FOOTPRINTS

NOVEMBER 2023

IN THE SAND





PHONE NUMBERS

Member Service	616.896.8315
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Nichole Milbocker	Ext. 100
Fax Number	616.896.7409
MemberService@San	dyPines.com

Administration

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jeff@sandypines.com		
Kimberly	Ext.	109
kim@sandypines.com	1	

Park Inspector

Jeff Hopkins	616.896.7286
inspector@sandypi	nes.com

Pumpouts-Emergency	Ext. 111
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Sales	Office	616.896.8315 Ext. 118
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Kent LivingstonExt. 1	14
kent@sandypines.com	

Camping Office	616.896.8315
Janele Tomes	Ext. 103
janele@sandy	pines.com

Communications	616.896.8315
Ian Mitchell	Ext. 107

lan@sandypines.com

Maintenance 616.896.8317

Ben Fifelski, Supervisor

maintenance@sandypines.com

Emergency/

Public Safety	616.896.9006
Steve Deyarmond, Emerge	ncy
Services Director	
Paul Schaaf, Security Servi	ces Manager

Park & Garden

Dale Yoder	616.896.9334
parkgarden@sa	ndypines.com

Recreation

Department	616.896.8	315
Abby Greenfield	Ext.	800

Recreation@SandyPines.com

Lake Monterey Golf616.896.8118 Dave Ingles, Manager

> www.lakemontereygolf.com 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
lan Mitchell	Communications
Dale Yoder	Park & Garden
Jeff Hopkins	Park Inspector
Paul Schaaf	Security Services
Abby Greenfield	Recreation

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Finance	Ginny Hager
1 11101100	Only Hagor
Golf Course	Joe Zomerlei
Long Range Planning.	Kevin Hager
Rules	Drew Torres
Safety & Security	Dennis King
Technology	Bob Powers
Lake Study	Jim Buchanan
Library	Valerie Troschinetz

OUR MISSION

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



RETAIL SERVICES

Dairy Dip	616.405.5643
Just Your Style	616.669.6788
Park & Garden Store	616.896.9334
Park & Garden	
Rental Office	616.896.9888

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ellen Carpenter, Chairperson	(2025)
Elleri Carperiter, Chairperson	(2023)
Rick Day, Treasurer	(2026)
Bob Deckinga	(2025)
Pat Doezema	(2026)
Kelly Johnson, Vice Chairperson	(2024)
Paul Peppel, Secretary	(2025)
Stephanie Saypannha	(2024)
Craig Van Beek	(2026)
Scot Wyman	(2024)

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

November remains a very special month with lots happening. As we all prepare for the upcoming holiday season starting with Thanksgiving, we ask that you take time to be thankful for our Lord and Savior as all our blessings are provided through Him. Please take the time to Thank a Veteran for their sacrifice and service to our great country. You might even want to send your thoughts and prayers to our police, firefighters, healthcare workers and military families who protect us each and every day. Many of these individuals will not be able to spend Thanksgiving with their families. We are blessed to have so many of them watching over us as we live as one nation under God. If you are able, please think about sponsoring families in need this Thanksgiving or throughout the holiday season. Our staff will once again sponsor 2-3 local families in need this Thanksgiving. If you are interested in helping, please contact Amanda Griffin our HR Specialist at Amanda@sandypines.com.

Here is what else is happening this month at our Happy Place.

Phase 2 Pool

The excitement continues to surround our new Phase 2 pool project. As you can see by the pictures in this month's article, we have accomplished much already through the month of October. Our new access drive has been excavated. Trees are removed from the pool location. The pool has been dug with plumbing placed in the necessary locations. Concrete is poured for both the pool and bathhouse foundations. The parking lot has been excavated. This month will focus on the building of the bathhouses, electrical room, and lifeguard breakroom. We will continue to place pictures on our website throughout the offseason to keep you posted! SandyPines.com/Phase-2-Pool

Disc Golf

We are looking for 1-2 members who are active disc golfers. As the Phase 2 pool project continues to move forward, we are looking for volunteers to help us determine either a new layout in the Phase 2 area or a new location for disc golf. For any interested members, please contact Member Service at Communications@SandyPines.com. We will need to decide in February or March 2024 what are the next steps with our disc golf course.

