



SANDY BRAE NEWSLETTER

Note from the Sandy Brae HOA:

Well, it wasn't the summer we all wanted, but it was the summer we got. COVID regulations are still keeping us safe yet continues to change how we do, well, almost everything! But at least we are not quarantined!

Good news is the Farmers Markets are going strong and school is back in session, in one form or another. The local artisans have figured out how to conduct a marketplace and the Lewes Senior Activity Center is open with restrictions. Candy corn is showing up in the stores, the Halloween store is opening in the Kmart space, and although Seawitch Festival is cancelled, pumpkin lobster bisque is back on the menu. We are going to have a Fall after all!

As we look at our community, we see several homes have been sold which means new neighbors, a new house was built, lots of hot tubs and some pools got installed, the new puppies from April and May have gotten much bigger, and lots of outside home improvements happened over the summer. A few residents have moved on and we wish them well in their next chapter, but we lost a few residents and send condolences to their families.

As we begin the journey to the end of the year, we ask that you keep the local food pantries, animal shelters, and the homeless in mind and donate whatever and however you can. Find new ways to celebrate our children and honor our veterans and seniors. Be hopeful. Be courteous. Be kind. Be thankful for your health, your family, your friends. And at the Thanksgiving table, be thankful for all the gifts in your life.

And speaking of thankful.... thank you to all the Sandy Brae residents that have helped the Board this year keep our community great especially Jay Abel, Maryann Jachym, and Shellie DiLauro, Board members who rolled off this year. They went above and beyond, gave so much of their time and energy to the HOA, and stepped-up to be on the Board when their community needed them most. You were great and we appreciate you!!

Happy Fall... Happy Thanksgiving.... Wear Your Masks.... Wash Your Hands!!

SBHOA Board of Directors



Why do we have an Architectural Form? When do I use it?

Our HOA has used some form of an “AR Form” since it’s incorporation in 2003. Having an “AR Form “is part of the Board’s fiduciary responsibility to do what is best for the aesthetic look of the community. It is the owner’s responsibility to be familiar with this form and use it when anything on the outside of the house is being done.

Over the years, the form has been modified by Board policy to fit the ever-changing needs of the community and the times. And although the name has remained the same, and probably not the best name for our form, it is a requirement for any new builds, major construction, any modifications, replacements, additions, or alterations of any kind on the outside of the home. You also need this form to install a shed. Currently, our form gives a resident one year to complete a project.

The form must be submitted 30 days in advance of the start of any project so that the Board can have the time to make sure required documents are attached and any questions from the Board have time to be addressed by the resident. SBHOA “AR Form” is located on the website under the documents tab. Once approved/reviewed, you will receive a green SBHOA approval sign to place in your window during the time of the project.

Lately, abuse of the AR Forms has been an issue. Major construction has started without one, owners not submitting the form in time to meet the approval process, permits not obtained, contractor information not supplied, etc. This year, the Board has been more than accommodating to assist owners often times doing so at the last minute “because my construction starts end of the week” or “I had no idea”. Twice, construction had to be stopped because proper documentation was not provided.

Since the beginning of 2020 till now, COVID and all, the Board has processed 30 “AR Forms”. That is a lot, but we love it! That means residents are improving their property, upgrading their property (inside or outside), and that increases the value of their home and all our homes.



2021 DUES

HOA annual dues in Sandy Brae have not been increased in 2 years. Last year, when according to the Covenants, the Board was able to increase dues, they chose not to because of COVID-19. That meant the only true revenue to the HOA was thru \$100 annual dues; fines are not included in the operational budget. It is important to note 4 residents have not paid 2020 dues, 3 have not paid 2019 dues, and 1 person still owes for 2018.

At the September 2020 Board meeting, the Board voted to increase the 2021 dues to \$110. The cost to operate the HOA is increasing; grass mowing, snow plowing, attorney fees, etc have all increased and we need to keep pace with that. The 2021 dues notice will be sent out in late November with a due date of January 1, 2021.

Update on Postal Lane Townhouse Project

In case you missed our eblast and Facebook posts, the Sussex County Council like the Sussex County Planning & Zoning Commission, rejected the townhouse project on Postal Lane. The reasons from both was that it was not suitable or safe to build such a project on Postal Lane.

The Board wants to thank all the residents who sent emails/letters to the Council members and Commission members in protest of this project and helped the Board craft their position on the project.

