



SANDYPINES
RECREATIONAL COMMUNITY

FOOTPRINTS

IN THE SAND



SEPTEMBER 2026

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Abby Greenfield.....Ext. 800

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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

Finance..... Ginny Hager

Golf Course Joe Zomerlei

Long Range Planning..... Kevin Hager

Rules Holly Malewski

Safety & Security..... Rick Ives

Lake Study..... Valerie Troschinetz

Library..... Patience Pike

OUR MISSION

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



RETAIL SERVICES

BBlessed316

Therapeutic Center..... 616-422-7909
www.massagebook.com/biz/blessed316sandypines

Dairy Dip 616.405.5643

Park & Garden Store 616.896.9334

Park & Garden

Rental Office 616.896.9888

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cory Berens.....(2028)

Kolyn Giebel(2028)

Ginny Hager, Treasurer(2027)

Kelly Johnson(2028)

Larry Munger(2027)

Scot Wyman, Vice Chairperson.....(2027)

Jill Grung(2029)

Angie Kuppler.....(2029)

Craig Van Beek.....(2029)

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

September at Sandy Pines means summer begins to wind down. We're taking a moment to enjoy these last warm days while welcoming the first signs of fall. The pace is starting to slow, the evenings are getting a little cooler, and the familiar sights and sounds of summer are giving way to the beauty of a new season.

September is a special time at Sandy Pines—a chance to savor the final days of summer, make a few more memories, and begin looking ahead to everything autumn has to offer. Whether you're still enjoying time around the lake, gathering with friends and family, or simply soaking in the peaceful change of seasons, there's plenty to appreciate at our Happy Place.

As we close out another memorable summer season, we want to thank everyone who helped make it so special. Thank you to our amazing staff and volunteers for your care and hard work, to our Board of Directors for their continued support and guidance, and to our members for making this another blessed season! Here's to enjoying the final days of summer and welcoming fall at Sandy Pines!

Welcome New Board of Directors

Welcome and congratulations to our newly elected Board of Directors, Angie Kuppler, Jill Grung and Craig VanBeek. Jill and Angie are new to the Board of Directors while Craig VanBeek will be returning for his second term. All will be supporting 3-year terms through 2029. Thank you to the outgoing Board of Directors, Rick Day and Paul Peppel, for their servant leadership, guidance and focus on putting the park's interest as a priority. Thank you to all our Board of Directors candidates who ran this summer. We wish all of you the best moving forward.

2026 Election Results

The votes are in from the membership. Proposal A: Capital Investment Fund was voted down, 159 Yes to 1,167 No. Proposal B: Board Eligibility was also voted down, 580 Yes to 722 No. A total of 1,305 members voted. This is the most membership votes in almost 10 years. It is an increase of over 65% from the 788 members voting in 2025. This is an excellent turnout. Thank you to all who voted. Thank You to our Election Commissioners and volunteers who kept our election secure, safe and fair per our bylaws for all members.

Capital Investment Fund – What's Next?

Yes, the membership has been heard with a resounding No vote on the Capital Investment Plan as presented. While the proposal was declined, the needs it was designed to address have not gone away. Sandy Pines continues to have aging structures and amenities that require attention, and the current Capital Reserve Fund expires at the end of August 2027.

Beginning this off-season, we will restart the process. Be on the lookout for another member survey this fall. The goal will be to better understand why the proposal was declined, what changes members would like to see in a future proposal, and what additional input you have regarding the needs and priorities of the park.

This is an important conversation, and your voice matters. By working together and listening to our membership, we can develop a path forward together that addresses Sandy Pines' critical needs while protecting the investments our members have made in the park.

Thank you for your continued involvement, feedback, and commitment to the future of Sandy Pines.

Annual Membership Meeting Recap

Thank you to all our members, board of directors and staff who attended our annual membership meeting on August 15, 2026. Thank You to the Chapel Committee for allowing us the use of their beautiful outdoor facility as well as providing the audio and visual personnel.

If you missed our Annual meeting, you may access it on our YouTube channel at our www.sandypines.com website. Simply scroll to the bottom of the page where you can click the YouTube icon. It will bring you to all the meetings that have been streamed this year including the Annual Member meeting.

So, What Did We Do in 2026?

Unlike some previous years, 2026 didn't bring us one huge headline project like the storm shelters, the bridge, or the pool. But that doesn't mean we stood still. A tremendous amount happened behind the scenes.

We Completed the Kayak Launch - Following the recommendation of the Lake Committee, we completed the new kayak launch. This is another improvement that enhances the experience for our members and gives everyone another way to enjoy all that Sandy Pines has to offer.

We Made Progress on Campground Structures - The State finally provided direction to Sandy Pines—and campgrounds across Michigan—regarding structures on campsites. This gives us much-needed clarity about what members can and cannot have on their sites. It also removed the harsh and unnecessary position from the state for complete removal of trailers which are deemed not compliant while allowing for a corrective action process at the time of sale or transfer of ownership.

We didn't get everything we wanted, but we did receive some positive outcomes. Most importantly, we now have clearer guidelines and a better path forward.

We Launched a New Point-of-Sale System - Change is rarely without a few bumps, but overall, the response to our new Point-of-Sale system has been very positive.

We know there are still some things to tweak, and we'll use the off-season to make improvements and continue working toward a system that serves both our members and staff even better.

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Park President / Continued From Page 3

We Tried Some New Things

One of our goals this year was to create more opportunities for positive member interaction—and we did just that.

The Coffee Shop launched and has been going extremely well! Members continue to be lined up out the door!

We also introduced our new Vendor and Craft Show, replacing the old flea market. The feedback was extremely positive. In fact, some vendors were selling out! We have not seen that in the last few years.

These changes tell us something important: our members are looking for new experiences, new opportunities, and new reasons to gather together.

We Listened to Our Members by extending hours for the pools, Dairy Dip, Café, and Store.

Staffing continues to be a challenge, so we must balance what our members want with what we can realistically and responsibly provide. We'll take a hard look at this season's results during the off-season and determine where we can improve.

So, What's Ahead for 2027? - Great question!

And the answer is simple: We're going to keep improving. That's what we do.

We'll continue listening to our members, taking your feedback seriously, evaluating what makes sense, and implementing improvements wherever we can. There is always something we

can do better. There are always new opportunities to explore. And there are always more memories waiting to be made.

