course is closed, and we ask that you do not go onto the course. If the chains are down then you are welcome to play, just use the drop box by the front door to drop off your golf fees.

Be sure to follow us on Facebook and our website at www.lakemontereygolf.com for the latest up to date events.

Golf Course Rules

Please be mindful of the following rules of the golf course:

-Absolutely no personal coolers or bringing alcohol or beer to the course.

-Always bring your Sandy Pines member or associate card to be scanned. Cards must be scanned once for each nine you are playing.

-Knobby tires and six-seater golf carts are not permissible on the golf course.

-Proper golf attire is required. No tank tops allowed. Men's shirts must have sleeves. Women's tops must be golf attire.

-Groups of 5 players or more are not allowed without prior permission.

Let's make golf fun for everyone by following these rules. We appreciate your cooperation. We look forward to seeing you all at the course.

We hope that everyone has a great winter, and we look forward to seeing everyone in the spring. Let's go golfing!!!

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RECREATION NEWS

BY ABBY GREENFIELD Recreation@SandyPines.com

Senior Adult Activities

A huge thank you to all the individuals on the Senior Adult Committee who planned, organized, and volunteered to bring a variety of events to the calendar. Not only did they organize card games and potlucks during the week, but they partnered with Larry at the Golf Course for Poker Runs and Karaoke Nights. Additionally, this committee was also responsible for the Adult Men's Softball games and tournaments.

As we look at next year, Senior Adult Activities will be taken over by the Recreation Department, rather than being solely volunteer based. There will also be a name change to Adult Activities. This will encourage more participation from our members.

Although it will be taken over by the Recreation Department, we are still in need of volunteers to

help run different activities. If you are interested in volunteering or organizing an event for Adult Activities, please reach out to Abby@sandypines.com.

Winterfest

Winterfest is right around the corner. Join us on January 21st from 11am-3pm for winter fun. There will be a coffee and hot chocolate bar, cookie decorating, and snowman building contest (weather dependent). There will be sledding – if there is snow – on the hill by the chapel. Additionally, there will be t-shirt and mugs for sale; the mugs will have Sandy Pines Winterfest logo on it, and you will have the opportunity to decorate it yourself. Lastly, there will be a Polar Plunge! So, gather your friends and family to take a frigid dip in the lake.

This year, we will also have dog sled demonstrations at the chapel. There will be two demonstrations starting at 11:30am and 1:30pm. We ask that you be respectful of the dogs and equipment. Time will be allotted to meet and greet the dogs.

We need volunteers for this event, so please sign up on the Sandy Pines Website.

Next Season's Schedule

For the most part, all the Recreation Events are updated on the website's calendar, thanks to our amazing Communications Manager. We will be working on updating the additional information under each event, but currently all the dates and times are accurate.

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1971-2021

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