



FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND

DECEMBER 2016

*Merry  
Christmas*

*from your friends at Sandy Pines*



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## PHONE NUMBERS

**Member Services**.....616.896.8315  
 Mon.-Fri. 8:30am-4:00pm  
 Closed Saturday & Sunday

Fax Number.....616.896.7409  
 Member Service.....100  
 Member Service.....101  
 memberservice@sandypines.com

### Administration

Gene/Kathy.....105  
 gene@sandypines.com  
 kathy@sandypines.com

Kimberly.....109  
 kim@sandypines.com

Beth.....106  
 beth@sandypines.com

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

Pumpouts-Emergency.....111

### Park & Garden

Jack Schmidt, Manager.....616.896.9334  
 parkgarden@sandypines.com

**Sales Office**.....616.896.8315  
 Mon.-Fri. 8:30am-4:30pm  
 Closed Saturday & Sunday

### Sales Office or Camping

Kelli.....103  
 Kathy Molner.....113  
 Nicholas Brott.....114  
 sales@sandypines.com  
 camp@sandypines.com

**Maintenance**.....616.896.8317  
 maintenance@sandypines.com  
 Mon.-Fri. 7:30am-4:00pm  
 Closed Saturday & Sunday

**Ranger Station**.....616.896.9006  
 Fax Number.....616.896.7286  
 ranger@sandypines.com

**Recreation Department**.....616.896.8318  
 Mary Applehof-Recreation Director/Adult Recreation  
 Kim Day, Aquatics Director  
 Abby Kono, Youth/Teen Recreation  
 recreation@sandypines.com

**Lake Monterey Golf**.....616.896.8118  
 www.lakemontereygolf.com  
 Golf@golflmgc.com

**Laundromat Hours** – 7:00am-11:00pm

**Retail Center Laundromat** – Open 24 Hours



# LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

BY MARTI DEVRIES

As you read this Footprints copy, I am hoping all have experienced a blessed Thanksgiving! It is amazing how fast this year has gone...Christmas is before us, and then in a few months...we are all back at Sandy Pines!

Late in the fall we discussed the demolition of what we remember as the Golden Onion. The demolition has occurred, and many of you have shared pictures of that progress. Next fall, your Board of Directors will be working with Gene VanKoevering; our Park President, on next steps for what will replace that building. As plans

evolve, they will be shared with our members.

A key project that the Board of Directors is currently working on in the off-season is the rule around site clean-up. As we discussed during the season last year, the rule had NOT changed, only the date had been revised to reflect a little more time for members to meet the requirement. Please look to the next Footprints, as we hope to share an updated, final rule that definitely needs to be in place prior to the next clean up date of June 10, 2017.

Great news! I'm very excited to share that the FEMA Grant was approved for Sandy Pines... notification of the approved FEMA Grant was received in November, just prior to Thanksgiving! If you recall, Gene and several staff members worked many hours with the initial request for

## ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Gene Van Koevering..... Park President  
 Ben Fifelski..... Maintenance Supervisor  
 Kimberly Williams..... CFO  
 Steve Deyarmond..... Safety Director  
 Gary Peters..... Golf Course Manager

## MANAGEMENT TEAM

Josh Janowiak..... Member Service Manager  
 Kelli Blackman..... Guest Service Manager  
 Kathy Brott..... Executive Assistant  
 Kathy Molner..... Sales Manager  
 Jeff Pitchellis..... Park Inspector  
 Mary Applehof..... Recreation Supervisor  
 Jack Schmidt..... Park & Garden

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Finance.....  
 Golf Course..... Tom Drougel  
 Grounds & Maintenance..... Mike Young  
 Long Range Planning..... Rog Grinwis  
 Marketing/PR Committee..... Michael VanderWall  
 Member Outreach..... Marti DeVries  
 Policy Committee.....  
 Rules..... Doug Wills  
 Safety & Security Committee..... Dennis King  
 Special Events..... Mary Applehof  
 Technology..... Bob Powers

## CLUBS

Garden Club..... Nelson Bouma  
 Senior Adult Activities..... Sue Stank

## 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.

Marti DeVries – Chairman  
 Rog Grinwis – Vice-Chairman  
 Gerda Pitcher – Secretary  
 Tim Hoffman - Treasurer

Marti DeVries (18) • Rog Grinwis (18)  
 Michael Harding (19) • Tim Hoffman (17)  
 Dennis King (19) • Rob Klein (18)  
 Carolyn Nielsen (17) • Gerda Pitcher (17)  
 Doug Wills (19)

Boardofdirectors@sandypines.com

## RETAIL SERVICES

Country Cafe..... TBD  
 Hilltop Dairy Dip.....616.896.8868  
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 Pat's Little Wheels.....616.896.8004

this grant, performed follow-up to the numerous questions about the FEMA Grant project, and then patiently awaited the approval. A kickoff meeting with the State will occur in early December - attended by Salem Township personnel, Gene and staff members, as well as two Board members... Rog Grinwis and Dennis King. There are reporting requirements and detailed oversight that is mandatory when a grant is awarded. Thank

you to Gene and his staff for the many hours, attention to detail and updates required, to make this happen for Sandy Pines! We are very blessed to have Gene and his team working for our park!

To you and yours - many blessings, good health, joy and happiness during the holidays! If you are traveling, may you have travel mercies! And all the best in 2017!



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY GENE VAN KOEVERING

With much of 2016 behind us, I have been reflecting during this Thanksgiving season on the many things that Sandy Pines has been

blessed with, as well as looking forward to the coming Christmas season. If you are a person of faith, you are joining me as we now look forward to celebrating the Birth of Our Savior, Jesus Christ, in the days ahead. On behalf of the Staff at Sandy Pines and Lake Monterey Golf Course, let me extend our best wishes to you and your family from all of us, and may this Christmas Celebration bring you and your family many blessings of Peace, Joy, Love and Hope, in Jesus precious name.

