SANDY PINES
RECREATIONAL COMMUNITY

# FOOTPRINTS

## IN THE SAND



**NOVEMBER 2026**

## PHONE NUMBERS

**Member Service** ..... 616.896.8315
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MemberService@SandyPines.com

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

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Jim Buchanan &
Steve Helmer..... 616.896.7286
inspector@sandypines.com
jimb@sandypines.com

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

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

**Camping Office**.....616.896.8315
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janele@sandypines.com

**Communications** ..... 616.896.8315
Ian Mitchell .....Ext. 107
Ian@sandypines.com

**Maintenance** ..... 616.896.8317
Ben Fifelski, Supervisor
maintenance@sandypines.com

Emergency - Pumpout..... 616.896.8317

**Emergency/**
**Public Safety**..... 616.896.9006
Steve Deyarmond, Emergency
Services Director
Paul Schaaf, Security Services Manager

Fax Number..... 616.896.9182
security@sandypines.com

**Park & Garden**
Chet Ryan.....616.896.9334
parkgarden@sandypines.com

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

**Lake Monterey Golf** .....616.896.8118
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
Ian Mitchell ..... Communications
Chet Ryan.....Park & Garden Manager
Dale Yoder..... Food Operations Manager
Jim Buchanan.....Park Inspector
Paul Schaaf ..... Security Services
Abby Greenfield.....Recreation

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Facilities & Amenities..... Bob Skipper
Finance..... Doug Hossink
Golf Course ..... Joe Zomerlei
Lake Study..... Valerie Troschinetz
Library.....Patience Pike
Long Range Planning..... Brad Hutchins
Rules ..... Holly Malewski
Safety & Security..... Rick Ives

### OUR MISSION

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

SANDY PINES
RECREATIONAL COMMUNITY

## RETAIL SERVICES

BBlessed316
Therapeutic Center..... 616-422-7909
www.massagebook.com/biz/bblessed316sandypines
Dairy Dip ..... 616.405.5643
Park & Garden Store ..... 616.896.9334
Park & Garden
Rental Office ..... 616.896.9888

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cory Berens.....(2028)
Kolyn Giebel .....(2028)
Jill Grung .....(2029)
Ginny Hager, Treasurer .....(2027)
Kelly Johnson, Secretary.....(2028)
Angie Kuppler.....(2029)
Larry Munger .....(2027)
Craig Van Beek, Chairperson.....(2029)
Scot Wyman, Vice Chairperson.....(2027)

### 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.

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# PARK PRESIDENT NEWS

BY **JEFF SWEITZER** Jeff@SandyPines.com

## A Time of Gratitude

November is a special time to pause, reflect, and give thanks for the many blessings in our lives—and here at Sandy Pines. We have so much to be thankful for! From the beauty of our surroundings and the memories made with family and friends to the friendships, traditions, and sense of community that make Sandy Pines such a special place, we are reminded that it's often the simple things that mean the most. Whether it's a favorite fall tradition, a helping hand from a neighbor, or laughter shared with friends, these are the moments that make Sandy Pines feel like home.

November also gives us two important opportunities to reflect on gratitude in meaningful ways. On Veterans Day, we honor and thank the brave men and women who have served our country. We must never forget them nor the families who have supported them. Their courage, sacrifice, and dedication have helped protect our great nation and the freedoms we enjoy every day. We are also blessed to celebrate Thanksgiving this month. We are reminded to count our blessings, cherish time with loved ones, and appreciate the people who make our lives richer.

Here's what is happening this month at Sandy Pines.

## Operations Workshop: Planning for an Even Better 2027!

Our Operations Team is already looking ahead to 2027! This month, the team will begin working on action items that came out of our October workshop. Each department head had a chance to share ideas, celebrate successes, and talk about ways to make Sandy Pines even better.

During the workshop, each department took time to discuss a few important questions:

- What did we do well this season?
- Where can we improve?
- What new ideas would we like to try?
- How can we increase revenue while finding ways to reduce costs?

There were lots of great conversations and ideas shared! While we had a wonderful season at Sandy Pines in 2026, we know there's always room to grow, improve, and find new ways to make our community even more special. The team identified things we want to keep doing, areas where we can do better, exciting new ideas to explore, and opportunities to increase revenue and reduce expenses.