Lake Monterey Golf Course

David Ingles our General Manager at LMGC presented the state of the golf course. It remains in a healthy position under his leadership with a lower member assessment. Additional public golf continues to be booked. One of the most notable outings was the CanAm encompassing over 100 golfers mid-week in July. This resulted in significant revenue for the golf course. He continues to add events helping to increase revenues. Expanding our beverage offerings has helped these events continue to grow. Lastly, the golf course is starting the pre-planning process of looking forward to potential clubhouse expansion.

It is truly exciting times at Sandy Pines and Lake Monterey Golf Course!

Thank You for allowing our staff and me to serve you. Everything we do, we do for the betterment of this wonderful park. We are truly blessed to be at Sandy Pines.

God Bless!

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love

Ephesians 4:2

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Galatians 6:9

MEMBER SERVICE NEWS

BY NICHOLE MILBOCKER MemberService@SandyPines.com

Office Hours

Monday - Friday: 8 am to 4 pm
Saturday: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm (through September 12)
Sunday: Closed

Important Dates

SEPTEMBER 4-7	End of Season-Labor Day Celebration
SEPTEMBER 4-7	Holiday Tournaments
SEPTEMBER 5	Pancake Breakfast 8:00 – 11:00 am
SEPTEMBER 5	Craft/Vendor Show 12:00 – 6:00 pm
SEPTEMBER 5	Labor Day Fireworks Dusk
SEPTEMBER 7	Labor Day - Administration Offices Closed
SEPTEMBER 12	Poker Run 2:00 – 4:00 pm Flea Market Area
SEPTEMBER 12	Member Service Last Saturday this season 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
SEPTEMBER 18	Board of Directors Meeting 6:00 – 7:30 pm North Shore Center
SEPTEMBER 25	Member Account Balances Due

Winterizations

Space is limited so stop by Member Service to sign up for your Winterization. Please bring a key with you, if we do not have one on file for you. A key is required to sign up. All Winterizations will be billed to your member account upon completion.

Portal Setup

If you need help with setting up or login, please stop in or call Member Service. The Portal is a helpful tool no matter what time of year.

To access the billing portion on your portal, you must first log into your member portal, select the LINKS tab and follow login instructions from there. The billing portion is linked to the primary member's email.

Mail

Don't forget to update your billing address with the USPS prior to your departure. Please do this at least two weeks before leaving, to ensure it is at your destination when you arrive. Before departing, please check the mailroom one last time to ensure you haven't left any packages or mail.

Pump-Outs

The last week of scheduled pump-outs is October 11-17. If you missed it, don't be alarmed; you can schedule one last final pump-out on October 21st. This will be the FINAL pump-out of the season; emergency rate will apply. Absolutely NO pump-outs after October 21.

*REMINDER- if you scheduled a Winterization through the park, a final pump-out is included.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE

BY CRAIG VAN BEEK

BoardOfDirectors@SandyPines.com

As Another Sandy Pines Summer Comes to a Close

It is hard to believe that we are already approaching the end of another summer at Sandy Pines. It seems like just yesterday we were opening up our sites, putting the boats in the water, reconnecting with neighbors, and looking forward to all that another Michigan summer would bring.

As the season begins to wind down, I want to take a moment to thank everyone who helped make this another memorable summer. Whether you volunteered at an event, served on a committee, helped a neighbor, participated in activities, or simply enjoyed time with family and friends, each of you contributes to what makes Sandy Pines such a special place.

This summer also brought some important decisions about the future of our park.

First, I would like to congratulate Jill Grung and Angie Kuppler on being elected to the Board of Directors. Serving on the Board is both an honor and a significant responsibility, and I look forward to working alongside them. We have some challenging conversations and decisions ahead of us, but I believe that when we listen to one another, respect different perspectives, and keep the best interests of the entire membership at the center of our decisions, we can continue moving Sandy Pines forward.

Our members also recently spoke through their vote regarding the proposed capital investment plan. The proposal did not receive the support needed to move forward. While the vote may be over, the issues that led to the proposal have not disappeared.

Many of our buildings, infrastructure, recreational areas, and other assets have served Sandy Pines for decades. Some will require significant attention in the years ahead. At the same time, the vote made it clear that members have concerns about the scope and financial impact of major capital investments.

We need to listen to both messages. We cannot simply ignore the needs of our park because the proposal failed. But we also cannot simply return with the same plan and expect a different result.

The Board now has an important responsibility to take another look at what we can realistically accomplish. That means listening carefully to our membership, prioritizing our greatest needs. I believe one question should remain at the center of these conversations:

How do we correctly invest in Sandy Pines today while protecting what makes this park special for future generations?

For more than 50 years, generations of families have made memories here. Children who once rode their bikes around the park now bring their own children and grandchildren. Trailers have changed from popups to park models, roads have changed from gravel to asphalt, golf carts have certainly changed, and Sandy Pines has grown—but the sense of community that brings people back year after year remains.

Our responsibility is protecting that, and keeping Sandy Pines beautiful and strong will require investment.

Thank you for another wonderful summer, for your involvement in our community, and for caring enough about Sandy Pines to make your voices heard. Enjoy these final days of summer, travel safely as the season winds down, and let's continue working together to keep Sandy Pines a beautiful place for our families today and for generations yet to come.

Blessings,
Craig Van Beek

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GET CONNECTED FOR ALL OF
OUR LATEST NEWS & UPDATES!



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on Instagram @SandyPinesOfficial



on YouTube @SandyPinesWT



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MICHIGAN'S LARGEST RV PARK & CAMPGROUND

**Sandy Pines
Election Results
August 15, 2026**

Proposal A: Capital Investment Fund

Yes **159** No **1,167**

Proposal B: Board Eligibility

Yes **580** No **722**

Board of Directors Results

Angie Kuppler	895
Jill Grung	839
Craig Van Beek	640
Brad Hutchins	507
Patience Pike	376

Total Ballots Cast: 1,350
Spoiled Ballots: 19

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FINANCE & ACCOUNTING NEWS

BY KIMBERLY WILLIAMS

Kim@SandyPines.com

The July 2026 financial statements and the FY2027 budgets for both Sandy Pines Wilderness Trails and Lake Monterey Golf Course have been approved and are now available for member review on the Finance page at www.sandypines.com.

Sandy Pines Wilderness Trails, Inc. FY2027 Budget Review

The Board of Directors has approved the FY2027 operational and capital budgets for both Sandy Pines Wilderness Trails and Lake Monterey Golf Course. These budgets reflect the cost pressures we continue to anticipate, while also emphasizing responsible financial planning, operational efficiency, and thoughtful opportunities to increase our revenue where possible.