The year 2016, was a year of opportunity and challenge. It was a year that much was accomplished for the future of Sandy Pines, with respect to the cell tower and the new warning siren that will be going over by the Phase 6 beach to serve Phases 3 and 6, funded by a grant. Also, the FEMA construction grant, the hiring of a number of wonderful new Staff, and getting through another year safely - especially having received God's Blessing of steering the tornado away from Sandy Pines on August 20. These are just a few tremendous things that give us reason to be grateful and celebrate!!

2016 was also a year in which there was

some disappointment with respect to missed opportunities. It was a tough decision to close down the iconic "Golden Onion" in July, and as many notes and Facebook posts indicated, it was not only a loss physically of one of our buildings and major amenities; it was also a loss emotionally. As was the case with many of our families, Joyce and I sent all our kids through swim lessons there, and back during the mid-1980's the pool could be unattended and open in the winter, as well, and we'd occasionally take the kids there to swim while it was snow covered outside. This old building was certainly the focus of many great memories, and we were blessed to have had it.

In 2016, the Capital Reserve Fund ballot was another disappointment, with a vote that did not pass in August. In spite of two year's work in preparation and planning for the proposal presentation, the vote indicated that Sandy Pines Members are not yet fully in step with a mandate for future financial planning. There are many, however, who supported the plan and many others who will continue to work diligently to find common ground, or other funding opportunities, that will allow Sandy Pines the ability to continue into the future as a place that is well kept, maintained, and remains as a desirable investment to your family and finances.

To say the defeat of the capital ballot was a disappointment would be an understatement,

**See PRESIDENT, page 4...**



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## PRESIDENT, continued

however, to say there is now no way forward, would implicate the acceptance of defeat as the outcome. I am convinced that the no votes are not indicative of a lack of care for the future condition of the park and our amenities, but possibly the difference is in how or what to fund, regarding the needs of this park going forward.

Sandy Pines has a great future...and as Members, as a Board, as Committees and Staff, we will continue to work toward finding ways to lay the financial groundwork that will provide the financial availability to maintain this great park.

Just a few items to update you:

**Cell Tower:** around the 10th of November, the cell tower was up and running, as was shown on our cell phones that have Verizon as a Wireless Carrier. We are excited about that, and we look forward to other Carriers becoming interested, and joining space on our tower, as well.

**FEMA Grant:** I am very pleased to announce that on November 16, Sandy Pines and Salem Township was awarded the FEMA grant to fund 75% of the "hardening" costs for the two new CC's to be constructed in Phase 3 (CC 5 and CC 6) in place of the two existing CC's. The total cost for construction of the two CC's in the project are estimated at \$2,038,000. This amount includes the estimated cost to build it to FEMA Storm Shelter standards (\$1,140,000) an amount of which FEMA will pay \$856,000. We have been asked by FEMA to put together a project oversight committee consisting of two Salem Township Board

Members, two Sandy Pines Board Members, (Rog Grinwis and Dennis King) and myself. Our project kickoff meeting is scheduled for December 6 at the Admin. Office, where all of those involved in the grant application will be present, along with the Oversight Committee, and our CFO.

This is a major accomplishment and benefit for the membership here at Sandy Pines. There are a number of persons who were involved in this grant, but I want to specifically thank Steve Deyarmond, for his persistent and dedicated work with others of us on staff, as well as those at the Engineering firm, those at the township level, the state level and those at the FEMA offices who were all a part of this successful application. It was Steve, however, who pulled the information together and wrote the grant, so please join me in expressing our appreciation for a job well done!! There were some folks who told us that Sandy Pines would never receive a grant, so it goes to prove that we should never give up and always maintain a "can do" attitude in all things. Thanks to all, Sandy Pines is the recipient of a large amount of funding for this project!

Subsequent to our Facebook post that Sandy Pines had been awarded the grant, someone had asked the question as to whether or not a grant could be applied for a potential construction project to replace the indoor pool. My answer to that is simply that if the opportunity became available, we would certainly try to make such an application, in spite of the fact that the requirements are very stringent.

## Demolition of the Adult Recreation Center:

As many of you know the indoor pool building is now down, and it appears to have gone well. We did find that not all of the stone from the fireplace could be salvaged, however, Ben assures me that they will retain as much of it as possible for future use.

**Replacement of the indoor pool:** Some members have wondered if/when this building will be replaced, and some thought it was already in the budget. I believe there is little debate by the Board and Committees as to the desire to rebuild.

This was indicated by the inclusion of the replacement for this building in the capital budget that was presented to the membership in the 2016 Capital Reserve Fund ballot. However, with the failure of that ballot to pass, the replacement of the indoor pool was put on hold, as were many or most of the other capital items that were intended to be funded by the ballot. Other items that are equally important include, care and maintenance of the roads, utilities, equipment and building repairs and/or replacements, that were in that budget.

As recently as the week I am writing this article, someone wrote and questioned "why does the \$200 we pay now not cover all the needs Sandy Pines has for repairs and replacement costs?" In an effort to put the current \$200 assessment in perspective; our original approved Sandy Pines 2016 capital budget was approximately \$2,100,000.

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To compare this with a personal budget example; this would be equivalent to having \$20 toward a needed repair of \$100. This example is an indication of the capital financial needs, and our current ability to meet them. The concern is no different for Sandy Pines, as it would be for any of us, personally.

Due to the failure of the capital reserve fund ballot proposal, our capital projects budget had to be severely prioritized to fit the \$427,200 (\$200 x 2136 memberships = amount that will be collected in 2016)., and additionally, the Board approved a \$1,000,000 infusion of cash reserves to meet the needs of the 2016 prioritized budget. Should this continue without new funding in some form, future capital budgets will require continued delays of repairs or replacements, resulting in the deterioration of capital assets, a situation that will not be acceptable.