Board of Directors Workshop

During October we held a workshop with the board of directors. This took place as a follow-up to our lake town hall meeting in September. The focus continues to be our number 1 asset, Lake Monterey. Prior to our workshop with the board, we met with PLM who treats our lake to review 2023 and plan for 2024. This month we will be meeting with Restorative Lake Sciences (RLS) to see if we can once again partner with them to review our plans and provide expert guidance for Lake Monterey. For more on our workshop, please see the Board of Directors article later in this edition of the Footprints.

2024 Renewals and Planning

Believe it or not, we are already working on 2024 Renewals and the 2024 season. As in years past, renewals will be open to members in mid-January and close at the end of February 2024. The team is meeting this month to work on improvements in many areas.

We will also being meeting this month with each department to put in place plans for 2024. We will be prioritizing projects, finalizing schedules and setting goals. Stay tuned for more information as we get closer to 2024!

Lastly, our team and I are so thankful to serve this wonderful park, our golf course, the members and the surrounding area. We are blessed with an awesome board who supports us and our staff that make the little things happen. I would like to end by wishing you all a safe and blessed Thanksgiving! Thank you to my father, David Sweitzer, and all Veterans for your sacrifice and service to our great nation!

God Bless!

"I'm proud to be an American, where at least I know I'm free. And I won't forget the men who died, who gave that right to me."

Lee Greenwood

"On this Veterans Day, let us remember the service of our veterans, and let us renew our national promise to fulfill our sacred obligations to our veterans and their families who have sacrificed so much so that we can live free."

Dan Lipinski

"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

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MEMBER SERVICE NEWS

BY NICOLE KLINGE & NICHOLE MILBOCKER MemberService@SandyPines.com

Office Hours

Monday - Friday: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Saturday & Sunday: Closed

Contact Information

Phone: 616-896-8315 x 0 Fax: 616-896-7409

Email: MemberService@SandyPines.com

Important Dates

11/1 Boat & Dock removal deadline
11/23 & 24 Closed for Thanksgiving
11/25 Member Statement Due Dates
12/22 – 1/2 Closed for Christmas & New Year's

Unfortunately, the time has come to say see you next season. Thank you for another great season. We hope you enjoy your winter and have safe travels back to wherever you're headed this winter. As the season comes to a close, we have just a few small reminders:

Pump outs are finished as of October 20th pump outs are NOT available during the winter.

Convenience centers open for the entire winter:

Phase 1 - CC 2 Phase 3 - CC 6 Phase 4 - CC 11 Water Park North Shore

Convenience centers open until snowfall:

CC 4, CC 7 & CC 8.

The member service administration office is open year-round Monday through Friday 8am to 4pm. If you need assistance outside of these hours the Public Safety office is open 24/7

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE

BY PAUL PEPPEL BoardOfDirectors@SandyPines.com

Last month, the Board met for a special discussion meeting to strategize the various needs of Lake Monterey. This breakout session provided us with precious information and data brought to the table by the Lake Committee, allowing us to better prioritize our short-, mid-, and long-term goals. The short-term list (one year or less) alone will give us plenty to prepare for during the off-season. This will mean a lot of work for us...and perhaps some for you.

Rules enforcement remains one of our major goals and the lake has several improvement opportunities. Boat stakes will be at the forefront as several locations, especially in Sailboat Cove and Phase 6, have slowly drifted away from their proper position. Using GPS and Park maps, correct locations will be marked during the off-season with permanent galvanized metal stakes. They will be embedded at the highwater mark, which is actually the proper location for your physical 4 x 4 stake. What does that mean to you? Your current stake might have to be moved in the spring. As an aside, the present 6" height physical stake rule will be amended, allowing exposure of 18-24" to anchor your winches better. And don't put your stake ten, twenty, thirty feet inland. It must align with the metal stake per the handbook.