One of the most significant factors affecting the FY2027 budget is the minimum wage increase. In addition, we are responding to member interest in extending the operating season by opening select recreational and retail areas earlier in spring and keeping them open later in fall.

On the retail side, we are hopeful that additional operating costs can be partially offset by revenue from these services. Recreation areas, however, do not directly generate revenue, so the added staffing and operating costs tied to an extended season will require continued monitoring and careful adjustments where possible.

Additional expense pressure is also coming from external factors, such as increases in health and general insurance, utilities, vendor costs, and other operating expenses. Our Operations team and department managers continue to manage expenses carefully while also seeking opportunities to improve efficiency and increase revenue.

With these factors included, the FY2027 budget projects a net expense of approximately \$434,000, compared with approximately \$256,000 in the prior budget. For comparison, our final FY2025 results ended with a net expense of approximately \$394,000, placing the FY2027 projection within the range of what we have recently experienced.

Importantly, Sandy Pines continues to maintain positive cash flow, which remains a key indicator of the overall operational financial position. While the FY2027 budget projects a lower positive cash inflow than in prior years, we still anticipate a cash increase of approximately \$293,000 for the year.

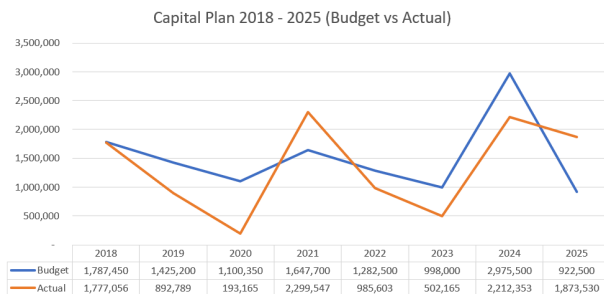
To support a portion of the FY2027 budget, annual dues and assessments total \$2,637 per membership. A detailed breakdown of dues and assessments, along with additional budget information, is available online for members to review.

In addition, the FY2027 Capital Budget is intentionally conservative and includes only necessary improvements and essential operational needs. As we enter the final year of the current Capital Reserve Assessment, the focus

remains on maintaining a secure financial position while limiting capital spending to priority items.

Only a few additional capital purchases are included, primarily to support necessary operational improvements. These include additional golf carts, a new fryer, and a frozen yogurt machine for the Café to support repeatedly requested menu items and revenue opportunities.

Capital Cost To Budget Over the Last Decade



July 2026 Year-to-Date Financial Statements

Sandy Pines has had a steady financial year overall. Expanded services, including the Coffee Shop, have helped generate additional revenue and offset some of the unanticipated operating costs incurred this year.

As of July 2026 year-to-date, Sandy Pines has approximately \$4.8 million in operating cash, representing 209 days of cash in reserve. As a seasonal not-for-profit organization, our goal is to maintain cash reserves within the recommended range of approximately 180–240 days, so we are in a good position at this point in the year.



Cash Position: \$4.80M

-\$253K from June

209 days cash reserve as of July 2026

(\$22,976 expense per day)

The most significant strain on the expense budget continues to be the Department of Labor minimum wage increases. The current wage has increased to \$13.73 per hour, placing additional pressure on several departments because it

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Finance/ Continued From Page 7

exceeded the CPI increase anticipated in the budget. We expect this pressure to continue, with the minimum wage increasing to \$15.00 per hour effective January 1, 2027, followed by another anticipated increase to approximately \$17.00 per hour in 2028.

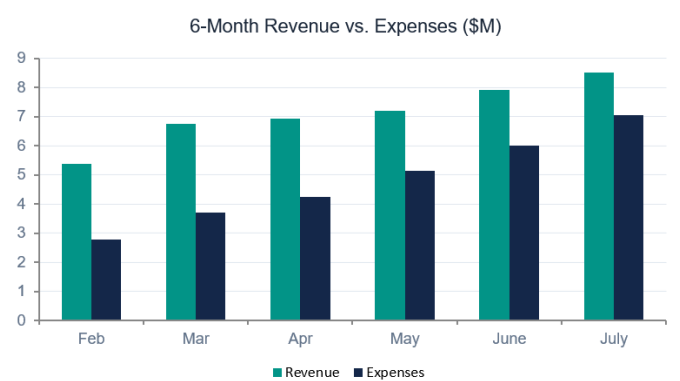
In addition to labor costs, we continue to experience increases in operating expenses. Vendors are facing many of the same cost pressures and, in some cases, passing those increases along. This is especially noticeable in social activity contracts, contractor and supplier costs, utilities, and general insurance costs.

Administration and department managers continue to work diligently to identify opportunities to help narrow this financial gap. One area of success has been the continued additions and enhancements at the Retail Center.

Overall, Retail gross revenue is up approximately \$40,000. The Dairy Dip has increased revenue by just over \$10,000; the Café by approximately \$16,000; and the Coffee Shop by approximately \$20,000.

Sales activity, camping, and golf cart rentals were slower at the beginning of the season, which appears consistent with broader trends in the camping industry. We are, however, encouraged to see some of this activity improving as the season continues.

Overall, Sandy Pines FY2026 year-to-date net income is approximately \$274,000 ahead of the prior year. Although two months remain in the fiscal year and those months traditionally include some higher seasonal operating costs, Sandy Pines remains in a solid financial position.



July Highlights

Total Revenue	\$8,512,790
Resort Services Revenue	\$5,493,131
Sales Revenue	\$944,703
Maintenance Revenue	\$590,513
Retail Center Revenue	\$474,222
Other (Departmental) Revenue	\$1,010,221
Total Expenses	\$7,043,244
Net Income	\$1,166,212

July 2025 vs. July 2026

Category	July 2026	July 2025	Variance
Resort Income	\$5,493,131	\$5,285,895	+\$207,236
Sales Income	\$944,703	\$1,023,804	-\$79,101
Maintenance Income	\$590,513	\$489,251	+\$101,262
Retail Income	\$474,222	\$433,714	+\$40,508
Total Revenue	\$8,512,790	\$8,304,441	+\$208,349
Payroll & Benefits	\$2,606,438	\$2,644,798	-\$38,360
Maintenance & Upkeep	\$1,652,298	\$1,843,138	-\$190,840
Utilities & Insurance	\$1,464,202	\$1,386,341	+\$77,861
Supplies & Misc	\$234,799	\$246,566	-\$11,767
Property Tax & Deprec	\$1,043,513	\$983,099	+\$60,414
Total Expenses	\$7,043,244	\$7,165,217	-\$121,973
Other Income	\$129,004	\$113,810	+\$15,194
Net Income	\$1,166,212	\$891,888	+\$274,324

Lake Monterey Golf Course

FY2027 Budget Review

The FY2027 LMGC Capital Budget has also been approved and remains very limited. It includes the purchase of either a mower or sprayer for the golf course, with the remaining

Continued on Page 9

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capital funding primarily dedicated to covering the remaining cost of the irrigation system project.