Having spent so many hours in public meetings, and after having printed numerous materials, as well as having posted much information on our website; comments such as this make it clear that communication must be a two way street. The information is/was there, but many chose to disregard it or take the word of someone who had an incorrect understanding of the proposal, or was caught up in a Facebook posting debate that

became a place for negativity, misinformation and producing angst among the membership.

Each Member has to do their part and has a responsibility to do so as an informed Member. However, it is my hope that in the future we can avoid misunderstandings, misinterpretation, and avoid division and speculation that important matters such as these are simply ways to fund a "wish list".

Most importantly, as convinced as I am that there are some who will vote 'no' without regard to the importance of a ballot, I am also convinced that there are many of you who consist of the majority. Those who are willing to learn and understand the issues we have as Members, and are willing to do what's best for the park as a whole, even if you may not agree with all the details of a particular issue.

In closing, I would simply again thank you for the opportunity to be a part of the Sandy Pines and Lake Monterey Staff. I am blessed to be surrounded by a great group of supporting Members, Board Members, committees and especially my Staff. I am truly a Blessed man!

Merry Christmas to each of you and May your Holiday be filled with His Presence.

## NEWS FROM THE INSPECTOR

BY JEFF PITCHELLIS

Hello again. The colder weather has finally made its way here to the Park, but we have had some great opportunities to continue with building projects this fall, with our warm temperatures.

Please remember to obtain your permits prior to doing any new site developments. Again, the member's handbook is available to you, helping to guide you through any questions that may arise. Please remember to return your permit card to the Inspector's office with a completion date. That will help in our record keeping.

Noticing that the fall cleanup efforts were going strong, I would like to remind everyone to take advantage of the Park's facilities for the placement of your unwanted items.

Thanks to everyone for the cooperation that you give to the team at Sandy Pines. Have a great Holiday season!

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# PARK AND GARDEN UPDATE

BY JACK SCHMIDT

Merry Christmas to our Sandy Pines Members from the Park and Garden staff. We have just finished a great Thanksgiving, and actually had excellent weather. I was able to go out without a winter coat on Thanksgiving. In a short four months, we will again begin preparation to get the store ready for the return of our members.

There are some new items we want to inform the membership of as we approach the 2017 season. We review our budget each year, and we have found that the two areas that help increase the income each year are the Water Softener Program and the Golf Cart rentals.

The water softener program continues to grow each year and it looks like 2017 will be another year with record numbers of the members using this service. There is still time to order your softener for the upcoming season, if you have not already done so. We can install the softener or you can do it yourself. The majority of our members that have used the softener find that one softener will be all they need for the season. Only 10% of the members using a softener needed a second softener in 2016. If you haven't ordered your softener for 2017, you can still do so by sending an email to [Parkgarden@sandypines.com](mailto:Parkgarden@sandypines.com) with your name, phone number and site number. Be sure to include the date you would like the softener installed, or when you will pick it up. We begin installing as soon as the water is turned on in

April. Please remember that we cannot install over 200 softeners on the first day, but we will install as close to your requested date as possible.

The other area of growth for us has been in Golf Cart Rentals. A little background – for the past three years, we have sold out of carts EVERY weekend after the 4th of July until Labor Day Weekend. We were also sold out for Memorial Day. Currently, we own 48 – 4-passenger carts and six – 6-passenger carts. In late October, the decision was made to take over all cart rentals in the park. We explored a lease program with EZ-GO and Club Car for the upcoming season. We have made the decision to go with Club Car and will be leasing 70 – 4-passenger Electric (2010) carts to add to our fleet. All of the 4-passenger carts leased will come with windshields and a rear flip seat. Club car will be responsible for winter storage, maintaining the carts, and batteries. We will also be leasing 20 – 6-passenger Gas carts (2016) to add to our current fleet. These will include the windshield and have 2 USB charging ports. We are currently evaluating the cost for our 2017 rentals.

One change to our system will be that carts will not be available to pick up when the store is not open, as was done in the past. We will be extending the rental office hours on Friday and Saturday nights until 9 pm, to allow for those campers who don't get to the park until after Park and Garden has

closed for the day. We believe we can take care of the needs of our membership and guests, and increase income to help with other expenses in the park.

We will have our online reservation system set up, same as it was last year for rentals, by the end of January. You will also be able to make a reservation by emailing [parkgarden@sandypines.com](mailto:parkgarden@sandypines.com). Please be sure to include your Name, address, phone number, site number (campsite for campers or guests), date(s) of rental and time of pick-up, (remember that you will need to return the cart based on the time you list as pick up). Example: You list pickup time as 5 pm but you don't arrive until 8 pm. You rent for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday – you would need to return the cart by 5 pm on Sunday evening, for a two day rental.

We are excited about being able to serve all the members and campers for the 2017 season. If you haven't stopped by the store in the past, please plan a stop this season to see what we carry in landscape supplies, hardware, Christmas lights, Chemicals, and many more items. If we don't have it in stock, we will do all that we can to get the items you need.

Looking forward to seeing you again in four months.



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# SAFETY DEPARTMENT UPDATE

BY STEVE DEYARMOND

## **Snow load:**

Western Michigan and lake shore communities commonly receive lake effect snow. Sandy Pines commonly is a recipient of lake effect snow. As a result Sandy Pines may receive more accumulation than areas further inland.

Snow accumulation on porch enclosure roofs, golf cart shelter roofs, golf cart tops, and screen room enclosure roofs, has, in the past, resulted in damage from snow load. Although very uncommon some trailer roofs have also been damaged by snow load. Please check or have a friend check the amount of snow load on items at your site throughout the winter.

Please review the contractors list at [www.sandypines.com/parkinspector](http://www.sandypines.com/parkinspector) for contractors that provide the service of snow removal from porches and trailers.

## **Lake Ice:**

As the days begin to get colder ice will form on the lake. Please use great caution when going out on the ice.

