

The Sandy Hook  
Foundation



September 2021

## *The Sand Paper* A Newsletter from The Sandy Hook Foundation

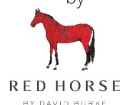
# The Sandy Hook Foundation's ALL-STAR BENEFIT CONCERT

Sunday, September 26, 2021

BBQ and beverages available on site at

**The Corral**

by



**Get Your Tickets Today**



Photo by Jeff White

You asked ... we answered.

Join us on Sunday, September 26 for  
The Sandy Hook Foundation's  
**All-Star Benefit Concert!**

Dear Friends of Sandy Hook,

This September, we are pleased to bring you The Sandy Hook Foundation's All-Star Benefit Concert on Sunday afternoon, September 26. Proceeds from this concert will support The Sandy Hook Foundation, which directly supports your experience at Sandy Hook. We hope you will join us! Special BBQ and spirits will be offered inside **The Corral** by David Burke.

The concert is a fair-weather event. If a storm or Covid restrictions cause a cancellation, your tax-deductible ticket donation will directly support programs and projects within Sandy Hook.

See you at the beach!

*The Staff and Board of Trustees of the Sandy Hook Foundation*

### Recurring Fall Programs in the Park

#### **Birding on the Deck**

Visit a ranger on top of the observation deck. A scope will be set up to view and learn how to identify osprey, egrets, and songbirds.

Parking Lot M, Observation Deck

Sundays, September 5, 12 & 19

9 AM - 11 AM

#### **Canoeing on Sandy Hook Bay**

Take a morning paddle to explore Sandy Hook bay from an ideal vantage point—the water itself. Park rangers guide a canoe tour of the bayside waters to Skeleton Hill Island.

US Life-Saving Station Parking Lot, Between D & E Lot

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9/2 through 9/23

9:15 AM - 12 PM

Reservations required at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)

## Meet Matt Brescia Buildings and Utilities Supervisor

Just 18 years old and fresh out of high school, Matt Brescia went to work at Sandy Hook as a seasonal laborer for the National Park Service. Matt was drawn to Sandy Hook



because of his love of fishing and the water. After the first summer Matt decided to go to night school at Ocean County Vocational School, where he completed the Intro to Water and Wastewater Course. Matt soon passed the state exam and became a licensed operator.

Returning to Sandy Hook the next summer, Matt worked again as a seasonal at Sandy Hook. A fast learner who was required to learn on the job, Matt had personal goals. He decided to return to Ocean County College to obtain his associates degree in Environmental Science. Upon completion of his degree Matt returned to the park, this time as the official Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator.

Matt held this position during Superstorm Sandy, when the park infrastructure was devastated from the storm. He was involved in post-storm planning and restructuring of the park's water and sewer facilities.

Matt explained that Sandy Hook has its own water system. The army built a 950 foot well – a water source that stretches 3 aquifers down – in order to ensure fresh and potable water for the enlisted men and women. Today, Sandy Hook's water is still drawn from the well, pumped to the water plant and treated mainly to remove iron, disinfected and then stored in the water tower at the U.S. Coast Guard Base located on the Hook. Matt thinks that Sandy Hook has some of the best water in the state, and this author agrees!

Three years ago, Matt was invited to apply for the position of Buildings and Utilities Supervisor. Matt oversees 9 seasonal maintenance personnel and, like so many others, is hurting for more staff. He describes his days as more "reactionary" as he is often called to solve various problems in all facets of park maintenance, oftentimes doing the work himself in order to get it done. He is familiar with the secrets and mysteries that lie within Sandy Hook's aging infrastructure, making him such a valuable asset to the park.

In between his daily tasks, Matt is working closely with The Sandy Hook Foundation on the hydration station project, which will result in four spigots pouring potable water for reusable bottle refills. This will be located on the north side of building 157 near the Observation Deck and Lot M, where visitors can hydrate while walking, running, biking, or just exploring Sandy Hook. Matt and

## September Programs in the Park

### **Last Yoga on the Beach**

Join instructor Tony Costa on September 4 for this free program funded by The Sandy Hook Foundation. The class is a peaceful yet traditional Vinyasa yoga practice on the beach. Open to everyone and all levels, the focus will be on flowing through basic poses and maintaining poses with proper alignment. Bring a large beach blanket and wear light, comfortable workout attire and be sure to have water. No reservation required but donations to The Sandy Hook Foundation are welcome!

