



Hello Fall!

Sandy Brae Newsletter

Fall 2024

“Coming together is a Beginning; Keeping together is Progress; Working together is Success.” Henry Ford

Hello Neighbors,

On behalf of the new Sandy Brae HOA Board, I want to say “Thank You” to the outgoing board. This has been a year of transition here in Sandy Brae, especially with the departure of a board that has served tirelessly for many years. They approached their service with passion and a sense of doing what they felt was right for the residents of Sandy Brae. Their commitment to the residents of this community cannot be questioned, as Sandy Brae continues to be one of the most sought-after communities in Sussex County.

As your new president, I would like to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Martin McDonnell, and many of you may have met me on my daily walks with my trusted, four-legged friend Buckley. I will work closely with John Kelly, who will serve as Vice President; Jessica Harrison, Treasurer; Helena Hannah, Secretary; and Lisa George, Director. Together, as a board and fellow residents, we are excited to strive to continue keeping our community safe and looking its best. We will use our collective time, talents, and skills to forge relationships with county representatives and neighboring communities who will help us help our community.

We ask that you be patient as we step into our roles and navigate putting our words into action on your behalf. We are all adjusting, learning, unlearning, and doing our best to make this board one that the residents of Sandy Brae will find friendly, transparent, and helpful while upholding the Covenants, By-Laws, and Guidelines that govern our community.

Thank you for giving us this opportunity to serve our community. We wish you all a happy Fall, holiday season, and New Year!

Sincerely,

Martin McDonnell, President



Martin McDonnell



John Kelly



Jessica Harrison



Helena Hannah



Lisa George



Any questions, please contact us via our Facebook page or our

Website: www.SandyBraeHOA.com | Email: SandyBraeHOA.Lewes.DE@gmail.com

Martin McDonnell, President | John Kelly, Vice President | Jessica Harrison, Treasurer
Helena Hannah, Secretary | Lisa George, Director | Nancy Hecker, Honorary Board Emeritus,
Kathy Davidson, Board Emeritus | Print Coast 2 Coast, Newsletter Designer



Voting, Sussex County Style

Voting in Sussex County, with its unique characteristics, can be challenging, especially if you are new to the area. It's vital to get the facts. If you are a new voter here in Sandy Brae or a seasoned voter with questions, below is essential information to assist you in exercising your constitutional right to vote while living in Sussex County on Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

What do I need to know?

- Change of address with the Post Office does not update your voter registration.
- On Election Day, you must vote at the polling place for your home address. Due to redistricting changes, always check your card or verify your Polling Place with the county.
- The DEADLINE for unregistered citizens to register to vote in the November 5, 2024, General Election is October 12, 2024.
- The early Voting Period for the 2024 General Election begins October 25, 2024. Contact the Sussex County office listed below for designated early voting sites for Sussex County or an Absentee Ballot if you cannot vote in person.
- You must present your ID when voting in person, either at an early voting site or at your designated polling place.

You can contact the Sussex County office directly with any questions.

By Phone: Call the Sussex County office at (302) 856-5367.

Online: Visit the Department of Elections website or www.vote411.org

Fun Presidential Election Facts:

- Why is election day on a Tuesday, and why is it November? In the late 1800s, most citizens worked as farmers. Many had to travel a day or two to vote and didn't travel on Sundays. November was a good time for elections because harvest season was ending.
- Victoria Claflin Woodhull, an American women's suffrage movement leader, was the first woman to run for president of the United States in the 1872 election under the New Equal Rights Party, which she was instrumental in establishing.
- Gerald Ford was the only president and vice president never to be elected to office. He became vice president when Spiro Agnew resigned and became president when Richard Nixon resigned.

Fall Is In The Air!

So, before you start sipping cider and carving pumpkins, some work around the house may need to be done to prepare for the winter.

Seal Any Air Leaks: Seal leaky windows and doors to help keep chilly air out and warm air inside. You may also want to install a door sweep to help prevent drafts between the bottom of the door and the threshold.

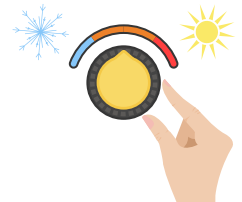
Check Your Roof: Forbes recommends periodically inspecting your roof or hiring a professional to do it at least every three to four years. This will allow you to have any issues repaired before winter and hopefully prevent leaking or further damage.