A general guideline of four inches of new clear ice is the minimum thickness for travel on foot. A general guideline of five inches of ice is required for snowmobiles. Remember these are general guidelines and many factors besides thickness determine the safety of ice. The lake does have a constant current and under water springs. This can make the ice weaker in various areas. Don't risk your life to get out on the lake to fish or snowmobile.

The water is cold and hypothermia can place your life at risk should you fall through the ice.

## **Contact information:**

If you have moved or changed your phone number or address please provide your current contact information with member services. This will assist

staff in having the ability to contact you if needed.

## **FEMA Award for Storm Shelters in Phase 3:**

We are excited to announce that our grant request was approved to construct the new Convenience Centers in phase three as Hardened Storm Shelters. In August we were told that our grant request was one of the top five in Michigan and that it had been numerous years since a Storm Shelter had been funded by FEMA in Michigan. These grants are competitive with other organizations requesting to have their projects funded. We are blessed to have the support of Salem Township, Allegan County Emergency Management, the State Police Hazard Mitigation Division, and the team at FEMA Region 5. We would also like to thank the Park Membership that emailed their public comments to FEMA with their concerns and needs for shelters.

## **Membership Cards:**

Please contact the Ranger Department if you wish to remove membership cards for associate members or grandchildren. 616-896-9006.

## **Snowmobiles:**

Please stay on park roadways and obey posted speed limit. Please do not drive across sites. Be careful along the lake because boat stakes may be above ground and covered with snow.

## **Park Road conditions:**

Please check weather before coming to Sandy Pines. Park roads may be or may become impassible with winter conditions.

*With Sincere  
Sympathy*

SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO:

**Jerry Fryling**, Site D-14, on the passing of his wife, **Beverly**, on September 20th.

**Larry & Ann Ratkowski**, Site N-113, on the passing of their granddaughter, Bailey Kathryn Emelander, on October 3rd.

**Forrest Rogers**, Site 1181, on the passing of his wife, **Patricia**, on October 10th.

**Hank Marshall**, Site N-335, on the passing of his wife, **Flo**, on October 21st. Sympathy is also extended to their brother-in-law, **Lee Kosaski**, Site N-334.

**Linda & Jeff Smit**, Site N-507, on the passing of their father, **Earl (Erk) Van Koevering**, on October 22nd. Sympathy is also extended to Earl's brother and sister-in-law, **Gene & Joyce Van Koevering**, Site D-67, and to his niece and nephew, **Kelly & Doug Nyhuis**, Site K-34.



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# MEMBER SERVICE AND MARKETING NEWS

BY JOSH JANOWIAK

## Winter Administration Office Hours:

Monday-Friday: 8:30 am – 4:00 pm

Closed Saturday and Sunday

**Our office be closed Friday 12/23/16 through Monday 1/2/17 for the Christmas & New Year Holiday.**

## Convenience Centers open this winter:

CC 2 Phase 1 & 2

CC 5 Phase 3

CC 8 Phase 4 (Until the snow flies)

CC 10 Phase 4

CC 12 Phase 5

The Recreation Station Phase 5 & 6

## Annual Dues Payments & Billing:

If you are making monthly payments toward your annual dues, please see the Finance & Accounting Footprints Update for the list of monthly balances allowed under the plan. If your balance exceeds these amounts, you have a past due balance that is not covered by the \$277.04 monthly payment.

Please note, in addition to your monthly dues payment in January, you'll also be charged your first quarterly electric payment and state unit tax. The quarterly electric payment is an estimate, based on your total electric usage for 2016. Quarterly electric and state unit tax payments are due in January, April, July and October.

If you are having issues receiving monthly bills, please check with Member Service to confirm that your contact information is up to date. The off season is a great time to double check addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. If you receive email statements and aren't able to open the attached PDF files, please login to the Account Summary & Payments portal at [www.SandyPines.com/Members](http://www.SandyPines.com/Members). You can view your monthly statements and make payments anytime. Please note there is a 3% processing charge for online & phone payments. There is no processing charge for credit card payments made in person at our office. The Rangers Station can also now take payments any time or day of the week.

## Member Service Satellite Office:

Due to the high volume of traffic through the main gate in the summer, we've added a satellite Member Service office at the Ranger Station. Our goal with this position is to aid the Ranger staff in the busy summer months and offer members the ability to make monthly payments and get quick answers to Member Service questions.

Mary Cooper (who will be celebrating 20 years with Sandy Pines this December) will be stationed at our satellite office for the 2017 season. Mary announced at the beginning of the 2016 season that she'd be retiring at the end of the 2017 season, at which time she'll remain on our staff part time. Her experience and knowledge will be a great asset to members and the Rangers at the satellite office. Thank you Mary for 20 years of great service!

## Marketing & Communications Update:

Enclosed in this edition of the Footprints, you'll find a copy of our 2016 event survey. We'd love to get your input on the events you attended this summer, your ideas for next summer and the way you'd prefer to be informed about future events. It's a quick five minute survey and it's done most easily online. If you have an email address associated with your Sandy Pines member account, we'll email the survey directly to you. Survey Monkey will compile results in real time as surveys are completed. Thusly, we highly recommend you complete them online for our ease of data compilation. If you're not a computer person, we



recommend you have a friend or family member access the survey for you at [www.SandyPines.com/EventSurvey](http://www.SandyPines.com/EventSurvey) or you can stop by Sandy Pines and we'll set you up on one of our handy dandy kiosks. If you absolutely cannot complete the survey online, you can complete and return the copy in your Footprints or stop by Sandy Pines to pick up a paper copy. We have a pair of limited edition stainless steel Sandy Pines coffee travel mugs (a \$20 value) that we'll be giving away at random to anyone who completes the survey by 12/31/16. Good luck!

A yellow and green advertisement for Monterey Pines General Store. It lists the store's hours (7 am - 11 pm), phone number (269 793-9721), and various products like beer, wine, liquor, cigarettes, camping supplies, groceries, hunting and fishing licenses, and gas. It also mentions services like Lotto, ATM, and Propane. The store is located at 2730 136th Ave. in Hopkins, MI.