Overall Financial Focus

Overall, we continue to focus on increasing revenue, controlling expenses, and strengthening our financial position. Generating additional operational income is especially important because it provides greater flexibility to absorb unexpected costs and increases in outside expenses that cannot always be anticipated when the annual budget is prepared.

Our goal is to remain financially responsible while maintaining the services, facilities, and improvements that are important to our membership and to the long-term success of both Sandy Pines and Lake Monterey Golf Course.

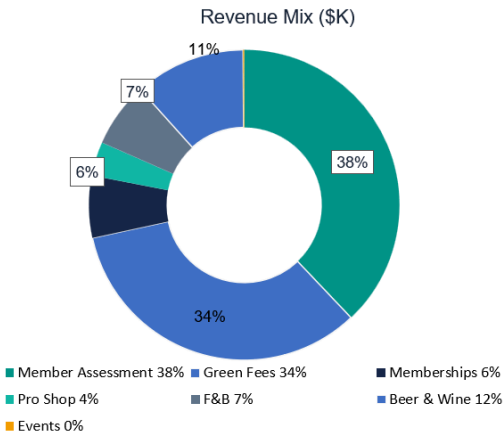
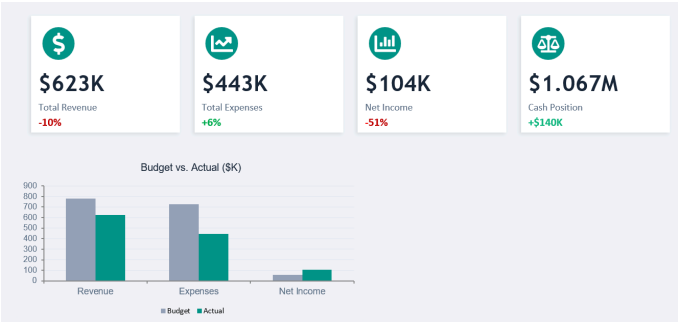
July 2026 Year-to-Date Financial Statements

As of July 2026 year-to-date, Lake Monterey Golf Course experienced a slower start to the season, particularly due to weather conditions earlier in the spring.

The Department of Labor wage increases have also had a significant impact on LMGC operating expenses. While these increases cannot be avoided, our General Manager has worked to help offset the added costs through careful staffing and scheduling wherever possible.

Fortunately, revenue has improved over the last couple of months. This includes stronger activity in green fees, Food & Beverage, and beer and wine sales, as well as additional event revenue from increased facility and golf course rentals by outside parties.

We are encouraged by the improvement in activity as the season has progressed and will continue to monitor both revenue and expenses closely throughout the remainder of the fiscal year.



Total Revenue	\$623,317
Membership Assessment	\$216,300
Green Fees	\$191,757
Memberships	\$36,831
Pro Shop Sales	\$20,125
Food & Beverage	\$38,506
Beer & Wine	\$65,676
Events & Banquets	\$660
Other LMGC Operational Income	\$53,462
Total Expenses	\$443,151
Net Income	\$104,245

Thanks for being informed and engaged. Please look forward to future updates as we continue to review changes, plan, and address additional needs as they arise.

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DRIVE THRU

BIGGBY COFFEE

2027 DUES & ASSESSMENTS

DUES & ASSESSMENTS

The total annual membership dues, capital contribution, TV and Internet, and special assessments for the 2026/2027 season will be \$2,637 and will be on your October 1st statement as follows:

2027 Annual SPWT Dues	\$1,548
2027 Annual SPWT Capital	256
2027 Annual LMGC Dues	104
2027 Annual LMGC Capital	<u>25</u>
Total Dues/Capital	\$1,933
2027 Annual TV and Internet*	504
Capital Reserve Fund Assessment (10 of 10- <i>final year</i>)***	<u>200</u>
Total 2027 Dues & Assessments	\$2,637

-The cost-of-living increase for the total annual dues/capital contribution is 3.3% or \$58 for Sandy Pines and \$4 for Lake Monterey Golf Course.

*At the annual election held August 20, 2022, the membership approved a requirement that all memberships be required to participate in the new bulk TV and Internet programming, which reduced each member's cost of cable by 80%, in comparison to residential market pricing.

**At the annual election held August 19, 2023, the membership approved an annual golf course funding of \$125 to be used for golf course operations, golf course capital asset purchases, and other golf course expenses, beginning October 1, 2025. This funding will be included in the annual Membership Dues, eliminating the need for an assessment, and will be subject to the annual cost-of-living increase.

***At the annual election held August 19, 2017, the membership approved a ten-year annual Capital Reserve Fund assessment, which shall be dedicated to capital expenditures, as listed, and reviewed annually, on the 10-year Capital budget estimate, beginning in fiscal year 2017/18.

FULL PAYMENT

Dues, Capital Contributions, and Special Assessments are billed on October 1st each year. All charges to your account must be paid in full by October 25th to avoid service charges.

6 MONTH PAYMENT PLAN

Six monthly installments of \$456.02 to pay the dues & assessments will be due by the 25th of every month, October through March. Dues can also be paid in advance by making 2-5 payments, as long as you keep your account under the maximum monthly balances outlined below:

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

Monthly Maximum Balance

October 25	\$2,213.69
November 25	1,784.04
December 25	1,347.94
January 25	905.30
February 25	456.02
March 25	\$0.00

2745 136TH AVENUE – HOPKINS, MICHIGAN 49328
PHONE 616.896.8315 – FAX 616.896.7409

PAYMENT PLAN TERMS & CONDITIONS (Very Important!)