Clean Your Gutters and Downspouts: Regular cleaning and maintenance of gutters and downspouts remove clogs, helping prevent potential water damage. Leaves, twigs, and other debris can also weigh gutters down, potentially damaging siding and trim.

Check Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Detectors: The beginning of fall can be an excellent reminder to check that your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working correctly. Change those batteries!

Adjust Your Thermostat: When temperatures fall, set your thermostat to a cooler temperature when you're out of the house or sleeping, and a warmer temperature when you're home and awake may help you save money on your heating bills.



Have Your Furnace Inspected: Inspecting and cleaning your furnace once a year may help ensure that your heating equipment runs safely and efficiently. Change those filters!



Prep Your Lawn and Trees: A little yard work in the fall can help prevent damage to grass during the cold winter temperatures and help build a healthy lawn next spring. Mulching leaves can help provide your lawn with nutrients that will help keep it healthy. Trees and shrubs sometimes need extra love to survive the winter, especially trees that lose their leaves yearly.

Turn Off Exterior Faucets: In colder climates, water left in exterior pipes can freeze and may cause pipes to burst. Before the weather turns chilly, drain and disconnect garden hoses. If your faucet has a shutoff valve, you should turn it off and close the outside tap to release water inside the pipe.

Picking a Repair Person: Check with your neighbors for references, ask experts at local home improvement stores, seek suggestions on local websites and Facebook, and ensure they are licensed and insured, especially for those big jobs.



Nothing says love like a bit of home maintenance.

Thanksgiving Mindset

Thankfulness should not be limited to one day a year. Imagine if it were a year-round mindset. Oh, what a beautiful world it would be!

Did you know gratefulness can positively impact your attitude and even your approach to life? According to Dr. Robert Emmons, it has been scientifically proven that **gratitude is one of the few things that can measurably change people's lives physically and mentally.**

There are many things to be thankful for daily, and practicing gratitude can be refreshing. But let's face it: we all have challenges, making it easy to be distracted by the darkness. In these moments, pausing, appreciating the good, and drawing in the light is essential. Where there is darkness, there is also light.

A gratitude journal is an excellent tool to keep your focus on track. Don't overthink it. Keep it simple. Jotting down three things daily can build your habit. Some days, I'm grateful for my dog, bed, and chocolate; others, I'm much more reflective.

There are no rules; follow your heart. Some folks use prompts to get the ball rolling; an extra nudge can be helpful.

Two common prompts are: Whose wise advice do you still follow? And What lesson did you learn from a friend, parent, or mentor that proved valuable? FYI: These are also good icebreakers that are guaranteed to leave your guests smiling.

I'll go first

I'll admit I laughed at the first thing that came to mind about the advice I still follow. While employed at my first "real job," I had a wonderful boss named Mr. Simmons. His wise advice stuck like glue. It all began with the word "assume." I have no clue what led me to start my lethal sentence with "I assumed," but I clearly remember how it ended. He wrote the word on a piece of paper like this: ass/u/me. I won't lie; it took a minute before I got the message, but here I am, 40+ years later, sharing it with all of you. I am forever grateful for that advice, which is still used today.

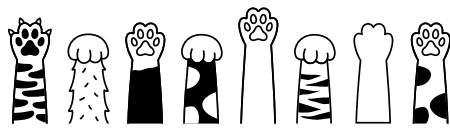
There have been many lessons, but one sticks out. I was fortunate to have a mentor cross my path at a pivotal time with an opportunity that seemed too good to be true. Lawrence, the mentor, showed me nothing is more valuable than recognizing someone's potential. Although he attended Ivy League schools, formal education did not impress him as much as a person's curiosity, insight, and determination. The key is seeing beyond your judgment, which has always proved valuable in more ways than one.

May we all find happiness in giving thanks every day.

Lisa George, Editor

grateful





PAWS AND LAWS



Over the summer, several unpleasant incidents occurred, such as dogs off-leash and unattended attacking other dogs in the community. This is unsafe for the animal and your neighbors and can result in expensive Veterinarian bills.

If this happens to you or your pet, please get in touch with Sussex County Animal Control (dogs/cats) at 302-255-4646 and file a formal complaint. Reminder: **This is considered a neighbor-to-neighbor issue, not one for the HOA's involvement.**

It's the LAW: DE3048F. Dogs must be secured by a leash outside at all times, and the leash must physically restrain the dog's movement. No matter how well-behaved we think our pets are, they can also be unpredictable, so be aware. SBHOA Covenant #10 states that domesticated cats and dogs be secured by the same regulations as the State of Delaware listed above.