A blue and white advertisement for Vacationland Sales. It features the text "Vacationland Sales" in large green letters, followed by "Michigan's Largest Park Model Dealer" and "Across from Sandy Pines". It highlights "Park Models Are Our Specialty!" and provides the phone number 616-896-8371. It also mentions a "BIG Selection with real deals!!" and the website [www.vacationlandsales.com](http://www.vacationlandsales.com). The address is 2746 - 136th Ave. Hopkins, MI 49328. An image of a park model is shown on the right.

# 2016 Events & Communication Survey

The goal of this survey is to get your input on the events you attended this summer, your ideas for next summer and the way you'd prefer to be informed about future events. It's a quick 5 minute, anonymous survey and it's done most easily online at [www.SandyPines.com/EventSurvey](http://www.SandyPines.com/EventSurvey).

## 1. How often were you in the park this season?

- Every day
- Every weekend
- Most weekdays with occasional weekends
- Most weekends with occasional weekdays
- Most weekends
- A few weekends
- Seldom
- I wasn't able to make it to the park this season

## 2. How many park events did you attend this summer?

(This includes any event hosted at the park)

- None
- 1-5
- 5-10
- 10-15
- 15 or more

## 3. What type of park events do you enjoy most?

- Food events: Picnics, pot lucks, barbeques, Dine-Arounds, pancake breakfasts, etc.
- Athletic Events: Color Run, Triathlon, Knocker ball, tennis, basketball, etc.
- Entertainment: Music, concerts, karaoke, movies, etc.
- Sales Events: Flea Markets, Garage Sales, etc.
- Arts & Crafts
- Cards & board games
- Field trips to offsite events

## 4. Please elect all the events you, family or friends attended this summer.

- Rainbow of Color Run
- Civil War Reenactment
- Highland Games
- Family Fun Day
- 3D Triathlon

- Chapel Worship Services
- Chapel Vesper Services (Concerts)
- Vacation Bible School
- Flea Markets
- Pancake Breakfasts
- Garage Sales
- Blood Drives
- Karaoke

## 5. What was your favorite event this past season & why? (It doesn't have to be on the prior list of events)

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## 6. What other events or types of events would you like to see hosted at Sandy Pines?

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## 7. Did you or any of your family and friends attend the Civil War Reenactment event in 2016?

- Yes
- No

## 8. If not, why?

- No interest
- Out of the park
- Attended during the prior two years
- Weather not conducive

## 9. If yes, rate your experience at the event.

- Very Poor
- Poor
- Fair
- Good
- Excellent

## 10. What were the reasons that affected your answer to question number 9?

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## 11. If given the opportunity to decide the future of the Civil War event, your choice would be (check one):

- Bring the Civil War event back for the 4th year
- Replace the Civil War event with another major event
- Give the Civil War event a rest and consider bringing it back in the future

## 12. How did you hear about 2016 park events?

(Please pick up to 3)

- The Sandy Pines Website
- The Sandy Pines Facebook Page
- The Sandy Pines Members Forum Facebook Group
- The Sandy Pines Footprints
- Sandy Pines proprietary TV channels (9.1-9.4)
- Posters, handouts & park bulletin boards
- The Weekend Flyer
- Word of mouth

**13. How would you prefer to receive dates and information about park events next season?**

(Please pick up to 3)

- The Sandy Pines Website
- The Sandy Pines Facebook Page
- The Sandy Piners Members Forum Facebook Group
- The Sandy Pines Footprints
- Sandy Pines proprietary TV channels (9.1-9.4)
- Posters, handouts & park bulletin boards
- The Weekend Flyer
- Word of mouth
- Email Marketing (Direct emails sent to you with park schedules & information)

**14. How often did you visit the new Sandy Pines website this year?**

- Always
- Often
- Sometimes
- Seldom
- Never

**15. How would you rate the website for overall ease of use and the ability to find what you were seeking?**

- Very Poor
- Poor
- Fair
- Good
- Excellent

**16. Do you have any recommendations on our website design, layout or information provided?**

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Sandy Pines has four proprietary channels that we use to broadcast Sandy Pines information. Channel 9.1 is advertising and announcements; Channel 9.2 is for recreation information and the Weekend Flyer; Channel 9.3 is used for our sales listings and Channel 9.4 includes our Digital TV Channel Lineup.

**17. Do you or your family use any of the four proprietary channels?**

- Always
- Often
- Sometimes
- Seldom
- Never

**18. If so, which channel(s) do you use?**

(check all that apply)

- Channel 9.1 – to stay current with important announcements and advertising
- Channel 9.2 – to read the Weekend Flyer and see recreation updates
- Channel 9.3 – to check out what the Sales Department currently has listed
- Channel 9.4 – to see what stations are available on our TVs

**19. Are there any other types of information you would suggest for use on these channels?**

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**20. If we were to eliminate these channels – would it adversely affect your knowledge of activities and information about Sandy Pines?**

- Definitely
- Maybe
- Maybe not
- Definitely not

In order for us to best calculate the above data and feedback, it would be helpful to have additional demographical information. Please note that this survey is anonymous and none of your personal information will be utilized for business or public use.

**21. What is your gender?**

- Female
- Male

**22. What is your age?**

- 18 to 24
- 25 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65 or older

**23. How often are your associate members in the park?**

- Always
- Often
- Sometimes
- Seldom
- Never

**24. How often do you have guests in the park?**

- Always
- Often
- Sometimes
- Seldom
- Never

**25. How often do associate members and/or guests visit specifically for park related events?**

- Always
- Often
- Sometimes
- Seldom
- Never



## SANDY PINES FLORIDA WINTER GATHERING

BY PHIL & JACKIE PAYNE

Now that summer has passed and we've enjoyed a lovely fall season at Sandy Pines, it's time to think about the Sandy Pines Winter Gathering!