We're also taking your feedback to heart! Combined with the department surveys completed by our members, these ideas give us plenty to work on during the off-season as we prepare for another great year.

We're busy behind the scenes making plans for 2027, and we can't wait to welcome you back! Stay tuned for more updates as we turn these ideas into action. Thank you for being part of what makes Sandy Pines such a special place!

## Introducing the Facilities & Amenities Advisory Committee

With capital investment funding for our buildings and amenities remaining an important focus for 2027, the Board has listened to community feedback and established a one-year, ad hoc Facilities & Amenities Advisory Committee to help evaluate and prioritize our facility needs.

Beginning in November and continuing through the early part of 2027, the committee will work alongside the Maintenance and Operations teams to inspect community buildings, facilities, and recreational amenities. The goal is to identify potential issues early, validate critical needs, and recommend cost-effective repairs, improvements, or renovations as alternatives to full replacement whenever feasible.

The committee will help prioritize facility needs, extend the useful life of existing structures and amenities, and make the most of our available resources. Members will include Sandy Pines community members with professional expertise in areas such as construction, electrical, plumbing, and HVAC systems.

Meeting every other week, committee members will also conduct on-site walkthroughs of park facilities and amenities to assess conditions, report their findings to the rest of the committee and develop recommendations to present to the board. Through collaboration, careful evaluation, and thoughtful planning, we can better protect our community's assets, address maintenance needs, and help ensure Sandy Pines remains a welcoming and enjoyable place for years to come.

## Capital Investment Fund

As stated earlier, this remains an important focus for 2027. Much work is still required to develop a suitable plan to present to the membership for their vote this August 2027. Be on the lookout for a Capital Investment Fund Survey this month to better understand the challenges from the prior plan to help develop improvements for the upcoming plan. The cross functional team will start up again this month to restart the planning process to review costs, survey results and new Facilities and Amenities committee findings. The overall goal remains to keep Sandy Pines sustainable now and into the future.

As we turn the page to November and begin preparing for the holiday season, may we carry an attitude of gratitude with us—not just this month, but throughout the year. Let's continue to celebrate what makes Sandy Pines special, look for opportunities to show kindness, and remember that one of our greatest blessings is the community we share during the season and the off-season. From all of us at Sandy Pines, we wish you a November filled with thankfulness, warm memories, and a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Finally, please accept my gratitude and Thank You for allowing me to lead our staff and serve this great park. I

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## Park President / *Continued From Page 3*

am truly honored and blessed to work here and although I understand I will not please everyone, my goal will always be to do what is in the best interest of the park. Thank you for your support and for this great opportunity to serve. We wish all of you a safe and awesome offseason.

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations."

Pslams 100:4-5

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty"

John 6:35

# MEMBER SERVICE NEWS

BY **NICHOLE MILBOCKER** MemberService@SandyPines.com

### Office Hours

Monday - Friday: 8 am to 4 pm
Saturday & Sunday: Closed

### Important Dates

| | |
|---|---|
| NOVEMBER 1 | Seasonal Gates Close |
| NOVEMBER 1 | Boat and Dock Removal Deadline |
| NOVEMBER 11 | Veterans Day |
| NOVEMBER 25 | Member Account Balances Due |
| NOVEMBER 26 | Thanksgiving |
| NOVEMBER 26-27 | Administration Offices Closed |
| NOVEMBER 30 | Permit Completion Date |

### CC Winter Hours

| Open ALL Winter | Open Until Snow |
|---|---|
| 2 | 4 |
| 6 | 7 |
| 11 | 8 |

Water Park
North Shore Center

### Bullpen Storage Rentals

For anyone needing some outdoor storage for the winter, give us a call; we have availability.

### Member Dues

Dues payments are due each month by the 25th. Anyone wishing to utilize the payment plan, please adhere to the monthly maximum balance amounts below. Payments can be made via your member portal, in office, or at the Public Safety Office. All in-person office payments will avoid any service fees. All payments can be mailed directly to the Administration Office at 2745 136th Ave. Hopkins, MI 49328. If you need any assistance with payment amounts, portal issues etc. please contact Member Service at 616-896-8315 ext. 100.

