



# SANDY BRAE NEWSLETTER

## HOT TOPICS!



- ❖ Dog Poop, the topic that never goes away! Be a good neighbor and please pick up your dog waste!
- ❖ CATS! Seems Sandy Brae has new residents, cats! Please try and keep your cats (and other animals) in your own yards. We have had some calls regarding free roaming cats in people's yards.
- ❖ Speed limit in Sandy Brae is 25MPH. We are getting lots of calls about speeding scooters, cars, and trucks. Please drive safely summer is just around the corner!
- ❖ Want to read the minutes from our Board meetings? They are located on the HOA website in the documents tab along with financials and agendas.
- ❖ Real Estate is hot in Sandy Brae! Last year the average home sold for \$314,000
- ❖ Homes continue to sell in 2021 at a record pace. Please remember it is the seller's responsibility to make sure the buyers are aware of the HOA and the Covenants. The Board has been spending a great deal of time working with the real estate agents and lending institutions for all these sales to ensure that buyers understand what they can and cannot do in our community. Sandy Brae's Covenants are nothing compared to other communities, our dues are incredibly low, and currently, our community does not require a capital fund contribution at sale. Our community is desirable for all that plus our location is our best-selling point!
- ❖ Postal Lane RV and Boat Storage Facility has been approved but the owners have not submitted an official plan to DelDot. They have 3 years to do that. Meanwhile, boat and RV storage facilities are available at the facility behind Panera and at the storage place by Nassau Bridge.
- ❖ Plantation Senior Living has broken ground at the corner of Postal and Plantation Road across from our community. It will have 144 units on 10 acres. Approved by Sussex County P&Z in 2017, this facility will be a continuing care type of facility providing independent living, assisted living, and possibly memory care. It is also projected to provide almost 100 jobs to the area.
- ❖ The Board loves seeing all the improvements and outside projects being planned in our community. Remember to fill out an AR Form for any outside project. Located on the HOA website in the document tab.
- ❖ April 24, 2021 you must add 302 to any phone number within the State of Delaware. All phone numbers will need to have the area code as part of the number, so don't forget to reprogram all those numbers in your mobile phone.
- ❖ Just a reminder to our residents, according to our covenants "all dwellings must have their five (5) digit house numbers posted in readable numbers on the front of the dwelling, deck, or front porch and/or on their mailbox." This is very important for visibility for post-delivery, 911 responders, and of course.... pizza delivery.
- ❖ Remember to like us on FACEBOOK!

## Annual HOA Meeting

Our annual meeting is currently scheduled for **June 12, 2021**, at 10AM till Noon. Due to COVID restrictions, we are not sure if we will have a room at the Lewes Library for our Annual Meeting this year. But we are determined to have a meeting, so watching for details in the coming months!

## NEW ENTRANCE SIGNS!

Here is a preview of our new entrance signs! Tower Signs are working hard to get these new signs completed for us, and we can hardly wait!



**In April, the DelDot Southern District Public Works Engineer and his crew visited our community to review the condition of our streets and to observe our compliance with DelDot's Obstruction Regulations. They will send a report to the HOA Board for review and implementation. Stay tuned!!**



## When to Prepare Your Garden for Spring

Whether you're a first-time hobbyist or a dedicated horticulturalist, it can be tricky to plan out your spring garden. Between preparing the soil, purchasing supplies, and figuring out when to plant, it's easy to get overwhelmed. To help make your horticultural journey a little more organized, here's a look at some factors to consider when planning your garden.

**Figure out your frost dates** - Before you put any plants in the ground, it's important to know your area's frost dates. Your local frost date is the average day of the season's last frost. To find this day, check out the Old Farmer's Almanac or use an online tool. Once you know the date, you can back up several weeks to figure out when to start weeding, setting up fixtures, and supplementing the soil. However, once the frost date has passed, there's still a 30 percent chance that a freeze could still happen. If you're eager to get plants into the ground, plan accordingly by choosing hardy, cold-tolerant vegetation for your early spring garden. If you have a planter garden, consider keeping an eye on the weather and moving your pots indoors in the event of a freeze.

**Prepare your tools** - Even if the ground is frozen or it's too chilly to work outside, you can still make preparations for gardening season. Take a trip to the hardware store to pick up items like potting soil, mulch, planters, tomato cages, and garden implements. But don't neglect the tools sitting in your shed or garage, either. Pruners and other bladed tools should be cleaned in hot, soapy water, since dirty items can transmit diseases to freshly pruned plants. Once your tools are dry, sharpen the blades with a mill file and penetrating oil to hone the edges for easy shearing. It's also a good idea to squeeze a few drops of oil or WD-40® into the hinges of your shears, snips, and pruners for easy operation when springtime arrives.