If you winter in Florida, be sure to include the Sandy Pines Florida Winter Gathering on your March calendar. Sandy Pines members will be gathering for lunch on Wednesday, March 22, at 11 am. We will meet at Homer's, 1000 Sebring Parkway, Sebring, FL 33870, and enjoy a great meal with our Sandy Pines friends. The restaurant is popular in the area and has a large buffet, which will cost \$10/person. If you plan to attend, please e-mail Jackie Payne at [JackieP6218@gmail.com](mailto:JackieP6218@gmail.com). We will need this information no later than March 15, so we can confirm our numbers with the restaurant, prior to the event.

If you live in Florida, winter in Florida, or are just down for a short visit, we would love to have you come to the gathering. Also feel free to e-mail if you have any questions.

Looking forward to seeing you in March!

**From the crew at  
the  
Country Cafe  
and  
Country Store:**

**THANKS for a  
GREAT Season!**

**Wishing you all  
a Safe and  
Happy Winter.**

**Watch the  
Footprints and  
Facebook for  
our spring  
opening!**

**Wishing you and your family  
a Very Merry Christmas...  
and a Happy New Year!**

**Your Maintenance Department**

**Clean Sweepers Inc.**

**If you want it Clean, Call CSI**

*May the beauty of this Holiday Season  
fill your hearts and homes with peace, love,  
hope and joy! Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year to you and your loved ones.*

**Bob & DeeAnn Blanton**

[cleansweepersinc@gmail.com](mailto:cleansweepersinc@gmail.com)    [www.cleansweepersinc.com](http://www.cleansweepersinc.com)

**SANDY PINES MEMBER  
LICENSED CONTRACTOR**

**Like us on Facebook**

# FINANCE & ACCOUNTING UPDATE

BY **KIMBERLY WILLIAMS**

A very Happy Holidays from our office to each and every one of you within our Sandy Pines community.

Our office has been busy working through this off-season on continued enhancements and corrections to the systems that were newly implemented during the 2016 summer season, and are focused on a smooth transition into the 2017 season.

I would like to use this update to remind you of a few specific financial reminders. If you have chosen to use the payment plan available for your payment of 2017 dues and assessments, your monthly payment is \$277.04, due on the 25th of each month, from October 2016 thru March 2017. This payment plan is allowed for dues and assessments only. To stay current within the payment plan, your balance owed for 2017 dues and assessments must equal the following on each date listed below:

October 1, 2016	\$1,602.00
October 25, 2016	\$1,324.96
November 25, 2016	\$1,067.79
December 25, 2016	\$806.77
January 25, 2017	\$541.83
February 25, 2017	\$272.92
March 25, 2017	\$0 – All dues and assessments paid

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

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

We are also excited to share that Sandy Pines has officially been awarded a FEMA grant towards the construction of the two replacement CC's in Phase Three. Please note our President's article for additional information, and we will continue to keep you updated as more information is available.

If at any time through the off-season you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or message us. Thank you all for being a part of the Sandy Pines Community. We wish you many blessings until we reunite next season, in 2017!



The new Cell Phone Tower is now up and operational! Here's a photo of the finished product. Verizon customers are getting five bars on their phones!

## SAFE ROOM NEWS

FEMA has approved the Salem Township Sandy Pines Safe Room Project with a Federal Cost share of \$856,418. Two new Convenience Centers will be built in Phase 3 to replace the existing Convenience Centers that are over 40 years old. These new Convenience Centers will be built to withstand 250 mph, 3 second gusts, with a high confidence of shelter safety during severe weather and tornadic events.

Sandy Pines has been working with Salem Township, Michigan State Police and FEMA for over a year to fund this project. This hazard mitigation grant is 75% Federal funding and a 25% Sandy Pines match to harden the building to withstand severe weather events.

This grant also includes a weather alert siren that will be placed near the Marina in Phase 6 to

alert the east side of the Park. The siren will be activated by Allegan County Emergency Dispatch Center and/or by Allegan County Emergency Management.

Sandy Pines would like to thank the persons involved in procuring funding for this project: Steve Deyarmond – Safety Director/grant writer, Jim Pitsch - Salem Township Supervisor/grant writer, Kevin Eides - Architect, Kim Williams - Sandy Pines CFO, Gene Van Koevinger - Sandy Pines Park President, Ben Fifelski Sandy Pines – Maintenance Supervisor, Paul Lounsberry - Michigan State Police, Matt Schnepf - Michigan State Police, and Joel Pepper - Michigan State Police.

We would also like to thank the Members of the Park who submitted public comment to FEMA with regard to the need for Safe Shelter within our Park.

# 2017 DUES, CAPITAL, CABLE, & SPECIAL ASSESSMENT

The total annual membership dues, capital contribution, cable TV, and special assessment for the 2016/2017 season will be \$1,602 and will be on your October 1st statement as follows:

2017 Annual Dues	\$1,123
2017 Annual Capital	200
<b>Total Dues/Capital</b>	<b>1,323</b>
2017 Annual Cable TV*	129
Special Assessment – Golf Course (2 of 10)**	150
<b>Total 2016</b>	<b>\$1,602</b>

The cost of living increase for the total annual dues/capital contribution is .60% or \$8.

\*At the annual election held August 21, 2010, the membership approved a requirement that ALL memberships be required to participate in the bulk cable TV program which reduced each members cost of cable by 43% in the first year.

\*\*At the annual election held August 15, 2015, the membership approved a ten year annual golf course assessment to be used for golf course operations and capital assessments.

## YOU HAVE TWO PAYMENT OPTIONS:

Dues, Capital Contributions, Cable TV, Special Assessments, and all other fees and charges are due and payable October 1st. The total balance billed to your account must be paid in full by October 31, 2016 to avoid service charges.