**Monthly Payment $456.02**
*(Plus 1.5% interest on the unpaid monthly balance)*

**Monthly Maximum Balance**

| | |
|---|---|
| October | $2,180.98 |
| November | $1,757.67 |
| December | $1,328.02 |
| January | $891.92 |
| February | $449.28 |
| March | $0.00– All dues and assessments paid |

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE

BY **CRAIG VAN BEEK** BoardOfDirectors@SandyPines.com

As another season at Sandy Pines comes to a close, I hope everyone has had an opportunity to enjoy the beautiful fall weather we've been experiencing. Fall is one of my favorite times of the year at Sandy Pines. The changing colors, cooler evenings, and quieter atmosphere remind us just how special this place really is. It's a wonderful time to slow down and appreciate the beauty around us before winter arrives.

With the season winding down, I want to remind everyone to take the time to properly winterize your trailers and sites. Michigan weather can change quickly, and a little preparation now can prevent costly problems in the spring. Be sure to drain your water lines, protect your plumbing, secure outdoor belongings, and make sure everything is ready for the colder months ahead. Taking care of these things now will make returning next spring that much more enjoyable.

As we wrap up another year, I also want to thank our staff, volunteers, committees, and fellow Board members for the time and effort they put into making Sandy Pines such a special place. There is a tremendous amount of work that goes on throughout the year, much of it behind the scenes, and it does not go unnoticed.

Sandy Pines is more than just a campground. It's a community filled with friendships, family traditions, and memories that last a lifetime. As we head into the final months of the year, I hope you enjoy the remainder of this beautiful fall season and have a wonderful holiday season with family and friends.

Thank you for another great year at Sandy Pines. Stay safe, enjoy the rest of your year, and I look forward to seeing everyone again next season!

Craig Van Beek
Sandy Pines Board Chair

# FINANCE & ACCOUNTING NEWS

BY **KIMBERLY WILLIAMS** Kim@SandyPines.com

As we transition into the off-season, the Sandy Pines Finance and Accounting Team will focus on finalizing year-end activities and closing the fiscal year 2026 financial statements. Our external audit firm will independently review the final financial statements, followed by review and approval by the Sandy Pines Finance Committee and Board of Directors.

Once these reviews are complete, we look forward to sharing the final financial results and 2026 season updates in the January 2027 edition of Footprints.

### Final Electric Assessments

At the end of September, we billed member accounts for the final electric assessments for the 2026 season.

As a reminder, Sandy Pines does not resell electricity. Instead, we administer an electric assessment process based on each member's estimated seasonal usage. This process was carefully established in coordination with, and approved by, the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC).

We divide each member's estimated annual electric assessment into four installments, with quarterly payments billed in December, March, and June. In early September, we collect electric meter readings with the generous support of our volunteers. We then use these readings to calculate each member's final annual assessment based on actual usage and the applicable usage category, less the quarterly payments previously billed.

We recognize that the final electric assessment can sometimes come as a surprise, particularly when changes in electricity consumption have occurred throughout the season. For this reason, we strongly encourage members to take an active role in monitoring their electric usage.

Members can review their electric usage history through the online member portal. We also recommend periodically recording your meter readings and the corresponding dates throughout the season. Even during the off-season, if you have a chance to visit your site, take a moment to check and record your meter reading.

Regularly monitoring your kilowatt-hour (kWh) consumption can help you spot unusual increases or changes in usage before they lead to unexpected year-end assessments.

Our Accounting and Maintenance Teams work diligently to review electric readings and identify significant fluctuations or unusual activity. However, with more than 2,100 member sites to monitor, members should also remain attentive to their individual usage patterns.

Several factors can increase electricity consumption, including older or inefficient appliances, adding new appliances or golf carts, changes in heating or cooling use, and modifications to trailers or electrical systems. Unfortunately, when these issues aren't identified until the final assessment, electricity has already been consumed, leaving little opportunity to reduce the resulting charges.

If you notice an unexpected increase in your electric usage, we encourage you to contact our Maintenance Team to assist with checking your meter's functionality or identifying potential external concerns. Members may also wish to consult a qualified contractor or electrician to evaluate their trailer, appliances, and electrical systems for potential sources of excessive consumption.