The Warrington's have tried to rezone this area, now as a Boat Trailer and Stock Yard holding up to 32 boats, and or trailers. We feel this would be an eyesore to our community and have again gone to public hearing to try and stop this new proposal. As writing of this newsletter, there has been no final decision and we would urge residents again to be diligent and watchful for any news of them returning to the Commission for approvals.

Yard Sales

Missing the Spring and Fall Community sponsored yard sales was a bummer! But we want to remind residents that you can hold individual yard sales anytime of the year. Just remember to wear masks, use social distancing, and be as safe as possible. Looking forward to having those community sponsored yard sales return in 2021!

Speeding in The Community

Getting lots of calls of concern about speeding thru and not stopping at the intersection stop signs at Locust and Beech and then at Dogwood and Linden. The Board has reached out to DelDot Traffic Calming (not kidding) Representative for help since DelDot owns our roads. An option is for painted double stop strips. Meanwhile.....slow the heck down and please stop at the STOP signs.

The 2020 SBHOA Annual Meeting

The Board has voted and confirm to officially cancel the 2020 Annual Community Meeting. The Board was unable to locate a local meeting facility that was open, and viable for our community meeting. The annual mailing will still go out the end of November and contain all the usual information in addition to your 2021 annual dues invoice. We look forward to seeing everyone in June 2021.

Love the Houses Decorated for Fall

In these uncertain times, it is a real pleasure to drive around our community and see homes wonderfully decorated for Halloween and Fall. It is one way to bring some joy and fun into the day. The houses decorated so far look great! So, thank you for your enthusiasm and effort.

We Need Your Email!!

Please do not unsubscribe from the HOA emails. The Board communicates primarily thru email blasts and it is important to keep informed about our community news. If you are not currently receiving email from the HOA, please send us your email address to sandybraehoa.lewes.de@gmail.com if you have unsubscribed in the past.

Dogs Off Leash = Trouble

Over the past months, there have been several incidents of dogs off leash attacking dogs walking with their owners, owners unable to control their dogs while walking and they go after other dogs, and dogs roaming the community off leash. Everyone has the right to a safe walk with or without their dogs in Sandy Brae. Animals have the right to feel safe on their owner's property. If these comments apply to you and your dog, the Board is asking for your cooperation to change. It is a Delaware law dogs must be on a leash, and picked up after.

Community Drive-Arounds

The Board regularly drives around the community monthly. The reason? We survey the community to see if there are any residents that are in violation of our covenants. Violators will be notified in writing, and all violations are given the opportunity to address these concerns. We don't want to be viewed as the SB Police, but rather as a group of concerned residents who wish to work with their neighbors to help resolve such issues and thus rise the look and feel, and value of our community.

COVID-19

For the latest updates on the City of Rehoboth Beach's Comprehensive Action Plan in moving forward with reopening the City, please visit www.cityofrehoboth.com [cityofrehoboth.us3.list-manage.com]. For more information, please contact the Communications Department at 302-227-6181 ext. 522 or communications@cityofrehoboth.com

Lets Help Make a Difference!

Sandy Brae is teaming up with Cape Henlopen High School to help restock Sanitation, Hygiene, and PPE supplies.

This school year is unprecedented as our district has been forced, like many, to adapt to the changes in our world due to the spread of the Novel Coronavirus. We are asking that our community of Sandy Brae do its part to help educators keep a safe and clean environment for students and staff alike, as well as restock the personal hygiene pantry at Cape Henlopen. The following items are in need of donations:

- | | | | |
|----------------|-----------|------------|--------------|
| Lysol Wipes | Body Wash | Deodorant | Shampoo |
| Hand Sanitizer | Soap | Toothpaste | Toothbrushes |

We will be organizing two pick-up dates on the second Sundays of October and November. Please leave donated items at the end of your driveway for pick-up in a disposable box or bag.

Oct. 11 and Nov. 8. Please have items ready to be picked up at 10am as we will be picking up between 10am and Noon.

We hope you can participate and help our schools and those in need!

5 Reasons Why You Should Vote!

This year's election goes beyond who will be president. Your [vote is your voice](#) on issues affecting housing, education, employment and healthcare. Help make a difference in your community during this general election and join us in "My Vote, My Health" initiative. Have you [registered to vote](#)? Here are just a few reasons why you should get registered and vote:

1. Elections have consequences.

You have the power to decide on the quality of life you want for yourself and future generations. Voting is your chance to stand up for the issues you care about like public transportation, raising minimum wage, or funding local schools. This is your life: take the time to help decide what's best.



2. Not voting is giving up your voice.

Elections are decided by the people who go out and vote. Take some time and learn about the measures and the candidates. If you don't vote, someone else will make the decision for you. Your power is in your vote.