The payment plan option includes only the dues, capital contributions, TV and Internet, special assessments, and related service charges. The payment plan does not include any other fees and charges billed to your account each month. You must add all other service charges, electricity, state unit tax, etc., to the monthly installment amount of \$456.02. As dues and assessments are billed and payable on October 1st, a missed payment under the payment plan 60 days after October 1st will result in proxy card deactivation, and additional charges will apply for reactivation. Your payments on account are due in the office on or before the 25th of the month. **Accounts 60 days past due result in deactivation of membership cards, which are \$50 each to reactivate.** Failure to make payments according to the payment schedule will result in the member's ineligibility for the installment plan, and the remaining balance will be due in full at that time.

SERVICE CHARGES: A service charge of 1.5% (18% APR) applies after the 25th day of each month on the unpaid balance on your account. Minimum Service Charges apply. We do not accept post-dated checks. Payment timeliness cannot be determined by postmark dates, as we cannot guarantee timely delivery by the post office. Sandy Pines is not responsible for email statements that aren't received due to users' spam/junk mail filters or electronic transmission issues. Sandy Pines is not responsible for paper statements lost in the mail or those delayed by mail forwarding issues. Billing statements are available online through Member Web Access 24/7/365. We will not waive extra service charges due to conditions out of our control.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

IN PERSON

- There is no extra charge to make monthly payments on credit cards, by check, or with cash at Member Service or at the Public Safety Services. Member Service is open Mon-Fri from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Public Safety Services is open 24 hours/day and although they can take payments, they aren't able to handle billing issues. Checks can also be left in the drop box on the north side of the Member Service Entrance. If checks are put in the drop box after 8:00 am on the 25th of each month, they may not be processed until the next business day.

BY MAIL

- Checks can be mailed to Member Service at 2745 136th Avenue, Hopkins, MI 49328. Checks must be received and processed by 4:00 pm on the 25th of each month to avoid a 1.5% service charge on the unpaid balance and prevent accounts from going delinquent. Please write legibly and include your site number in the note section of your check.

ONLINE BILL PAY

- Most banks offer free online bill pay, which gives you the ability to add Sandy Pines to your bill pay contacts and set up recurring payments. The bank will mail Sandy Pines a check with the amount and due date you specify. Please make sure to add your site number to the notes section of your check and allow time for proper delivery before the 25th.

ONLINE OR BY PHONE

- Credit card payments processed online through your Member Web Access or by phone are charged a 3% processing fee. This fee is processed by our bank because online and phone payments are less secure. Unfortunately, there is no avoiding the fee. However, for immediate payments on your account, this is a good option.

Additional Dues & Assessment details can be found online at www.SandyPines.com/AnnualDues

2745 136TH AVENUE – HOPKINS, MICHIGAN 49328
PHONE 616.896.8315 – FAX 616.896.7409

LAKE COMMITTEE NEWS

BY PAUL PEPPEL

One can only imagine what Sandy Pines looked like before it became, well, Sandy Pines. To have the vision and dream of the Bosgraaf family 50+ years ago to convert an onion field into a camping playground must have been extraordinary. Through the articles of incorporation filed in July 1971, we can see the framework of the concept as well as some basic maps and layouts of the Park. What we cannot see is the original size and depth of the lake back then. The Lake Committee has combed through archives here at SP as well as paperwork at the township, county and state levels to no avail. It's just not there.

So why is this important? Our lake is under the legal purview of EGLE as they are the state agency that is responsible for protecting public health and environment via natural resource regulation. Veteran Piners are well aware of the lake's shrinking depth (this is due to shoreline erosion as well as bottom sediment buildup via leaves and/or dying vegetation). Dredging the lake has been discussed though there are major obstacles. Cost is obviously a concern, but the other snag is the needed approval from EGLE. As we would not be allowed to expand the overall size of our lake, they would potentially only allow us to dredge down to its original size. Because we cannot locate that data, it's a lost cause, right?

Not so fast seaweed breath. Enter the world of bathymetry, the underwater version of a land topography map. When

man-made lakes are created, after the "hole" has been dug, a layer of clay is installed providing a hard bottom. Using advanced sonar technology, the current lake depth and size can be accurately mapped. But we also need to know the original depth. This can be found by simply measuring it with a pole, going through the sediment until you reach solid ground (the clay or bentonite as it were). The process takes five days and could be completed this fall. This data is the cornerstone of meeting one of many requirements necessary for any type of lake maintenance. The quote for this procedure was received from the same group that helped coordinate our dam repair, thus we have a comfortable working relationship with them. We attempted to solicit bids from other sources; however the Spicer Group was the sole applicant.

Whether tackling a major project like a full lake dredge or something more minor like the choked channel in and out of sailboat cove, a bathymetric map would provide a key picture of the "then" of Monterey Lake, a necessary step in securing any type of permit from the State. We will also need to supply information as to what steps we are taking to prevent this from happening in the future. Maintaining a consistent water level via pump usage as well as addressing erosion concerns via rip rap or other measures are examples of those steps. Thanks for reading and hopefully we'll have some more positive news to report in the spring!

COMMUNICATION NEWS

BY Ian Mitchell ian@SandyPines.com

Food Trucks: Looking Ahead to 2027

One of the hottest topics coming across my desk, inbox, voicemail, and the Sandy Pines Facebook page this summer has been food trucks.

We heard you. Food truck availability was down this year, and we know many members were disappointed by the selection and number of trucks visiting the park. I was disappointed too. I enjoy bringing my own family out for lunch on the weekends, trying different trucks, and seeing that activity around the park. I want a strong food truck lineup just as much as many of you do.

The good news is that work on 2027 has already begun.

Last offseason, we made a few changes to the way we scheduled food trucks. While those changes were made with good intentions, they also caused us to get a later start on scheduling than we would have liked. Since then, we have taken a hard look at our process, compared what we are doing with other parks, campgrounds, and events, and identified several ways we can improve moving forward.

We are already actively recruiting and scheduling trucks for the 2027 season, and I am excited about the conversations happening so far.

A lot of work goes into finding those vendors, and much of the recruiting does not happen sitting behind my desk. I spend time in food truck groups and forums, seek out trucks that could be a good fit for Sandy Pines, and attend food truck events to see vendors in action and make new connections. Plenty of that happens on my own time and at my own expense because I genuinely enjoy finding great trucks and want to build a better lineup for our members. When I come across a truck that I think could be a great fit for Sandy Pines, I will stop, introduce myself, talk with them about the park, and make that connection.

We are actively looking, actively recruiting, and actively working to make 2027 much stronger.

We have already connected with a number of new trucks that we hope to introduce to the Sandy Pines community next season, while continuing relationships with many of the vendors you already know and enjoy. Our goal is simple: more variety, better consistency, and a food truck lineup that gives you something to look forward to throughout the summer.