Your proactive monitoring throughout the year can make a significant difference by identifying concerns early and helping you avoid unexpected electric assessments at the end of the season. We appreciate our members' cooperation and continued efforts to monitor their electricity usage.

### Annual Dues and Assessments

As a reminder, members who automatically elected to pay their FY2027 Annual Dues and Assessments through the monthly installment plan must pay $456.02, due on the 25th of each month from October 2026 through March 2027.

The monthly installment plan includes a 1.5% finance charge applied to the outstanding balance each month. As a result, each monthly payment includes a portion applied to the finance charge, with the remainder reducing the outstanding dues and assessments balance.

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## Finance / *Continued From Page 5*

To remain current with the payment schedule, the outstanding balance attributable to Annual Dues and Assessments should reflect the following amounts by the end of each corresponding month:

- October 25 $2,180.98
- November 25 $1,757.67
- December 25 $1,328.02
- January 25 $891.92
- February 25 $449.28
- March 25 $0.00– All dues and assessments paid

Please remember that all other fees and charges billed to your member account, including electric assessments, services, state unit tax, and other miscellaneous charges, are due by the 25th of the month following the billing date.

These additional charges are not included in the Annual Dues and Assessments installment plan. Therefore, to keep your account current and maintain your payment schedule, please be sure to include any additional outstanding charges with your regular monthly installment.

For your convenience, payments may be submitted through any of the following methods:

- Online: Through the Sandy Pines website and member portal.
- By Mail: Payments may be mailed to the Administration Office.
- Administration Office: Payments may be made in person during regular business hours or deposited in the office drop box.
- Public Safety Office: Payments may also be submitted at the Public Safety Office.

Please note that a 3% convenience fee applies to credit card payments made online.

Although the park is quieter during the off-season, our Finance and Accounting Team remains busy preparing for the upcoming year, completing year-end financial reporting, and assisting members with their accounts.

We encourage members to continue reviewing their account balances and electric usage through the online portal and to reach out whenever questions or concerns arise. Our team is always happy to assist.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and for being a valued part of the Sandy Pines community. We appreciate the opportunity to serve our members and look forward to another successful season in 2027!

# COMMUNICATION NEWS

BY **Ian Mitchell** Ian@SandyPines.com

### Help Us Fill the 2027 Calendar

We are creating the 2027 Sandy Pines Wall Calendar, and this year, we want all 12 months to feature photos submitted by our community.

We are looking for high quality photos that capture the seasons, scenery, events, amenities, wildlife, traditions, and everyday moments that make Sandy Pines and Lake Monterey Golf Course special. The contest is open to members, guests, campers, employees, and visitors, and there is no limit to the number of photos you may submit.

Photos must be submitted by Monday, November 30. Each photographer whose work is selected will receive a complimentary 2027 Sandy Pines calendar.

Visit SandyPines.com/2027-Calendar-Photo-Contest to upload your photos and review the complete contest details.

### There Is Still Time to Share Your Feedback

Thank you to everyone who has already completed one or more of our department surveys. We have received a great amount of feedback this season, and we appreciate everyone who took the time to tell us about their experiences.

If you have not participated yet, the surveys are still available. They are separated by department, so you can choose the areas that apply to you. There is no need to complete every survey.

Your responses are especially helpful right now as our departments review the 2026 season and begin making plans for 2027. Feedback helps us understand what is working, where improvements may be needed, and what members would like to see in the future.

Visit SandyPines.com/Surveys to share your feedback.

### The 2027 Event Calendar Is Coming Together

Work on the 2027 event calendar is underway. Over the coming weeks, we will begin adding event dates and information to the calendar on the Sandy Pines website.

Some details may continue to develop throughout the offseason, but adding confirmed dates early will give members more time to plan for another busy summer. Keep an eye on the website as new events, weekly themes, and other information are announced.

### Stay in the Loop with E-News

Stay connected with Sandy Pines by signing up for our email list. Subscribers receive our Friday E-News, Weekly Events Email during the summer, digital Footprints magazine, event announcements, important reminders, and other updates directly from Sandy Pines department managers.

Signing up is one of the best ways to receive accurate, timely information right in your inbox. If you have not registered yet, visit SandyPines.com/E-News and sign up today. We share a lot of important information through these emails, and we would love to keep you in the loop!