\*\*\*OR\*\*\*

SIX MONTHLY INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS to pay **the dues, capital contributions, cable, and special assessments only** in the amount of **\$277.04** due by the 25th of **EVERY** month (October through March). PLEASE NOTE: **The payment plan includes only the dues, capital contributions, cable, 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 charges for services, electric, state unit tax, etc. to the monthly installment amount of \$277.04. As dues and assessments are due and payable October 1st, a missed payment under the payment plan, 60 days from October 1st, will result in magnetic card deactivation and additional charges will apply for reactivation.**

**Sandy Pines Bylaws, Article III, Section 6, Effect of Nonpayment of Annual Dues, Special Assessments, Capital Assessments or Other Charges:** The nonpayment of any annual dues, special assessments, capital assessments, or other amount due and/or owed to Sandy Pines by a member within sixty (60) days after the same shall become due and payable, shall result in the automatic termination or suspension of the membership, and all rights and privileges related thereto except the right to vote at annual or special elections. The terminated or suspended member shall NOT have the right to recover any monies from Sandy Pines.

**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 postmarks or check dates as payment dates, so please mail early. We cannot guarantee timely delivery by the post office. Unfortunately, we cannot waive the service charges. **Your payments on account are due in the office on or before the 25th of the month. Accounts more than 60 days past due will have all magnetic cards deactivated and there will be an additional charge per card for reactivation.**

We offer three automatic debit payment plans (balance on account, fixed amount, or you will call each month with the amount). You may also make debit or credit card payments through our website (convenience fees apply). In addition, most online bill payment systems through your bank now electronically transmit payments to Sandy Pines.

## NEWS FROM THE CONDOS

BY RICHARD RANDELS

After another long-lasting and beautiful fall season, temperatures are finally dropping and winter is beginning to settle in here at Sandy Pines. The year-round residents at the condos now look forward to enjoying the park in its beautiful quiet time. The frozen lake, the snow covered pines and the brisk fresh air, provide a balance to the busy summer time we also enjoy. Time in front of the fireplace with a nice warm drink gives us time to reflect on the accomplishments of last year.

It was a very busy building year at the condos. With the addition of four new buildings, our occupied units went from thirty-three at the beginning of the year to forty by years end. One more unit is expected to be occupied by the end of January. We also saw the completion of the cart path connecting phases one and two, complete with a new bridge.

With all building completed in phase one, our road got the finished coat of asphalt for a nice clean look. The residents also committed the funds to install a standby generator to operate our pump house. This will stabilize our water supply through times of power outages that seem more frequent when you live among the trees.

Condo residents continue to have a variety of social activities throughout the winter including monthly potlucks. Many residents also find time to stay in shape by using the workout room or walk or ski the roads and grounds. It is a real pleasure to enjoy Sandy Pines all year long.



# S'more cash for summer.

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## FEMA SAFE ROOM GRANT

On December 5th, a meeting was held at the Admin. Office to discuss the FEMA 'Safe Room' Grant that has been awarded to Salem Township and Sandy Pines. Members attending the meeting include (L-R): Matt Schnepf, State Police, Hazard Mitigation; Paul Lounsberry, State Police, Hazard Mitigation; Kevin Eidson, W. L. Perry; Rog Grinwis, SP BOD; Dennis King, SP BOD; Gene Van Koevering, Sandy Pines President; Beth Merren, SP Accounting; Steve Deyarmond, SP Safety Director; Jim Pitsch, Salem Township Supervisor; Kimberly Williams, SP CFO; Ben Fifelski, SP Maintenance Supervisor; Jeff Pepper, State Police, Hazard Mitigation and Scott Corbin, Allegan Co. Emergency Management Services.





## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Candy & Rodney McKenzie, Hudsonville  
David & Nancy Houghtaling, Zeeland  
Hai Le & Vy Tran, Byron Center  
JoAnn Davis & Jeff Engelsman, Fennville  
Justin Arquette & Lori Baldwin, Jenison  
Ryan & Jacqueline Ribant-Merritt, Armada Twp.  
Julie & Donald Suwyn, Hastings  
Guy & Linda Caple, Benton Harbor  
Michael & Claire Rotman, Holland  
Chester & Brenda Benedict, Alto  
Dolores Warmbir, Clifton, IL  
James & Donna Bandy, Homewood, IL  
Michael & Kristin Capp, Vicksburg  
Mark Ippel, Jenison  
Chad & Melissa Winterhalter, Hudsonville  
Daniel & Stacy Moss, Kentwood  
Douglas & Brittanie Kerkstra, Dorr  
Ronald Jorgenson, Plano, IL  
Christopher & Jennifer Molenaar, Hamilton  
Benjamin & Nancy Jacobsen, Zeeland  
Glenn & Leanne Overweg, Zeeland  
Marvin & Carla Cowper, Livonia  
James & Holly Mueller, Jenison  
Laura & Gary Watts, Frankfort, KY  
Gary & Pat Denslow, Jenison  
Daniel & Mary Riley, Kentwood  
Kevin & Lisa Laursen, Grandville



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# HELPING HANDS UPDATE

BY JUDY VANKLOMPENBERG  
& DEE BASSETT

We would like to thank all of the ladies who participate in Helping Hands. If you came to help once...or every week throughout the season...we appreciate you!

We, as a group created 310 aprons for Diamond Springs, and we also provided them with 230 pairs of shorts and 300 dresses. They send them to an Orphanage in Mexico.

We also delivered 382 dresses to Ionia, where they will be delivered to an Orphanage in Mexico.

We gave another 75 dresses to Pastor Paul, from French Africa, who will take them back with him.

We have been blessed to be able to do this work, while enjoying our summers at Sandy Pines. In total, we made 757 dresses, 310 aprons and 230 pairs of shorts. Your donations of money or sewing material is always welcomed and appreciated.

If you would like to join our group next season, please do! We meet on Mondays at the Pavilion from 10 am to 3 pm – beginning in May.

Thank you and Praise be to God!