True boat lengths will be highly scrutinized to ensure proper 20' speedboat and 24' pontoon limitations. Extra marine help will be utilized for better lake rules enforcement, watching for those who like to bomb during no-wake times as well as other

scofflaws that seem to treat the lake like their own personal playground. Marine officers will also be tasked with checking for appropriate stickers (land vs. water), and making sure parked boats are in their correct position. Also, don't be surprised or upset if you receive a ticket and points versus a warning next year. We're all in agreement. Two years of a laissez-faire attitude is enough.

Extreme shore erosion plagues Chapel Point in the no-wake zone on the east side of the lake as well as the point in Phase 2 at the terminus of Bay Breeze. Our goal is to have both of those addressed and corrected in 2024, most likely with a rip

Continued on Page 6



Board of Directors Update / Continued From Page 5 •

rap product, which is a collection of stones in various shapes weighing roughly 3-8# each. As both of these are in common area green space, the members will see no cost. Funds are already earmarked in our capital plan.

Keeping a consistent lake level is a natural deterrent to shore erosion. What it does is help create a hard surface area at the water's edge, helping keep sand where it belongs...on the beaches, not drifting into the lake. This is one of several reasons why our overall lake depth is decreasing. More efficient and productive well(s) are a high priority to help achieve this goal. Unfortunately, despite supposedly expert advice, our first attempt at this in Phase 3 proved to be woefully inadequate. We'll be meeting with our engineering team this fall to plot our next step. Most likely, we will choose pilot wells, which can be drilled at a much lower cost, giving us the chance to explore more areas at minimal expense. Bottom line is we have to figure out a better way to introduce much-needed fresh (and cooler) water into the lake. Fiduciary efficiency is paramount as annual energy costs are approaching six figures to run our current system.

Green space storage around the lake remains a thorn. Your seemingly harmless storage structures, i.e., kayak racks, and leaving water toys (paddle boards, pedal boats, etc.) in a convenient location for you is not only illegal but hampers



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maintenance as well as other members. Keep in mind, that your lot on average is only 80' deep from the road. So those beautiful deep lots are more common area than you think. Frankly, the Board and Park have allowed this to morph out of control over the years. People are following what their neighbors are doing rather than following the rules. Avoid the potential fine and do the right thing by keeping this area uncluttered and free. Oh, and those sites with four, five, six kayaks in storage? Remember, only two land water stickers are permitted per membership.

Whew! So that's the short-term. What about after that? The dam remains a vital cog to lake security. Our "B" rating makes it a slightly lower priority. The concrete reinforcement will need to be altered/changed/modified at some point, and the spillway tube needs attention as wear and tear, as well as rust, have made modifications necessary. And the Sandy Pines shrubs? Open for discussion. Do we keep them for reinforcement? Or eliminate because of possible internal weakening of the dam itself?

Overall lake depth has been steadily decreasing over the years. Shore erosion allows loose sand to leech back into the lake, seeking and settling in low areas. Mind you, this is not an overnight event, but rather a 50+ year gradual process. Most damaging is excessive boat traffic, especially those creating large wake waves, exacerbating this phenomenon. One way to combat this is via sea walls or rip rap. It has been suggested that we protect our asset by using either or both around the entire lake. A capital idea that, ironically, would require a lot of capital.

Ultimately, the long-term goal is lake dredging, which has its own set of obstacles. The science of bathymetry helps establish current depths as well as determine the amount of lake bed debris that would have to be removed in order to get to the original lake depth. Ideally, we would use data from when the Park first opened as a reference, however, this information has not been discovered despite exhaustive searches. In addition, before approving a project of this scope, the State will want to know what our plan is to keep this from happening again. Hence, lake shore protection must be in serious discussion. Of course, the cost would be huge, and how to finance becomes a major hurdle.

Lake preservation is a daunting task and the Lake Committee has done a phenomenal job providing us with valuable data to aid in our discussions (thank you committee chair Jim Buchanan et al). We're committed to the process, understanding its importance to member usage while protecting member assets. Next year, we'll be utilizing town hall meetings to help keep members informed while allowing for open discussions. Your voice will be heard and you will be in the loop. Win-win! As always, don't hesitate to reach out to us with your questions and comments at BoardOfDirectors@ SandyPines.com.