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## Communications / *Continued From Page 6*

### Help Us Support Local Families This Thanksgiving

Every year, the Sandy Pines staff comes together to help provide Thanksgiving meals for local families through Project Hope, a local charity in Dorr.

This tradition gives our team an opportunity to support families in the community around us, and this year, we would love to help even more.

Anyone interested in contributing may email Amanda@SandyPines.com or stop by the Administration Office. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Thank you for helping us make the Thanksgiving season a little brighter for families in our area.

# PARK INSPECTOR NEWS

BY **JIM BUCHANAN** Jim@SandyPines.com

### Fall & Winter Storage Reminders

As we move into the offseason, we have several important reminders for members regarding permits, docks, green space, and winter storage.

### Return Your Permit Cards

We still have several permit cards that have not been returned. Once your project is complete, all permit cards must be returned to the Park Inspector's Office so we can finalize the project and place the completed paperwork in your file.

### Boat Dock Storage

Boat docks may be stored either: On your site, or in the green space on the sand, provided they are at least 10 feet beyond the high-water-mark poles.

If your dock is stored in the green space, it must be removed by May 15 so spring maintenance can be completed.

If you choose to store your boat dock on your site, it may remain there until June 10.

### Lakeside Green Space

All personal items were required to be removed from the lakeside green space by November 1. This includes wooden or other steps, bricks, concrete blocks, paddle boats, stands, and other personal materials.

Items remaining in the green space after the removal deadline may be removed and disposed of by the park.

### Tarps, Curtains & Shade Shelters

Now that we have passed October 15 and entered the offseason, tarps, solid curtains, or other neat-looking protective materials may be installed around gazebos or shade shelters for offseason protection.

All tarps, curtains, and seasonal coverings must be removed by April 15.

### Permit & Project Deadlines

All permitted work must be completed by November 30.
No permitted project work is allowed in the park during December, January, or February. Work may resume in March 2027.

Again, please remember to return your permit card to the Park Inspector's Office once your project is complete.

If you have any questions, please contact our office.

Thank you,
Cindy, Steve and Jim

# RECREATION NEWS

BY **ABBY GREENFIELD** ABBY@SandyPines.com

### Looking at 2027

As we wrap up 2026, we are already planning for the next season. Keep an eye out for the 2027 Recreation Schedule in the upcoming weeks on our social media pages. This will include all the big events and themed weekends for the upcoming summer.

### Craft and Vendor Shows

We appreciate all the feedback and response we got in changing the old Flea Markets and making them into the Craft and Vendor Shows. There were a lot of positive remarks from shoppers and vendors alike, as well as a few constructive criticisms.

In response, we are shortening the hours and moving it up a bit for the new season. Craft and Vendor Shows will run from 11am-4pm on the Saturdays of the holiday weekends. The entire area will remain roped off until all vendors have set up. Parking is not permitted in the area until after the ropes are down.

Vendor applications are now live online. It is highly encouraged to get them filled out and turned in sooner rather than later

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because it has a history of filling up. All vendors must have a completed application and be approved to be in these shows. Other change that will be in place this coming year is the entertainment during the show. This past season, we had live music during the last portion of the event. Replacing it next season will be the kid's zone. Near the Pancake Pavilion and the food trucks, there will be a bounce house, inflatable slide, games, and activities for the youth of Sandy Pines to enjoy.

### Have an Event Idea? You Can Help Make It Happen!

We are often asked about adding more events to the Recreation calendar, but events do not always have to be organized by the Recreation team. Members are welcome to propose and host their own activities within the park.

Community members have organized card games, RC Crawler competitions, adult potlucks, and other activities. We also recently heard from someone interested in starting a weekly summer disc golf league.

If you have an idea for a weekly activity or a one-time event and are willing to help run it, we would love to hear from you. If the event is approved, open to the Sandy Pines community, and an appropriate space is available, we will do our best to help promote it through the online calendar, Weekend Flyer, social media, and other available communication channels.

To share an idea or learn more about hosting an event, contact Abby at Abby@SandyPines.com

# SECURITY NEWS

BY **PAUL SCHAAF** Paul@SandyPines.com

### Office Hours

Emergency Security Staff is onsite 24 hours/day.