Saturday, September 4

8am – 9am

Beach Area E, Center Beach Chute

### **Become a Bark Ranger Ambassador!**

Do you and your canine companions love Sandy Hook? Do you want to help others have that same experience? You and your four-legged friend can become a Bark Ambassador! As a Bark Ambassador, you teach visitors the safe and responsible ways to enjoy the park with their dog. New Bark Ambassadors will participate in a swear-in ceremony on the beach. Reservations required by calling (732) 872-5970

### **Junior Ranger Color Guard: Stars and Stripes Forever**

The Junior Rangers will learn about the history of the American flag, how it has changed several times throughout the nation's 244+ years, and the meaning behind its symbolism.

Guardian Park, Fort Hancock Post

Monday, September 6 – Labor Day

1 PM – 2:30 PM

Call (732) 872-5970 to make a reservation.

### **Ktāpīhēna, "We Are Here": Finding Connections in Lēnape Land**

What makes you feel connected to a place? Join us for an exploration of Sandy Hook's first peoples, the Lēnape, and their historic and current connections to this landscape. Along the way, we will discuss Lēnape life ways and hear their voices, and how we acknowledge who is connected to a landscape

North Beach – Beach Plaza, Upper Level

Friday, September 10

5:30PM – 7 PM

Call (732) 872-5970 to make a reservation.

### **Migratory Birding Adventure**

Come see the warblers flood Sandy Hook's maritime forests! Sandy Hook is a critical migratory stopover for many songbirds as they make their way southward in the fall. Join us for this round-trip walk on the South Beach Dune Trail and watch the migratory journey unfold. Bring binoculars and insect repellent and wear good sand-walking shoes. Binoculars will be available for loan, first come first served.

South Beach Dune Trail, Parking Lot F (Fishing Beach)

Saturday, September 11

7 AM – 9 AM

Call (732) 872-5970 to make a reservation. ♥ 1.5 miles

his team are building a wooden walkway for easy approach to the spigots. The spigots will be surrounded by large-scale educational signage in both English and Spanish, explaining why reusable water bottles are best for Sandy Hook. Matt believes in this project from his insider's view of the park, and notes that plastic bottles plague Sandy Hook's waterways and beaches. We expect this project to be completed by early fall and will then move onto the second hydration station location near the campground.

Matt's commitment to Sandy Hook goes further than just his work. As one of the few remaining full time employees who live on the Hook, Matt goes out of his way to be sure seasonal rangers and other staff have opportunities to get together after work hours, either by organizing softball, volleyball, or whiffle ball games, and serving BBQ that Matt sometimes pays for himself. He wants the seasonal staff to have a chance to meet each other and get acquainted. When he is not working, you can find Matt fishing, walking his dog, boating, or helping out at park partner programs like seining on the beach. His passion for Sandy Hook benefits the park and all who use it.

Looking down the road, Matt has his sights set on his *Sandy Hook Iced Tea* recipe and future collaboration with local breweries for production and distribution of the product locally and maybe nationally. True to course, Matt plans for a percentage of sales of the beverage to benefit The Sandy Hook Foundation and thus, Sandy Hook. Thank you, Matt, for all you do!



**Your  
Business ...  
at the Beach**  
The Sandy Hook

### **Who are the "Black Brain Scientists" and How Did They Change the Future of America?**

Learn how Fort Hancock helped to usher in the Dawn of the Space Age. Explore the little-known history of Fort Hancock's role in providing a place that allowed a diverse group of scientists and engineers to create the technology that would lead to the development of radars, satellites, GPS, drones and much more. Examine the connection between Fort Hancock and Fort Monmouth's black scientists dubbed the "Black Brain Center" of America.