And you can help us find them! If there is a great food truck you have tried somewhere else that you would love to see at Sandy Pines, send the recommendation my way. You can

Continued on Page 13

always email me at lan@SandyPines.com, and I will see what I can do to connect with them and introduce them to Sandy Pines.

A Note About Social Media

There is another way everyone in the community can help. Prospective vendors often visit our website and social media pages before deciding whether Sandy Pines is somewhere they want to do business. That means the conversations happening on our public Facebook page matter. Vendors, prospective campers, guests, and others outside Sandy Pines can see those comments too.

Constructive feedback is always welcome, and I read it all. At the same time, I encourage everyone to think about how we represent Sandy Pines when commenting on our public channels. A steady stream of negative comments, particularly underneath posts promoting the very vendors we are working to attract, can unintentionally make it harder to bring new businesses into the park.

And this goes beyond food trucks. The Sandy Pines Facebook page is often one of the first places a prospective vendor, camper, guest, or even future member may go to get a feel for our community. The way we interact there helps shape that first impression.

Sandy Pines is a fun, welcoming, and incredibly active community. Let us make sure that is the community people see online, too.

A Note About Communication

With that, I also want to acknowledge something from our side of the communication process: we are all human. There is a tremendous amount of information moving throughout Sandy Pines every day, especially during the summer season. Between events, recreation programs, facility hours, food trucks, maintenance updates, meetings, alerts, emails, social media, the website, and everything else happening across the park, there are a lot of moving pieces. We continue to work closely with every department to make sure the information we share is timely and accurate. Even

with those efforts, there will occasionally be times when information changes quickly, something gets missed, or we simply make a mistake.

When that happens, we will continue working to correct it as quickly as possible and improve the process for next time. Our goal is always to give you the best and most accurate information we have available.

Communication is a team effort across a park as large and active as Sandy Pines, and we appreciate the patience, feedback, and understanding as we continue working to make it better.

PARK INSPECTOR NEWS

BY JIM BUCHANAN

Jim@SandyPines.com

Another fall season is here at Sandy Pines, and we have a few housekeeping items and important reminders to share.

First, thank you for a great season! We saw a lot of development throughout the Park this year, which also meant a large number of permit cards were issued.

Some of those permit cards have not yet been returned. Please remember that all permit cards must be returned to the office once your project is complete so we can finalize the project and keep the completed paperwork in your file.

Fall & Winter Storage Reminders

1. Return Your Permit Cards

As a reminder, **all permit cards must be returned to the office upon completion of each project** so the proper paperwork can be finalized.

2. Permits & Project Deadlines

Permits may still be pulled through **September 30, 2026** and all permitted work must be completed by **November 30, 2026**. No work is permitted in the Park during **December, January, or February**. Work may resume in **March 2027**.

3. Tarps, Curtains & Shade Shelter Protection

Tarps, solid curtains, or other nice-looking protective materials may be placed around shade shelters as you close down your site for the season. **These must be removed by April 15, 2027**, when you return.

4. Boat Docks

Boat docks may be stored on your lot or in the green space up on the sand, provided they are at least **10 feet past the high-water-mark poles**. All docks **must be removed from Green Space by May 15, 2027** so spring maintenance can be completed.

If you have any questions, please contact our office.

Thank you,
Cindy, Steve and Jim



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SAFETY NEWS

BY STEVE DEYARMOND Steve@SandyPines.com

Lake Levels & Evaporation

Evaporation, air temperatures, hours of sun, dew point, lake temperature, earth saturation/seepage, rainfall, drought, runoff, and wind all impact the level of our lake. The surface or elevation of the lake is constantly changing due to these factors. At normal water level (672' elevation), the lake is approx. 240 acres. An inch of rain on an acre is about 27,154 gallons. 240 acres (our lake surface at a normal level of 672') x 27,154 gallons = 6,516,960 gallons to increase the lake one inch. It is not uncommon for the lake level to decrease in the summer months with time of little precipitation. Hopefully the fall and winter will have rainfall and snowfall that assist the level of the lake. Mother Nature is the true response for a full lake level.

Scooters & E-Bikes

Just as other communities have seen an increase in these devices, so has Sandy Pines. Sharing the road, patience, and following rules has the best outcome. As we talk about the things that we have seen and people do on these devices, they are all our family and guests. Proper operation starts at home, and teaching youth and leading by example has the best impact. We are a recreational park in which we would hope that enjoyment can be found in our various ways of recreation. Please take the time to discuss/teach rules of the road with your youth/children. Remind youth to stop at stop signs, drive the speed limit, be patient and refrain from passing, and be aware of others on the roadway. It is a good thing to see kids enjoying themselves. It is a concern when these become a nuisance in already congested areas.

A Plan

The capital investment was not successful in this year's vote. Having been here for over 40 years, I still believe that the park has to have a plan going forward, as does any other organization. The plan also has to have the funds to maintain and replace infrastructure. The plan has to be for numerous years unless everyone has a few thousand dollars that we want to put upfront and get it done. Then we can talk about a 1-5 year plan. The problem is that most of us don't have a few thousand dollars just lying around. Age is like oxidation. Oxidation takes the form of rust (a very slow process) or like fire (rapid oxidation). Rust is a slow process and mostly goes unnoticed. Everyone notices fire with an immediate action. Things tend to creep up slowly, although they are in full view of everyone. I've seen this with the Dam, the Golden Onion, the Pavilion, the water park, and other infrastructure in the park. You really don't notice or ignore these, and nobody really cares until they cost money, have to have action to repair, are closed, or are far gone. Every piece of equipment, utility, or structure has a finite useful life span. In the past, special assessments have been the factor that is utilized to take corrective action. Board actions of special assessments do not always receive a positive response.

A plan will still have to be developed to sustain and maintain the infrastructure and financial stability of Sandy Pines. Financial commitment by the membership will be the key in making the plan possible. Without financial support, the plan will be just a wish list.

Trust and support management, the Board of Directors, and committees will also be a necessity. Understand that many people involved are members volunteering with a goal to sustain Sandy Pines well into the future. Have faith in these people being flexible with the plan when times require. Nothing is chiseled in stone. Things change, as any sensible person would realize.

Lastly, be involved, educated by asking those directly involved vs. "I heard it on Facebook" or around the campfire. Participate.

SECURITY NEWS

BY PAUL SCHAAF Paul@SandyPines.com

Office Hours

Emergency Security Staff is onsite 24 hours/day.