### September 2026 Call Stats

In September 2026, Public Safety responded to 97 calls for service. The breakdown of the calls are:

| | |
|---|---|
| Accident | 4 |
| Alarm | 4 |
| Animal | 4 |
| Assist | 27 |
| Breaking and Entering | 1 |
| Conduct | 4 |
| Damaged Property | 2 |
| Disorderly | 2 |
| Hazardous Condition | 1 |
| Illegal Entry | 1 |
| Lake | 2 |
| Lost /found | 1 |
| Medical | 9 |
| Missing Person | 1 |
| Noise | 1 |
| Open Door | 14 |
| Suspicious Situation | 6 |
| Tree Down | 3 |
| Watercraft | 7 |
| Welfare Check | 3 |

### Site Clean-up

Fall is upon us. Unfortunately, that means it's time to clean up leaves. If you are doing leaves yourself, please remember that there are to be no plastic bags put in the leaf dump. If you bag your leaves, they need to be in paper yard waste bags. Maintenance does not pick up leaves that are blown to the edge of the road. They need to be properly bagged.




### Retirement

October 30th marked the last day of work for long-time employee, Steve Deyarmond. Steve started working for Sandy Pines back in 1985. He was here through numerous Park Director changes and physical changes in the park. He's played a big part in what the park is like today. I've had the pleasure of working with Steve since 2021. I've appreciated his steady leadership and great sense of humor. He has made working at Sandy Pines a great experience. Steve has been a true ambassador for the park and has fought hard for staff. He has been a great boss. Steve's presence will be missed. Happy retirement, Steve





# SAFETY NEWS

BY **STEVE DEYARMOND** Steve@SandyPines.com

### Older Adults and Disasters

By 2034, the Census Bureau predicts that people over the age of 65 will outnumber persons under the age of 18. That's good for us folks who are getting a little older. People 60 years and older are very diverse in activities and generally participate and are active in their communities. Needs and experiences differ greatly. Sandy Pines has a segment of population that is relevant and can be adversely affected by disasters. Disasters seem to be more common. 2034 is not far off.

FEMA and AARP suggest that County and State Emergency Managers should look farther than nursing homes and assisted living facilities to manage older people in events of disaster. Less than 3% of the population of our seniors live in these facilities. Most of these adults live in our communities, sometimes alone, and continue to work and/or volunteer.

Older adults have been disproportionately affected by natural disasters. Extreme heat and natural disasters have a history of causing the greatest number of deaths in the older population. Three out of four adults during Hurricane Katrina were older than 60 years; most of the victims of the 2018 Camp Fire were over 60 years; two out of three people in Hurricane Florence were over 60 years old, and half were over 70 years. Although 16% of the population is over 65 years, 80% of COVID deaths were from this age group. What does this mean for the rest of us? If you are under 60 and have family, friends, and neighbors who are 60 or over, please be the person who provides oversight, concern, and help when events or disasters occur.

Older people do not fare well in natural disasters. A higher proportion of older adults have multiple medical issues, and events can overwhelm their body systems, and their bodies do not recover. Extreme heat and natural disasters have a higher morbidity rate for this segment of population. Trauma to older individuals can cause devastating injuries, is not recoverable, and can cause loss of life.

Community Lifelines – commonly, but not limited to food, shelter, water, health care, and transportation. Sandy Pines has implemented storm shelters and has opened buildings as cooling centers during extreme heat. These facilities do have power backup generators. Power generators have been installed at park buildings so the park can continue to be operational during outages. Power backup generators have been installed in some phases to operate well pumps. Grant proposals are presently being written for additional dual-purpose storm shelter bathrooms in phase 1 and phase 5. Power backup generators are included in these proposals to supply water to campsites.

Going forward, just as the State, local, and Federal authorities look at the older population segment and vulnerabilities, so should the Park. If you are a person in this population segment, take additional care to heed the warnings and seek shelter. If you are younger and not as vulnerable, please watch over and provide assistance to your friends, family, and neighbors.

### Farewell

October 2026 marks 41 years of service employed at Sandy Pines. Many people (members and staff) have come and gone. It is now my time to be one of the people who leave. The Park has changed and improved over the years in stability, financially, and operationally. Thank you for allowing me to be part of Sandy Pines.