**Get your hands dirty** - When the weather permits and the ground thaws out, head outside and prepare to break ground. You'll need to weed the garden and break up the first 12-14 inches of soil, which you can achieve with a hoe or a rototiller. A gas-, battery-, or electric-powered rototiller will make your job much easier, but if you can't fit one into your budget, you may be able to rent one from your local hardware store. Once your soil has been worked, consider testing your soil chemistry and supplementing it as needed. You can also mix in compost or fertilizer to replenish the nutrients lost from last year.

**Form a seed strategy** - Consider the kinds of plants you'd like to grow. Some seeds may be cold tolerant and germinate best in early spring, so you can freely sow these when it's still chilly outside. Others take a long time to sprout and mature, so if you start the seeds indoors during the chilly months, they'll be ready to plant after you're in the clear for frost. If you'd like to have bulbs for your summer garden, purchase them locally or order them online during late winter, so you have plenty of time for them to ship. Figuring out how to plan your garden is tricky for first-timers, hobbyists, and seasoned growers alike. For more information, consider consulting with your local nursery for specific advice on what — and when — to plant in your region.

**EDITORS CORNER – John Luzzi:**

I am so hopeful these days, as I think I can see the end of this dark tunnel we have all been living in. We have all done so well and are in the homestretch of coming out of this pandemic. I hope everyone can remain steadfast and diligent. Wear a mask in public, stand 6 feet apart, and wash your hands... all seems easy enough! I long for the days of having BBQ's and gathering with my friends and family. Let's see, if we as a community can get together this year for an annual meeting or community event. It is sad not to see and meet all you and shake hands! We have new neighbors and it would be great to meet. Please everyone, continue to stay safe, and get that vaccine when you can!

*Jest A Minute*

Did you hear about the English teacher who has a snowman in her class? She had to flunk him because he couldn't get the drift.

**LOUIE'S CORNER:**

Sometimes I think of the past or as you would say – the good old days. What comes to my mind, is that rough brown old paper bag that my mother used to put my lunch in, or cover my school books with, make a hat, or use it as a windbreaker. I could go on and on citing many uses of it. The amazing thing about that paper bag is nobody knows who invented it. However, one of the first persons who improved it was an American woman by the name of Margaret Knight. In 1869, she devised a machine that would mechanically fold squares in the bottom of the bag so it could stand once it was opened. How about that!

**CALENDAR**

**APRIL**

- 01 April Fool's Day
- 04 Easter
- 12 **Sandy Brae Board Meeting @ 6PM\***

**MAY**

- 09 Mother's Day
- 10 **Sandy Brae Board Meeting @ 6PM\***
- 14-15 Sandy Brae Spring Yard Sale
- 20 Cher's Birthday
- 31 Memorial Day

**JUNE**

- 12 **Annual HOA Meeting**
- 14 **Sandy Brae Board Meeting @ 6PM\***
- 14 Flag Day

**Just a reminder the Fall Yard Sale will be September ##, 2021.**

Check out and sign up for newsletters and emails from <https://visitsoutherndelaware.com/de-events/month>, <https://www.beach-fun.com/events/chamber-events>, and <https://www.rehoboth.com/events-a-activities2/calendar-of-events.html?view=calendar>

Due to COVID-19, we would suggest you check these local websites and other forms of media for local events and potential cancelations.

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

**\*Board meetings are open to all residents in good standing. If COVID restrictions prevent the Board from meeting in person, HOA meetings will be via ZOOM and residents are encouraged to send in topics or questions for discussion.**

## Ideas for Celebrating Mother's Day During the Coronavirus Pandemic

By: Melissa Degennaro

Mother's Day is a special day to show your gratitude for the maternal figure in your life. Whether it's your mom, your grandma, an aunt, or someone else, honoring that person might look a bit different this year as we deal with the coronavirus pandemic. However, there are ways to be creative and show your love this Mother's Day. You can perform simple acts of kindness from your home or partake in a socially-distanced activity. A little celebration or gesture can go a long way.

Here are some ideas of what families can do this Mother's Day to show your love and appreciation, as well as some self-care ideas for mom to take a moment for herself, guilt-free.