July 2026 Call Stats

In July 2026, Public Safety responded to 161 calls for service. The breakdown of the calls are:

Accident.....	10
Alcohol.....	4
Animal.....	6
Assist.....	31
Curfew.....	1
Damage to property.....	4
Disorderly.....	10
Down Tree.....	4
Fire.....	1
Fireworks.....	1
Gas Leak.....	3
Harassment.....	2
Illegal Entry.....	5
Larceny.....	1
Lost/Found.....	3
Medical.....	12
911.....	1
Noise.....	3
Open Door.....	24
Parking.....	2
Power Outage.....	1
Suspicious.....	6
Traffic.....	6
Trespass.....	1
VCSA.....	1
Watercraft.....	10

Cell Phones

Another reminder that you are not supposed to be using your cell phones while operating vehicles in the park. That means automobiles and golf carts. We follow the same hands-free law that the state of Michigan uses.

Lake

It is the time of year when the lake level goes down. Please be sure to check on your boats to make sure they don't get beached.

CAMPING NEWS

BY JANELE TOMES Janele@SandyPines.com

The summer has flown by; how is it we are approaching fall already? As we head into the final stretch of the camping season, there's still plenty of time to make a few more memories around Sandy Pines. To help your family and friends soak up every last bit of the warmer weather, we are offering 50% off campsites through the end of the season! Tell your family and friends, have them pack up their camper, and come enjoy one more getaway before summer is gone! Camping reservations for 2027 open Monday, October 5, at 1:00 pm! Booking online is recommended as our phone lines will be busy that afternoon.

Sandy Pines offers a variety of accommodations, ensuring that every guest can find the perfect fit for their camping experience. They can easily reserve a campsite, rustic cabin, or park model trailer online through our website. With flexible dates and a range of options, booking your stay is quick and simple. Please spread the word to family and friends!

Sandy Pines offers spacious campsites designed for traditional camping. Whether you're bringing your own tent or RV, these sites provide the perfect base for outdoor adventures and many memories.

If you're looking for a more comfortable camping experience, Sandy Pines rustic cabins provide the ideal blend of outdoor charm and indoor convenience. These cozy cabins feature all

the essentials, including comfortable sleeping arrangements, lighting, heat, air conditioning, and a mini fridge. The cabins are perfect for those who want to enjoy the camping experience without sacrificing too much comfort.

For those seeking an even more comfortable stay, Sandy Pines park model trailers offer a fantastic option. These fully equipped trailers include modern amenities such as air conditioning and a full kitchen and living area, ensuring that your stay is both comfortable and convenient. Park model trailers are perfect for families who want to enjoy all the benefits of camping with the added comfort of home.

We have a 10% discount for associate members and a 10% military discount for those who are currently serving or have served in the military. Thank you for your service! To apply these discounts, please contact the camping department directly. You can make reservations via our website at www.SandyPines.com, or give me a call at 616-896-8315 ext. 103

- I'd be happy to assist you. See you soon!

SALES NEWS

BY KENT LIVINGSTON Kent@SandyPines.com

The Cycle of Membership at Sandy Pines

It's that time of year when conversations around Sandy Pines naturally turn toward the sales of memberships. Who is leaving? Who is buying? How many places are currently for sale? And what is happening with prices?

There has certainly been plenty of chatter about the number of properties available. While we do have a few more listings than we would normally carry at this point in the season, when you look at the actual sales and membership transfers, the numbers are very similar to what we have seen over the past several years.

At the same time, you can see a pattern beginning to emerge. The market has changed, and pricing has started to soften. The number of properties available for sale tells only part of the story, though.

A Five-Year Look at Sales

Note: The first line reflects incomplete data as our current system was new at that time.

- Oct. 1, 2021 – Aug. 17, 2022: 92 transfers
- Oct. 1, 2022 – Aug. 17, 2023: 151 transfers
- Oct. 1, 2023 – Aug. 17, 2024: 145 transfers
- Oct. 1, 2024 – Aug. 17, 2025: 129 transfers
- Oct. 1, 2025 - Aug. 17, 2026: 122 transfers

This data can help provide some perspective on the current market and show how today's activity compares with recent years.

One of the biggest misconceptions I hear is based simply on

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Sales News / Continued From Page 15

how many properties people see listed for sale. The better way to understand the market is to look at what has actually sold and transferred, what remains available, and how those numbers compare with previous years.

And when you do that, one thing becomes clear: there are still far fewer properties for sale today than there have been during some previous years.

Every Sale Creates an Opportunity

There is another side of the story that sometimes gets overlooked.

Every time one member sells, another buyer gets the opportunity to begin their Sandy Pines journey.

That exchange is what keeps our community vibrant and full of energy. New families bring new friendships, new perspectives, and new experiences. They become part of the traditions that have made Sandy Pines special for generations, while also helping create new traditions of their own.

So, what are buyers looking for when they decide to purchase?

For most buyers, the decision comes down to several important factors.

First is the price. Buyers want to know that the property fits within their budget and that they are receiving good value for their investment.

Second is what is included with the sale. Furnishings, golf carts, sheds, garages, outdoor furniture and improvements can all make a significant difference in how a buyer evaluates a property.

Third is the value of the membership itself. Access to the amenities, activities, beaches, pools and everything Sandy Pines has to offer is a major part of what makes membership attractive.

And finally, there is the family budget. Buyers have to consider how camping fits into their lifestyle and what they want their weekends and summers to look like for years to come.

When you put all of those pieces together, you begin to see that buyers aren't simply purchasing a site.

They are investing in weekends, memories, friendships and time with family in a family-friendly environment that is becoming increasingly difficult to find.

Passing the Torch

For current members, it can sometimes be easy to look at a membership transfer as a loss. But at the end of the day, I don't believe that's the right way to look at it.

A membership transfer is really a passing of the torch.

One family is making room for another family to begin its Sandy Pines journey.

The memories that one family made don't disappear when

they leave. Instead, a new family gets the opportunity to create its own memories in that same place.

That cycle is exactly what keeps Sandy Pines strong.

Members come and go. Families change. The market changes. Prices change. But the community continues to grow because there are always people looking for that special place where they can spend their weekends, reconnect with friends, spend time with family, and make memories that last a lifetime.

So, as we hear the conversations about listings, prices, and the current market, it's important to remember the bigger picture.

Every sale is also a beginning.

It is another family getting the opportunity to discover what makes Sandy Pines special—and another chapter in the story of our community.