**Wishing all our doggie  
friends at the Dog Park  
Merry Christmas and Happy  
New Year.  
See you next spring!**



## CLASSIFIEDS

### We have more 'Site for Sale' listings online at [www.sandypines.com](http://www.sandypines.com).

Please call **Kathy (ext. 113)** or **Nicholas (ext. 114)** at 616-896-8316, for additional information or to schedule an appointment.

**For Sale - Site 377:** Kropf Park Model. Excellent condition with enclosed porch, golf cart w/shed, fire pit, gas grill and picnic table. Located near Picnic Shelter. 2017 Dues are paid. Asking: \$37,000. Call: 616-396-7803.

**For Sale - Site 418:** 2008 Quailridge – everything included. Beautiful lake view, excellent condition. Asking: \$77,500. Call: 616-498-0239 and ask for Deb.

**For Sale - Site 654:** Location, Location! Looking for peace and quiet? 2010 Kropf Island Series park model on waterfront at quiet end of the lake with beach area in front and quiet neighborhood. Front kitchen, open concept, one bedroom, double loft. Loads of storage areas. Lake views throughout. Full 3 season porch, decks, patio with fire pit all facing the lake. Air conditioned throughout. Fully furnished inside and out, including kitchen and linens. Large gas grill, golf cart, and canoe included. Asking \$153,000. Call Carol at (616) 460-1901 for more details and to arrange a visit to this prime site!

**For Sale - Site 681:** Phase 2, on Fawns Rest. Fantastic Lake View, Wonderful Neighbors. 2009 Double Loft Trophy Park Home. Central Air w/aux air conditioners in porch and loft. Newer 10x32 three season porch wrap around deck. Screen porch with rattan table, chairs and cushions. EzGo Golf Cart that parks in 12x18 Emma Storage Barn. New Swing, Fire Pit in Boxes. Two Blow Ups for Christmas in August. Many extras in Trailer and Garage. Bring your landscape ideas to enhance this Park Home. Asking \$103,995. Call or Text: 734-748-1139.

**For Sale - Site 1330 - Phase III:** '81 Honey Trailer. Porch- Deck- Fire pit patio- Shed - Paddle Boat - Boat slot & dock in front of trailer. Great views of the lake kitchen, fire pit, porch & deck.

Close to CC and Outside Pool. Asking: \$49,500. Call: 616-340-1871.

**For Sale - Site N-16 - Phase 4:** Lakefront! Beautiful view. Remodeled Oakland Park, completely furnished. New furniture on the 10x30 4-season porch. Golf cart and shed. Must see! Asking: \$118,000. Call: 616.291.1618.

**For Sale - Site N-463 - O'Neida Trail, Phase 4:** 1998 Summit w/ large double loft. Great condition. Great central location. Lots of friendly neighbors. Comes fully furnished. Front kitchen. Three-season porch. Beautiful plantings. Includes nice golf cart (maybe two). Dues are paid for 2016. Asking \$44,500. Call or text Jim: 616-813-0429 anytime.

**For Sale - Site K-465:** Quailridge in Phase 5 with a water view. Check out this totally updated, CLEAN trailer and porch with both air and heat. One bedroom with lots of storage, NEW mattress/box spring, NEW carpet in trailer, beautifully painted kitchen cabinets, full size appliances, trendy color choices throughout. Porch has NEW gray vinyl plank floor, NEW gray futon, NEW wicker chairs, black painted wood table/chairs, geometric area rugs. Shady lot with front and back deck, patio, fire pit, shed, and a generous parking area. Club Car golf cart has new batteries. \$49,900 includes all furniture and decor. Can be shown Wed-Sun. with 5 minutes' notice. Call (616) 886-2782.

**For Sale - Site D-58, Phase 6:** On the water. Fully-furnished 3-bedroom, 35-foot Trophy Park Model with central air and heating. Extra large 10' x 32' four season porch with separate house-sized air-conditioner. Large sandy beach with kids play area. Boat stake. Two gas golf carts, underground sprinkling, new roof. Sleeps 8 comfortably. Full deck with table, chairs and large adjustable umbrella. Asking: Only

\$114,000. Call Emily Versluis at 616-719-6852 or Dick or Carol Zahn at 616-676-2268, or e-mail rzahn43@comcast.net.

**Condo For Sale:** 2812 Sandy Pines Dr. New 1,226 sq. ft. ranch condo. Main Floor has open floor plan with kitchen, island, a work station, dinette, great room with fireplace, 4 season sunroom with deck, master bedroom, walk-in closet, main bath, and main floor laundry. Lower level is finished through drywall with a 2nd bedroom, bath, and family room. Extra deep two stall attached garage for your golf cart. All this for \$190,000. Please call Linda Hall @ 616-292-4848

**Condo For Sale:** 2809 Creekside Ct. New 2,188 sq. ft. ranch condo. Main floor has open floor plan with kitchen, pantry, dinette with bay window, great room with fireplace, 4 season sunroom with deck, master bedroom with private bath and walk in closet, 1/2 bath, laundry and study. Lower level is completed with bedroom, bath, and family room. Extra deep 2 stall attached garage for you golf car. All this for \$210,000. Please call Linda Hall @ 616-292-4848.

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED?

If you would like to place a Classified Ad, please e-mail it to [Kathy@sandypines.com](mailto:Kathy@sandypines.com) or call 616-896-8315 (ext. 105).

Ads are automatically charged to your account, and cost \$15/month. You must notify Kathy Brott when you wish to have your ad removed.



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## THE CONDOMINIUMS AT **SANDYPINES**

*Enjoy the Sandy Pines Resort lifestyle,  
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**Sales Model is CLOSED  
for the winter season!  
(Showings available by appointment)  
Model will reopen for regular  
hours on April 21, 2017!**

**Only ONE Condo available in Phase One,  
and 13 in Phase Two! Hurry before they're gone!**



For more information contact:  
Linda Hall (616) 292-4848  
sjkhall@gmail.com