### What Families Can Do?

- **Breakfast in Bed.** What mom doesn't want to wake up to fresh coffee, OJ, and pancakes for breakfast? This is an easy, fun solution to keep your kids engaged and excited, while cooking up something delicious for mom.
- **Coupon Books.** Kids can create a coupon book just for mom that's redeemable for household chores, unlimited hugs, nail painting or an at-home massage.
- **Homemade Arts and Crafts.** Because kids can't bring art or crafts typically made in school home to mom, parents can work with kids to make simple, yet meaningful art creations from home. Some ideas include hand/footprints, noodle necklaces, painted flower pots or a simple card made with construction paper and markers.
- **A 'Mixed Tape'.** Although mixed tapes no longer exist, the idea of making a playlist with mom's favorite songs will always be cherished. Work some exercise into it by using the playlist to have a dance party with the whole family.
- **Flowers, Online Gifts, and Takeout.** You still have time to order mom flowers for delivery or personal gifts online. Maybe a soft set of pajamas or comfy slippers, gardening tools or candles will brighten her day. Or, if you want to host a special brunch or dinner for mom, you can order delivery to support local businesses and elegantly plate the food so it feels more special for mom.
- **Virtual Gatherings.** Many of us will celebrate Mother's Day virtually this year. Host a get together on FaceTime, Skype, or House Party. Planning an online 'party' with singing, laughter and food in each home.
- **Share Love on Social Media.** If you're on Facebook or Instagram, share a photo of you and mom with a special message. All of the likes and comments will surely make mom smile.
- **Family Walk or Exercise.** If the weather cooperates, be sure to get outside and take a socially distanced walk with the family, or set up a fun exercise class at home for mom and the kids to do together. There are plenty of ideas online!
- **Video Card.** Can't make it to the card store? No problem! Smart phones have made it easier than ever to record special sentiments that mom can keep forever. Make it a tradition and she can watch her child grow throughout the years. Bonus – it's eco-friendly, too! Share your video card on social media and tag Hackensack Meridian *Health* to be part of our #MomHero movement this Mother's Day!



### What Mom Can Do?

- **Sleep!** There's no doubt that the pandemic can take its toll on your sleep pattern. So, if you can, try to get a good rest the night before Mother's Day, and spend some extra much-needed time in bed in the morning. It's YOUR day!
- **Manage Stress.** The best ways to manage stress are to connect socially, stay active, and find support if you need it. It's also recommended to disconnect from work as you are able, and enjoy living in the moment with your family.
- **Practice Gratitude.** Feeling gratitude and appreciating the good has been proven to increase happiness. Use Mother's Day to kick off the use of a gratitude journal, and write down and reflect on three things you are grateful for every day.

## DIY Father's Day Gift Ideas

If your dad is an important part of your life, let him know how special he is by giving him a DIY gift for Father's Day. There are a wide variety of potential presents to make, so no matter your dad's style or preferences, you can create a meaningful moment for him.



**Unique clothing accessories** - Whether or not your dad puts a lot of thought into his outfits, you can add some personalized pieces to his wardrobe and bring a smile to his face whenever he wears them. If your dad is often found standing by the grill during cookouts, gift him an apron. You can purchase a plain apron from the store or put your sewing skills to the test and make him an apron out of a flour sack towel. You can then add a creative image to the apron using transfer paper. All you have to do is select a design online, follow the instructions that come with the transfer paper and iron the design onto the apron. You can utilize a similar method to make your dad a custom shirt or a handkerchief. If you want to create your own design for a clothing item, you can also paint the item using fabric paint.

**A custom mug** - Gifting your dad a custom mug for Father's Day is a simple and fun way to fill him with joy whenever he drinks his daily coffee or tea. For this DIY project, all you need to purchase is a plain mug, a pencil and a few paint pens. You can draw on the mug with the pencil first so that you can easily erase any mistakes you make. Then, you can carefully paint over the pencil design with the paint pens. After you're satisfied with the mug's appearance, let the mug air dry for a day and then bake it in the oven at 375 degrees Fahrenheit for 25 minutes. Once it's finished baking, let the mug sit in the oven for up to two hours before handwashing it.

**Creative containers for drinks** - If your dad enjoys the occasional alcoholic drink, consider personalizing containers to hold his beverages. You can add style to a flask using a piece of wood grain contact paper. Simply cut the contact paper so that it can fit nicely around the flask later on. Then, write your dad's name on the paper with a paint marker and stick the contact paper to the flask, making sure his name is visible and in an ideal location. Another option is to decorate a mason jar that your dad can use for different drinks. This DIY project is easy and open to interpretation, making it a great choice if you have little ones wanting to help with the gift. You can add stickers, tie a ribbon around the top or even paint the glass.

Help your dad have the best Father's Day yet by giving him a DIY gift this year. While tools, sports gear and other items can still be great presents, your dad can fully cherish your gift, knowing the time and effort it took to make it.

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**Any questions, please contact us via our Facebook page or our website: [www.SandyBraeHOA.com](http://www.SandyBraeHOA.com)**

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