Owners or persons having custody of dogs or other domesticated animals shall be responsible for the clean-up and removal of any feces deposited by the animal. Please be a good neighbor and pick up after your dog. This includes vacant lots or tree-lined areas. Don't disappoint your neighbors or your dogs. They are both watching you!



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL FALL COMMUNITY YARD SALE

The Fall Yard sale was a huge success this year. On Friday, 30 residents participated, and on Saturday, 34. Word on the street is that these may have broken a record! Mother Nature cooperated with two gorgeous days, making buying, selling, or browsing easy. Empty closets and full wallets make for a good weekend. **We hope to see you all in the Spring 2025!**



SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE



This year, we paired up with our neighbors at Troop 7, Delaware State Police Engagement Unit, to help struggling families in the Cape Henlopen School District, and wow, Sandy Brae stepped up to make this event a success. We collected 26 very full bags, boxes, and book bags and distributed them to Troop 7. They were overwhelmed by the generosity of their neighbors in the Sandy Brae Community. **Thank you to all who participated!**





Safe Medication Disposal

How can I Safely Dispose of Unused or Expired Medicine?

The best way to dispose of most unused or expired medicines (prescription and over-the-counter) is to drop them off at your local pharmacy. Walgreens and CVS at Five Points and Rehoboth participate in this service.

Medications can be harmful if they are kept where others can use them accidentally or on purpose. Safely disposing of unwanted or expired medications is an essential step in helping to ensure medications are not accidentally used or intentionally misused by someone else.



NEVER FLUSH OR PUT MEDICATION DOWN THE DRAIN: Unused medicine flushed or rinsed down the sink can hurt you and the environment by becoming part of groundwater, which may end up in your drinking water.

NEVER PUT MEDICATION IN YOUR TRASHCANS: Children and Pets find trash cans tempting and can easily be accidentally ingested.

Safe Disposal Options:

- **DisposeRx Packets:** DisposeRx packets make throwing medication in your home trash safe. The packets contain a powder you mix with water in the medication bottle, making the medication unusable and safe for the environment. DisposeRx packets for your medications are available at the Five Points Walgreens. For additional information, visit DisposeRx.com.

- **Medication Disposal Kiosks:** The kiosks in the Walgreens and CVS pharmacy sections accept most prescription and over-the-counter medications. The medication should be in its original container or a Ziploc bag. Liquid medicines should remain in their original containers.

- **Local Collection Events:** Look into local government or community organizations for special medication disposal events or temporary drop-off locations

Did You Know? 70% of people who abuse prescription pain relievers get them from friends or relatives.

IMPORTANT! INFORMATION!

At the September 2024 Board meeting, after careful consideration and a review of our financial requirements and the services we provide, the Board of Directors voted to increase the 2025 dues by \$10 to \$135 annually. We have not increased our dues since 2021, but our operational costs have led us to make this difficult decision.



Turn Back Time

REMINDER: Daylight Savings Ends on Sunday, November 3, 2024.

With clocks falling back an hour, our days will be shorter and darker earlier.

Did You Know?

American farmers were opposed to DST because, regardless of what the clock said, their cows weren't ready to be milked until later in the day during DST.



SAFETY IS NOT AN OPTION, IT'S A NECESSITY

With shorter days approaching, it's important to remember that people and cars share the road. Our community is always bustling with activities, making sharing the roads challenging. We have walkers, with or without dogs or strollers, runners, bikers, congregators, walkers with walkers, and children going to and from the bus stop daily. It's essential to work together to make our community safe for everyone.

WHAT CAN I DO TO STAY SAFE AS A PEDESTRIAN?

- Prepare a safe walking route in advance.
- Wear bright colors during the day and reflective gear at night. (Pets too!)
- Watch for cars backing out of the driveway.
- Stay Alert: Don't look down at your devices.
- Be aware of your surroundings. Ear pods in, Eyes open.
- Do not assume drivers see you. Walk facing traffic.
- Cross at intersections.
- Carry a form of I.D. in case of an emergency.

HOW CAN I BE A SAFE DRIVER?