3. It's your money.

You pay taxes, but do you know how that money is being used? Most people don't. Voting is your chance to choose how your tax dollars are spent – such as funding for health care and social services.

4. Voting is an opportunity for change.

Do you want to make a positive impact? Voting gives you that chance! Support the candidates and ballot measures that can help your community, state, and even the nation for the greater good. Make your voice heard in these elections.



5. The community depends on you!

Our communities are made up of friends, loved ones, neighbors, and children. Some may not know how important voting is, while others don't have the privilege. Make the decision to vote for yourself and those around you.

Make sure your voice is heard – [vote!](#)

CALENDER

Due to COVID-19, we would suggest you check local websites and other forms of media for Fall/Winter events.

<https://www.rehoboth.com/events-a-activities2/calendar-of-events.html?view=calendar>

OCTOBER

12 Columbus Day

12 Sandy Brae Board Meeting @ 6PM*

TBD

31 Halloween

NOVEMBER

3 Election Day

9 Sandy Brae Board Meeting @ 6PM*

TBD

11 Veterans Day

26 Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

14 Sandy Brae Board Meeting @ 6PM*

TBD

25 Christmas

Check out, and sign up for newsletters and emails from <https://visitsouthern Delaware.com/de-events/month> and <https://www.beach-fun.com/events/chamber-events>

Be sure to check website for any changes of Board meetings times or dates.

**Board meetings are open to all residents in good standing. Should COVID standing still be in order, HOA Meetings will be held as executive meetings via ZOOM.*

EDITORS CORNER – John Luzzi:

Well its' Fall, or Autumn (I never was able to determine the difference), and this year is passing, and I can tell you, I feel like I need a do over! I am sitting here thinking of how the holidays will be via Zoom with family? Likely less disagreements, and less food being served, and it makes me angry and depressed. I miss being around large groups of family and friends, and even *some* strangers. I miss just saying Bless You to someone after they sneezed, and not having to run and take cover, or think what it looks like in their mask after the sneeze.

Well, I am hopeful that in 2021, we will see a vaccine for this horrible disease and maybe this will ease people and their bitterness.

Today, my thorn is getting back to my 2019 weight. With all the staying home, and even with doing all the stuff around the house, etc., I am afraid comfort food won over anything nutritional and/or healthy. My rose, well we adopted two incredible dogs this summer. Seems someone had inherited them and then collected the inheritance and dropped them off a kill center in NC. Rescue Team in PA saved them, and then we found them, and they saved us. They are bundles of joy. Ok, a handful, but true joy.

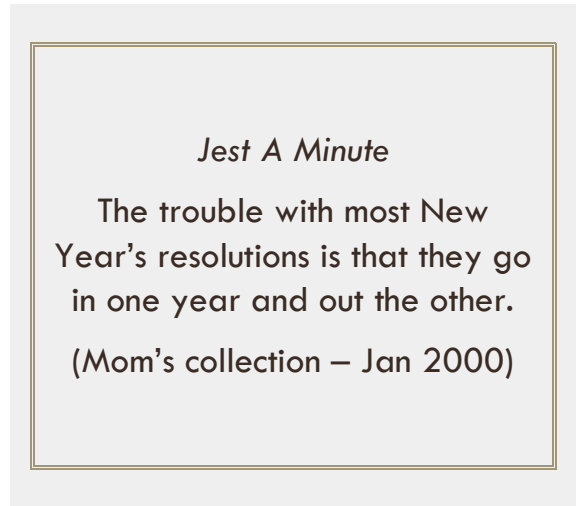
I wanted to end my corner this time with a song lyric that I sent to my dad one year when he wasn't feeling well and decided to stay home on Christmas Eve. I picked up my Mom and Aunt (she lived close by) and left a pretty long letter for him to open when I left. The letter went on to say some of lessons he had taught me, and how the holidays were not about the gifts or the food, although that made them more wonderful, but they were about us, his family. I closed with this line from the song Nature Boy, which I remember as a kid my dad would play from a Nat King Cole vinyl record;

The greatest thing you'll ever learn, is just to love and be loved in return. And so, I close this note today with the same lyric, and wish you all a happy and healthy new year. Be kind to each other.