That is the cycle that keeps Sandy Pines vibrant, welcoming, and full of energy year after year.

PARK AND GARDEN NEWS

BY CHET RYAN Chet@SandyPines.com

Park & Garden Update

It is hard to believe that Labor Day weekend is already approaching! It has been a great summer for us here at Park & Garden, and we appreciate all of the support you have given us throughout the season.

Golf Cart Rentals

Golf cart rentals have once again been a great success this summer. If you have not yet reserved a cart for Labor Day weekend, now is a great time to do so. Do not wait until they are no longer available!

Golf carts will continue to be available throughout September. Reservations can be made by contacting the Park & Garden office or through our online reservation system.

Boat Removal

We will once again be assisting with boat removal this fall. Please call the Park & Garden office to reserve a time to have your boat taken out.

Water Softener Pickup

Thank you to all of the members who supported our Water Softener Program again this year!

As you begin leaving the Park for the season, we will start picking up water softeners. Please stop by the Park & Garden office and complete the pickup form with the date you would like your softener collected.

All remaining water softeners will be picked up October 5–10. Thank you again for a great summer and for your continued support of Park & Garden!



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FOOD SERVICE NEWS

BY DALE YODER Dale@SandyPines.com

It is September already! Where did the summer go?

Our Food Service locations will continue operating their current hours through **Labor Day, Monday, September 7**. After Labor Day, hours will begin to change as we wind down the 2026 season.

Country Café

September 7–13
8:00 am – 12:00 pm
Breakfast only

September 14–17
Closed

September 18–27
8:00 am – 12:00 pm
Breakfast only

Country Store

September 7–12
8:00 am – 6:00 pm

September 13
8:00 am – 12:00 pm

September 14–17
Closed

September 18–27
10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Coffee Shop

September 7
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

September 8–10
Closed

September 11–13
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

September 14–17
Closed

September 18–20
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

September 21–24
Closed

September 25–27
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

End of Season

All Food Service locations will close for the season on September 27. As we approach our final days, locations will be working with limited supplies and inventory while we wrap up another great season.

Be sure to stop in before we close and grab a Sandy Pines hoodie or T-shirt to help get you through the winter — or maybe even check a few gifts off your holiday shopping list! Our Food Service team would like to thank everyone for a great summer. We appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you again in spring 2027!

LAKE MONTEREY GOLF NEWS

BY DAVID INGLES David@GolfLMGC.com

WOW, Autumn is right around the corner! However, that does not mean the golf season is done. Lake Monterey GC is open and ready to meet your golfing needs. We are looking forward to a great month. Read on to see everything that is coming up this month...

Outings

The Hamilton Basketball Program will be having their golf outing here on September 12. The course will be closed until around 3:00pm.

The year end employee outing is September 17. This is for all employees of the Sandy Pines and LMGC. The golf course will be closed from 10:00am to 3:00pm that day so our employees can enjoy this gathering.

The LMGC Ryder Cup is September 26. The front 9 will be closed until 3:00pm on this day.

Music Bingo and Trivia Night

These two events have been very successful this season. We are already planning these for next year! Thank you to everyone that has come down and supported us for our events.

Golf Lessons

Is your golf game not up to par? Maybe you're a beginner and want to learn the basics? Our very own David Ingles is available to help. He is offering lessons by the half hour or the hour. The people he has helped over the summer have been extremely satisfied. Call the clubhouse to set up your lesson.

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Lake Monterey News / Continued From Page 18

Facebook and Instagram

Follow us on both platforms and see everything that is happening here at Lake Monterey. We are posting new information and reminders daily. It is a great way to keep tabs on everything golf here at the course.

Golf Course Improvements

Spring of 2027 we will be getting all new irrigation put in the course. This is going to be a tremendous upgrade for LMGC. We will keep you updated as spring gets closer.

In the 2027 season, holes 13 and 17 will become par 4s. This was supposed to be done this year but the new irrigation system backed up our plans for a year.

These changes are going to be great for the course and our players. We can't wait for 2027 so everyone can enjoy the new look LMGC.

Golf Course Emphasis

Our 2026 season at LMGC continues to be a busy and eventful season. Many things continue to go well at the golf course due to our amazing staff and the members who continue to support us. How can we make our golf course even better? We are glad you asked...

- 1) NO SHOW for tee times: Although this issue has gotten better, we are billing the site of members and associates who do not give us 24-hour notice.
- 2) Slow Play: We love seeing everyone down here playing, but we ask that you be mindful of other golfers by keeping up your pace of play. To assist with this, every player must have their own set of clubs; only two golfers per cart are permitted. Please do not give lessons on the course (if someone does not know how

to play, the range is the best place to teach them) and keep up with the group in front of you.

a. If you are falling behind pace, you may be asked to skip a hole to catch up with groups in front of you. If that does not work, you may be asked to leave with a partial refund or raincheck.

3) Bring your member and/or associate card. We are scanning everyone's card when they come into play. If you do not have your card, you may be charged the public rate.

4) DO NOT bring your own cooler or alcohol on the course. If you bring your own alcohol to the course, we will call Public Safety, and you will be issued a citation.

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. But please check out our new selection of drinks that we are bringing in.
- Always bring your Sandy Pines member or associate card to be shown.
- 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 are excited and looking forward to seeing everyone!

CHAPEL NEWS

BY DAVE VAN NOORD

With hearts full of gratitude for a season of amazing speakers and concerts, it's bittersweet to close out the Sandy Pines Lakeside Chapel for the summer of 2026.

As a chapel family, we have been challenged and inspired. For those who attended the services, thank you for making the chapel your church home away from home. We trust you were blessed.

As we leave to return to our home churches and communities, our intent is to let our lights shine brightly and to share the gospel good news with all around us.

The September schedule for the chapel follows. Join us as we continue to worship together.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Saturday, September 5 | Pancake Breakfast hosted by the chapel committee. 8:00 – 11:00 am At the Flea Market Pavilion |
| Sunday, September 6 | Pastor Dan Seaborn, 10:00 am at the chapel |

Sunday, September 6

Tribute Quartet concert at the chapel 6:00 pm

Sunday, September 13

Dave Van Noord, 10:00 am at the chapel

Sunday, September 20

Rev. Dale Cook, 10:00 am at the North Shore Center

Sincere Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to:

The family of Pam DenBleyker site 5050, on her passing on June 19, 2026.

George Fennema, site 5046, on the passing of his wife, **Ruth Fennema**. on August 10, 2026



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