- SLOW DOWN. The speed limit in Sandy Brae is 25 mph.
- Look out for pedestrians. They may walk where they should not be or be hard to see, especially in poorly lit conditions, such as dusk/dawn/night and poor weather.
- Always stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk.
- Never pass a vehicle stopped at a crosswalk or on the street.
- Stay Alert. No phones or devices while driving.
- STOP, not pause, roll, ignore, but STOP at the signs. **No excuses. They are FLASHING now.**

With school in session, residents with children are encouraged to review the importance of road safety.

Fun Fact:

The country's first stop signs were black-and-white. They first appeared on Michigan roads in 1915. It wasn't until the mid-1950s that the Joint Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices issued a notice stating that stop signs should feature white lettering against a red background.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 4th-6th Rehoboth Sidewalk Sale
- 5th-6th Lewes Historical Society Crafts & Crafts
Sat. 11:00 am-6 pm Sun. 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
- 9th Sandy Brae HOA Board Meeting 5:30 - 8:00 pm
- 16th - 20th Rehoboth Beach True Blue Jazz Festival
- 18th Schellville Kids Zone Spooktacular FREE 5:00 – 8:00 pm
- 19th Ciders & Spiders Family Event @ Hudson Field 11:00 am
- 25th Lewes Historical Society BOOS & BREWS 7:00 -10:00 pm
- 31st Halloween

NOVEMBER

- 2nd & 3rd Rehoboth Art League Holiday Fair 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
- 3rd Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 5th Election Day
- 11th Veterans Day – Thank you to all who served.
- 11th Sandy Brae HOA Board Meeting 5:30 - 8:00 pm
- 28th Thanksgiving Day
- ** November 17th thru December 31st Schellville Winter Celebration
- **

DECEMBER

- 2nd Rehoboth Christmas Parade 6:00 - 9:00 pm
- 5th Lewes Merchants Holiday Hospitality Nite 5:00 – 8:00 pm
- 7th Lewes Holiday House Tour & Holiday Village Market
Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting 5:00 pm
- 9th Sandy Brae HOA Board Meeting 5:30 - 8:00 pm
- 25th Christmas Day & Hanukkah Begins
- 26th Kwanzaa
- 31st Lewes New Year's Anchor Drop
at the Lightship Overfalls 11:30
- *Always check our website for changes to the date or time of our Board Meeting



"To Ask The Right Question Is Already Half The Solution To The Problem"
Carl Jung

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Q: Can I rent my home?

A: According to the SBHOA Covenants, you can rent your home annually only. There are specific regulations for renting your home in Sandy Brae, and they are listed in the Covenants.

Q: How do I dispose of yard waste?

A: We are always open to solutions to this ongoing question. Sandy Brae does not have yard waste pick-up, and most commercial trash removal companies have stopped this service. In the meantime, do not mix yard waste with your trash.

Q: What is a community drive-around?

A: The Board drives around the community monthly. The reason? We survey the community to see if any covenant violations need to be addressed; then, residents can be notified and allowed to address/discuss the concern BEFORE it escalates. Many residents leave for the winter, so we also keep an extra eye on those homes and others that may be vacant. The board is not "meddling" or being "intrusive," we are obligated under the Bylaws of Sandy Brae and State and Federal HOA guidelines to ensure the safety and attractiveness of our community.

Q: Why do I need an AR Form?

A: The simple answer is that it is required under our Covenants, and as a Board, we are required to uphold those Covenants. The form is located under the document tab on our website. It MUST be used if you plan to make any improvements on the outside of your home, use a dumpster for inside renovations, install a fence, pool, deck, shed, or gazebo, or do anything else that is described on the AR Form. Sandy Brae does not have many restrictions, but those we do have need to be upheld.

Q: Does the HOA hold community events?

A: It has in the past, and we would love to in the future. We would like to hear from you if you want to form a social committee, organize an event, or have other suggestions for group activities.
SandyBraeHOA.Lewes.DE@gmail.com

Q: Is it too late to join the HOA Board?

A: I'm just kidding. No one asks this question, but now that I have your attention, it would be wonderful to have extra hands to assist with the many tasks the Sandy Brae HOA Board needs to fulfill. If you are interested, please email us to start the process.

REMINDER!

If you plan to have work done on your home that requires extensive equipment on the street, such as tree work or driveway sealant, first complete an AR Form, and please inform the HOA Board at SandyBraeHOA.Lewes.DE@gmail.com and your neighbors. As you know, our streets are not wide. It's important to ensure that emergency vehicles can navigate through if necessary and that your neighbors can get in and out of their driveways.