LOUIE'S CORNER:

Bread is the most widely eaten food in the world. It gives you energy and protein, it is often called the food for life. Everyone says their baker has the best bread. My wife, Santina, and her sister, Louise, when they were very young lived in a place on the lower east side (NYC) where their mother other always sent them to buy bread. On the way home they would eat the ends of the bread. It was so tasty they say their baker was the best. And then that skinny kid from Hoboken, Mr. Sinatra had his bread sent to him all over the world. You know even the Apostles had great bread. My, my even stale bread was mixed wiith chopped bread and it was called meatballs. The poorer you were the more bread went into the meatballs. And so my story on bread ends.

Editors note: Funny after reading this I also recalled going for bread in Brooklyn (NY) as a kid at my mothers request, and eating the ends before I got home. We called it the cooley. Really those were the good ole days.

**Being Neighborly** - Barbara Brewer, Sandy Brae Board Member

Here, in Sandy Brae, being “neighborly” comes naturally to many. That’s one of the many reasons it’s great to live here! In an era where many people don’t want to bother interacting with others on their street or block, the pandemic of 2020 has emphasized the need for community and local connections, too. Over recent months many residents, unable to travel to safely visit their own distant or elderly family members, gained a newfound concern for the isolation experienced by some of their neighbors. Whether a masked or distanced wave, “hello” or short conversation when retrieving items from their mailboxes, or assisting others with cleanup after storms, Sandy Brae residents have been exhibiting some “neighborly” behavior. Some shared veggies from their summer gardens, dropped baked goods on a neighbor’s porch or offered to pick up an extra bag for them from the “corn man” on Plantation Road. Others mowed grass, washed a car, walked a dog or called to check on a neighbor’s well being. Some exchanged phone numbers and email addresses, traded good books recently read, children’s toys (disinfected), acknowledged a birthday or anniversary or alerted their neighbors of a burned out light, lost pet or a wild critter sighting.

I heard one of our Sandy Brae neighbors tell another this summer “I hope your mother has someone nearby who is as good a neighbor to her as you have been to me” and hearing that warmed my heart. No matter how stressed or busy we are, we could all use another friendly gesture or kind word or surprise gift on our doorstep. Why not let it begin, or continue as the case may be, with each of us?

neigh·bor·ly - characteristic of a good neighbor, especially helpful, friendly, or kind.

5 Relaxing Hobbies to Help You De-Stress

If you're feeling a bit out of sorts and need to find a way to relax, there are plenty of hobbies to help you get to total Zen. From outdoor activities around the house to simply writing down your thoughts, you can easily find solace.

Gardening - Take advantage of the nice weather and head outside to de-stress for a bit. A recent study in the Netherlands suggested that gardening can help fight stress better than other leisurely activities like reading or listening to music. You'll want to do research on your climate, though, and which plants are best for your area for a specific time of the year. The amount of sunlight, heat and moisture your yard gets will also help determine what green buddies you should plant.

Knitting and crocheting - If you'd rather stay indoors and double your relaxing time with crafting, opt for crocheting or knitting. The easier of the two hobbies is crocheting and you can find simple patterns and packs online through popular craft stores. Cross-stitching is also a simple process with pre-made designs available to purchase. But if you're really feeling up for a challenge that will occupy your mind, try following along with knitting tutorials online and create a scarf for when the chilly weather comes back.

Coloring - In recent years, adult coloring books have become increasingly popular. Sitting down and taking the time to focus on filling in spaces on a page may seem simple, but freeing your mind of everyday stressors can seriously help you relax. Online retailers have large varieties of coloring books available from your favorite TV shows and movies. You could also download a coloring app on your phone, like Happy Color, which is free (with advertisements) and allows you to color thousands of images.

Puzzles and games - Put on some calming music, clear the table and grab a puzzle. If you want a quick jigsaw getaway, go for a 500-piece puzzle. For those long weekends or at-home vacations, get a more involved 1,000- or 2,000-pieced challenge. Cooperative board and puzzle games are also great for de-stressing since you work together with friends or family to win (instead of stressfully competing against each other).

Journaling - The benefits of journaling are quite extensive. Doing this simple task of writing down your thoughts can help you stay organized, assist you in setting and achieving your goals, clear your mind and inspire creativity. Quite possibly the best part about journaling is choosing a beautiful journal and then making it your own with fun designs. If you're not sure where to start, look online for different types of journaling formats and pre-made templates.

Life can be incredibly hectic — especially right now. It's important to know your limits, take a breath and set aside time to de-stress. Take up any one of these hobbies to get a head start on reaching total relaxation.

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Any questions, please contact us via our Facebook page or our website: www.SandyBraeHOA.com

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Editor: John Luzzi

**If you wish to contribute an article or nominate someone to be highlighted in our newsletter,
please contact us a noted above. Thank you.**