FINANCE & ACCOUNTING NEWS

BY KIMBERLY WILLIAMS Kim@SandyPines.com

The Finance and Accounting of Sandy Pines will be busy during the off-season tying up loose ends and closing out the fiscal year financial statements. The final FYE2023 Financial Statements will be independently reviewed by an external audit firm as well as reviewed and approved by the Sandy Pines Board of Directors and Finance Committee. We will be sharing the final financial updates of the 2023 year after these reviews in the January 2024 Footprints.

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 \$420.22, and is payable on the 25th of each month, from Oct 2023 thru March 2024. 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 2023-2024 must equal the following on each date listed below:

 October 25 \$2,039.93 November 25 \$1,644.00 \$1,242.14 December 25 \$834.25 January 25 February 25 \$420.24

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!

COMMUNICATIONS NEWS

BY IAN MITCHELL Ian@SandyPines.com

Advertising

If you own a business and are looking for a prime opportunity to showcase your products or services to the community of Sandy Pines Members during the 2024 season, we invite you to get in touch with us. At Sandy Pines, we value and support local businesses, and we offer advertising opportunities that can help you reach our engaged and active membership base. To discuss how you can promote your business within our community, please reach out to us at Communications@ SandyPines.com. We look forward to exploring how we can collaborate and make the upcoming season a memorable one for our members and your business alike.

SALES NEWS

BY KENT LIVINGSTON Kent@SandyPines.com

The typical expectation is that after Labor Day, sales slow down. The last couple of years seem to be an exception. Although the sales are not being processed at the same rate they are during peak season, we have been consistently working through closings with what seem to be ups and downs in interest along the way. I have had the pleasure of working through several listings recently as well. If you have friends or family looking, new listings are continually being posted on our website. Be sure to encourage guests to see all the new listings on our website at www.sandypines.com. Our sales team spends a lot of time prepping potential buyers of all the great information about our park during the off-season. Please note we are available all winter for all your buying and selling needs. I wish you well during the off-season.

RECREATION NEWS

BY ABBY GREENFIELD Abby@SandyPines.com

Winterfest

Winterfest is going to be on February 10th this year. While the event is still in the works of being planned, the main events – polar plunge, dog sled demonstrations, and hot chocolate bar – will be there. If anyone has any ideas for activities or games, please reach out, we are always open to suggestions. Additionally, we will need volunteers for this event. If you are interested, please visit the Winterfest Event page on the website to sign up.

Mini Golf & Weight Room

Just a reminder that mini golf and the weight room are open year-round. To access the building, you will need your member card. We ask that you clean up after yourself, for there will not always be someone there to clean.

Additionally, we did get new putters that will be put out at the beginning of next summer in all sizes. Now everyone will be able to enjoy the game again.

Teen Activities for Next Summer

A little update for everyone requesting teen activities, we are currently planning at least one teen-only event every weekend. Additionally, throughout the week we will be having organized games throughout the park that all ages are encouraged and welcome to join.

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We are working to create captivating activities and events for the teens in the park, where they can be independent from their parents while still being in a safe environment. If you have any suggestions on things your teens would enjoy, please reach out.

Adult Activities

There are a ton of card games, board games, and lessons already organized for adults only. While we are also creating some events for adults, we are always looking for ideas. We need volunteers to lead or help with adult events since our staff is already stretched thin with everything else planned. If you are interested in helping or have ideas for events, please reach out.

SECURITY NEWS

BY PAUL SCHAAF Paul@SandyPines.com

Office Hours

Emergency Security Staff is onsite 24 hours/day.

CALLS FOR SERVICE

Public Safety responded to 61 calls for service in September 2023. The breakdown of calls is:

Alarm	2
Animal	3
Assist	
Conduct	
Fight	1
Green Space	
Illegal Entry	
Lake	
Larcen	1
Lost/Found	
Medical	3
Misc	2
Noise	2
Open Door	2
Property Damage	
Suspicious	
Traffic	
Vandalism	
VCSA	
Welfare Check	1

THANK YOU

As another season comes to a close, I would like to thank everyone for a great season. At the beginning of the season I asked that we all show Grace to one another. I think that mission was accomplished. It seemed from those I encountered this season that this was still the Happy Place that we hope to keep it. We will be working through this winter to help ensure that next season is another successful and safe summer.