Fort Hancock Museum Grounds, Building 28  
Sunday, September 12  
4 PM – 5 PM  
Call (732) 872-5970 to make a reservation

### **Facebook Live – Coffee with a Ranger**

Sit down and have your Monday morning coffee with Park Ranger Alex in the comfort of your own home. Each Monday from August 23rd through September 20th, Ranger Alex will provide a topic of discussion and invite questions and dialogue through comments in the chat. Topics will range from history to natural resources and recreational opportunities in the park. You may even see a guest star or two join him from time to time. You can join as the live video starts or pre-register in the events tab on the park's Facebook page (@GatewayNPS).  
Monday, September 13  
10 AM – 11 AM

### **Migratory Birding Adventure**

Come join us for a migratory birding adventure! Sandy Hook is a critical migratory stopover for many songbirds and waterbirds as they make their way southward in the fall. We'll take a short walk on the paved multi-use pathway, exploring birds of the forest and shrubs. We will finish our time on the Spermaceti Cove boardwalk, looking over the Sandy Hook Bay. Bring binoculars and insect repellent. Binoculars will be available for loan, first come first served.

U.S. Life-Saving Station Parking Lot (between Lot D and Lot E)  
Saturday, September 18  
7 AM – 9 AM  
Call (732) 872-5970 to make a reservation. ♥ 0.5 miles

### **Walk Like a Deer!**

Join a park ranger for a walk in the woods to observe and learn about one of our most common mammals at Sandy Hook, the white-tailed deer! The tour is wheelchair accessible, on a paved multiple use path.  
Sandy Hook Lighthouse Keepers Quarters, Building 84  
Sunday, September 19  
7 PM – 8 PM  
Call (732) 872-5970 to make a reservation. ♥ 1.5 miles

### **Harvest Moon Walk**

U.S. Life-Saving Station Parking Lot (between Lot D and Lot E)  
Wednesday, September 22  
7:30 PM – 9 PM  
"Harvest moon" is the full moon closest to the autumnal equinox. Bring a flashlight for this night walk that utilizes



Foundation is partnering with the National Park Service to host corporate beach cleanups for interested companies.

Gather together with colleagues and forward

your community engagement goals, while providing a much needed service in our National Park. This fee-based program fosters team building and pollution awareness during your day at Sandy Hook. This day of service will include a ranger-led introduction and information session, materials and supplies, and snacks or a boxed lunch depending on engagement level.

Please email [info@sandyhookfoundationnj.org](mailto:info@sandyhookfoundationnj.org) or call (732) 291-7733 to learn more. To make a corporate contribution to The Sandy Hook Foundation please [click here](#).

the five senses. Call (732) 872-5970 to make a reservation. ♥ 1 mile

**Healthy Parks Healthy People – National Public Lands Day Walk the Beach with a Ranger**

Take a guided walk of Sandy Hook's bayside beach and see some of our park's historic bunkers, native shorebirds, and sea life. This short walking program will allow you to experience the historical aspects of Battery Kingman & Mills, the natural beauty of the beach and the fascinating natural world of the salt marsh, all in one program! The tour will follow up with a beach clean-up along the shore. Please remember to bring sun protection, insect repellent and water.

Parking Lot F – Fishing Beach

Saturday, September 25

9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Call (732) 872-5970 to make a reservation. ♥ 1 mile

**The Sandy Hook Foundation is the Official Friends Group of the National Park Service at Sandy Hook, a designated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. We rely on your support and every donation is meaningful. Please, consider your contribution today.**



The Sandy Hook Foundation has achieved the Platinum Seal of Transparency from Guidestar, the highest level of transparency. Guidestar's mission is to revolutionize philanthropy by

providing information that advances transparency, enables users to make better decisions, and encourages charitable giving. Please consider your support of SHF today!



**All Star Benefit Concert!**

Sunday, September 26

Food and Beverages at **The Corral** by David Burke

"Doors 12 noon – 7 pm, Beach E

Live Music from 2 pm – 6 pm

**Get Your Tickets Today**

Thanks to everyone who came out to roller skate with us, to our sponsor **Eastern Skating Supply**, and to the National Park Service at Sandy Hook!





## Contact Us!

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