# CAMPING NEWS

BY **JANELE TOMES** Janele@SandyPines.com

### A Quiet Fall at Sandy Pines

Hello Sandy Piners! There has been a quiet stillness around the park this past month, but we have had some gorgeous, picturesque days with the lake surrounded by the beautiful colors of the leaves. Staff is still bustling around the park, getting ready for another season! Cabins and trailers are getting restocked, and improvements are happening where necessary.

### 2027 Camping Reservations

Camping reservations opened last month for the 2027 season and have started out strong! Please remind your friends and family to not wait on their reservations if they are looking for specific dates.

### Seasonal Camping Update

Our seasonal lottery took place in October, and we sent out several dozen applications. Our seven vacant sites have been filled, and we look forward to new families experiencing all our park has to offer and what makes being a seasonal member so special.

Here is a prior seasonal member's testimonial:

### A Seasonal Member's Experience

"We first heard about Sandy Pines about 5 years ago through a friend, and were instantly intrigued. We booked a long weekend in one of the park model rentals and had a blast! My husband wanted to buy a place, but I was reluctant to pay so much up front without knowing how much we'd use it. We thought the seasonal option seemed like a great way to try it out and were thrilled to join the Sandy Pines family in 2025.

We quickly fell in love with spending our summers there. I grew up camping, and it means so much to share that experience with my own kids. Our kids love the pools, lake, and of course, driving around in the golf cart looking for treasures! We especially appreciate the family-friendly activities that keep our kids engaged, having fun, and making new friends.

We started to want more space and a place to truly make our own. When our neighbors decided to sell their gorgeous lot this summer, it was an easy decision to purchase it. Two years as seasonals solidified this is where we want to be long-term, so we bought the lot with full confidence that it would be a worthwhile investment for our family for many, many years to come."

# FOOD SERVICE NEWS

BY **DALE YODER** Dale@SandyPines.com

**Help Us Make Food Service Even Better in 2027!**

Have a favorite menu item? Something you would love to see added? Thoughts on the Café, Coffee Shop, Country Store, or Dairy Dip?

Please take a few minutes to complete the Food Service Survey!

Every response helps us understand what worked well this season, what could be improved, and what you would like to see in 2027.

Your feedback helps shape what comes next!
SandyPines.com/Surveys

# FROM OUR COMMUNITY: MEMBER STORIES & MEMORIES

**Share Your Sandy Pines Story**

Last month, we had the opportunity to share the story of Bob Barr and the impact he continues to have at Sandy Pines. We would love to keep featuring more stories like his from throughout our community.

Sandy Pines is filled with traditions, memories, friendships, great neighbors, longtime families, special moments, and stories worth sharing. Maybe your family has a tradition you look forward to every summer. Maybe you have a neighbor who always goes above and beyond. Maybe you have an old photo with a great story behind it, a milestone worth celebrating, or simply a favorite Sandy Pines memory.

Whatever your story may be, we would love to hear it!

**How to Submit Your Story**

There are two easy ways to share:

*Email Us*

Send your story, photos, or idea to Communications@SandyPines.com.

*Submit Online*

Visit https://sandypines.com/footprints/ and scroll below this year's Footprints edition buttons to find the submission form. You do not need to have a perfectly written article. Send us the story, memory, photos, or details, and we can help take it from there.

We would love to feature more of the people, traditions, and memories that make Sandy Pines special for the rest of our community to enjoy in future editions of Footprints In The Sand.

# SALES NEWS

BY **KENT LIVINGSTON** Kent@SandyPines.com

After Labor Day, sales traditionally begin to slow down — and while the last few years have been exceptions, 2025 returned to a more typical pace. This year sales through the sales department doubled for the month of October. Our Sales Department has been finalizing and wrapping up a few late-season transactions, but schedules are beginning to open up as we transition into the off-season. During this time, our team focuses on improving processes and preparing for another strong year ahead.

We continue to work through closings and new listings, experiencing the usual ups and downs of seasonal interest. I've had the pleasure of working on several new listings recently, and we're continually adding more to our website. If you have friends or family interested in purchasing at Sandy Pines, please encourage them to explore our current listings at www.sandypines.com.

Our Sales Team remains active throughout the winter, assisting with both buying and selling needs. Wishing you all the best this off-season — God bless.


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