SAFETY NEWS

BY STEVE DEYARMOND Steve@SandyPines.com

Status of Grants

As indicated previously a grant was applied to replace CC#1 in phase 1 with a restroom that also serves as a Storm Shelter. This request is still being reviewed by FEMA.

A notice of intent was submitted to apply for a hazard mitigation grant to replace CC#2 and CC#11. The State of Michigan has indicated that the submissions are eligible projects and has indicated that Salem Township and Sandy Pines may submit a FEMA application for consideration. The period of construction if approved would occur between 2026 and 2029.

Use of Heaters

Unvented propane heaters are commonly used as supplemental heat as the weather turns cold. Please use caution when using unvented heaters as carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide can create environments unsafe for habitation. The use of unvented heaters can also create a lot of moisture.

Electric heaters are also used as supplemental heating devices. Please use caution and ensure that the heater is not close to burnable items.

Never leave these supplemental heating devices unattended. Always have working smoke detectors in your camping unit. Have your unit's furnace checked/serviced by a qualified technician if you plan to use it in the winter or it has been a while since it has been serviced.

CAMPING NEWS

BY JANELE TOMES Janele@SandyPines.com

Contact Information

Phone: 616.896.8315 x 103 Email: Janele@SandyPines.com

Happy Fall Sandy Pines members! We had a very strong start last month with many camping reservations being made for the 2024 season. Sandy Pines has been a safe and enjoyable experience for over 50 years, please help us spread the word! Share your happy place with loved ones and friends and create long-lasting memories to cherish forever. We are excited about our new pool in Phase 2, many planned activities, two weekends to enjoy Christmas in August, fireworks in July and September, and Halloween in July. Please check out our online calendar! Sandy Pines offers camping in two-week blocks with a week off in between for those campers looking for a lengthier stay. We do offer a 10% associate discount for our associate members, and we also offer a 10% 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 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! Many blessings to you and your family and Happy Thanksgiving!

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INSPECTOR NEWS

BY JEFF HOPKINS

November is already here. We have much to be thankful for at our Happy Place! Hopefully many of you are enjoying your off season in a warm, sunny place. For those of us here at Sandy Pines, we continue to work on our To Do List. Below, let's see what that is all about.

Reminder November 1st boats and docks must be out of Lake Monterey. Thank you to all the members who have cooperated on meeting this timing. We had over 40 members apply for a permanent year around dock permit as discussed at our Lake Town Hall at the end of the season. Based on our physical assessment of each dock, there were only 10 lucky members meeting the requirements to move forward with the permit process. All members have been communicated to either face-to-face, email or voicemail. If you are wondering about status, please check your emails and voicemails. Thank you to those members who removed their docks already. I am out in the park each and every day checking many things including how many boats and docks remain in the lake.

Speaking of being out in the park checking on things. As you may have read in the Board of Directors section, we are placing a significant focus on lake enforcement rules. This month we will be taking an inventory of each lake front site and the green space and shoreline in front of your site.

So far, we have seen many violations of items in the green space and shoreline area. Items such as kayaks, kayak racks, water sport toy boxes, rafts, etc. are not allowed in the green space and shoreline area. All items must be stored on your site and brought down to the shore for use and then returned. This season we are allowing docks to be stored in the green space. Next year this will not be allowed. We continue working on getting a list of contractors for dock removal in 2024. Many members will be receiving written warnings this month with a required date to correct and remove. If the items are not removed, violations will be processed.

Lastly, we start this month with relocating boat stakes to their proper spots. Phases 5 and 6 will be focused on this month. We have seen many boat stakes migrate from their assigned spots. This will no longer be tolerated. We need to get back to a clean and safe shoreline and green space in front of our beautiful lake. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me in my office.

Have a safe and blessed Thanksgiving!



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