

Memory Lanes – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

General Information

What is Memory Lanes?

Memory Lanes is a new community recreation facility in Sedalia featuring bowling, an esports gaming area, food service, and space for parties and events. It's designed for all ages to gather, play, and spend time together.

Why did Sue Heckart gift \$6 Million for Memory Lanes?

Sue Heckart's generous gift of \$6 million towards the Memory Lanes project stems from her deep-rooted belief in the importance of recreation and community well-being. Having witnessed firsthand the positive impact that the Heckart Community Center has brought to Sedalia, Sue is eager to extend that legacy by providing another space for enjoyment and connection in our community.

Reflecting on Sedalia's vibrant past, she fondly remembers the days when our town boasted three bowling alleys, where she actively participated in leagues as a bowler herself. With Memory Lanes, she envisions a revival of that communal spirit, a place where residents and visitors alike can gather, enjoy leisure activities, and create lasting memories.

Sue understands that recreation plays a vital role in enhancing quality of life. Beyond individual enjoyment, she recognizes the broader economic impact that Memory Lanes will bring, benefiting local businesses and attracting visitors to our community.

Entrusting the parks department with this initiative, Sue has confidence that they will ensure Memory Lanes is not only successful but also well-maintained for future generations. Her wish is for this project to foster community pride, joy, and connections for everyone in Sedalia.

In essence, this gift is more than just a financial contribution; it's a heartfelt investment in the joy and togetherness that recreation brings, reviving a cherished part of Sedalia's heritage for all to enjoy once again.

Where is Memory Lanes located?

Memory Lanes is located between Highway 50 and 5th Street in Sedalia, Missouri. Located near Woods East, the new Taco Bell, the new McDonalds, Katy Depot, and across the highway from Smith Cotton Junior High. Locals have referred to this site as the "Old Sutherlands" lot.

Who owns and operates Memory Lanes?

Memory Lanes is owned and operated by Sedalia Parks & Recreation.

When is Memory Lanes opening?

The tentative grand opening is scheduled for late Fall 2026.

How is Memory Lanes being funded?

Memory Lanes is being funded through a combination of private donation and a municipal loan, not through a direct tax increase.

- The total project cost is \$8.3 million
- \$6 million of the project is funded by a private donation from the Sue Heckart Family Foundation
- The remaining balance is being financed through a loan

Of the \$8.3 million project, \$6 million is covering the cost of the bowling alley, kitchen, and lane equipment. The remaining \$2.3 million is covering our esports arena, parking lot, and future planning of the new outdoor Aquatics Facility leading to campus creation that will eventually become our 8th park.

Will this raise my taxes?

No. Memory Lanes is not being funded by a tax increase.

The facility is intended to operate as a revenue-generating community recreation facility, using income from:

- Bowling
- Leagues and programs
- Esports activities
- Food service
- Rentals and events

to support ongoing operations and help cover costs.

What jobs will be available at Memory Lanes?

Full time staff will include a Bowling Manager, an Operations Coordinator, a Maintenance Supervisor, and a Kitchen Supervisor.

Part time positions will include Bowling Center workers, Custodial staff, and Kitchen staff.

When will you begin hiring for jobs at Memory Lanes?

We will begin posting jobs in May 2026 and continue through the summer and fall.

Watch the Sedalia Parks & Recreation Facebook page, our Sedalia Parks & Recreation website, and the City of Sedalia's website.

Bowling

How many lanes are there?

Memory Lanes features 16 bowling lanes.

Can I just walk in and bowl?

Yes! Open bowling will be available, but lane availability may vary based on leagues, reservations, or events.

Can I reserve a lane ahead of time?

Yes. Lane reservations can be made in advance online, by phone, or in person. Keep an eye out for more details closer to grand opening.

Will there be bowling leagues?

Yes! Memory Lanes will offer a variety of leagues beginning early 2027, including:

- Youth leagues
- Adult leagues
- Senior leagues
- Recreational and competitive options

Details are still being worked on so be sure to follow us on Facebook or our website for additional information.

Will Memory Lanes have a Pro Shop?

Memory Lanes will not have a permanent Pro Shop but will have limited supplies and merchandise for sale.

Why is Memory Lanes using string pins instead of traditional free-fall pins?

As a municipally operated facility, our goal is to balance quality recreation opportunities with responsible financial stewardship. String pin technology allows us to reinvest savings into programming, staffing, and facility upkeep, ensuring Memory Lanes remains affordable, accessible, and well-maintained for the community.

First and foremost, string pin bowling is officially recognized and sanctioned by United States Bowling Congress (USBC). In 2023, the USBC approved string pinsetters for certified league and recreational play, following extensive research and testing to ensure scoring integrity and fair play. This means bowlers can participate in organized leagues and sanctioned competition on string pin lanes.

Boost's realistic pin action and consistent scoring are key to an authentic bowling experience.

In addition to being sanctioned, the Brunswick Boost String Pin technology offers several key benefits:

- **Improved reliability and reduced downtime**

Fewer mechanical parts mean fewer breakdowns, resulting in a more consistent experience for guests. The Boost ST system feature adaptive variable detangling that automatically resolves 99.99% of frames bowled without staff intervention, resulting in a better guest experience.

- **Lower maintenance and operating costs**

String systems require significantly less labor, fewer replacement parts, and reduced ongoing service compared to traditional pinsetters. These pinsetters feature 80% fewer components than traditional pinsetters, with no components that require regular maintenance (other than strings and pins).

- **Enhanced safety for staff**

The design minimizes the need for staff to enter machinery areas, reducing risk of injury therefore reducing insurance costs. The pinsetter is the only one on the market with a fully guarded machine, with all adjustments made from the rear of the machine thereby optimizing safety.

- **Energy efficiency and sustainability**

Boost ST is 70% more efficient than freefall pinsetters. String pin machines use less electricity by only running motors when needed and generate less wear-and-tear, aligning with responsible public-sector operations.

- **Enhanced recreational experience**

While there are slight differences in pin action, the overall gameplay experience remains engaging and enjoyable for the vast majority of users—especially families, casual bowlers, and youth leagues. The Boost ST pinsetters allow for exclusive on-demand pinsetting, letting bowlers enjoy unique integrated games. It also has league training features that allow the user to configure unique pin arrangements.

The advanced sport technologies of Boost ST Pinsetters elevate performance, safety, operational efficiency and the bowler experience, while adaptive detangling automatically resolves 99.99% of frames bowled. It all adds up to a better guest experience and happier staff members.

Pricing & Payments

How much does it cost to bowl or use the facility?

Open Bowling Fees:

Monday-Thursday, \$20/hour/lane

Friday, 10am-3pm, \$20/hour/lane

Friday, 3pm-12am, \$25/hour/lane

Saturday-Sunday, \$25/hour/lane

minimum 1 hour lane use, up to 5 bowlers per lane

Shoe Rental: \$4 per shoe rental

How does the pricing of Memory Lanes compare to other regional bowling centers?

Holiday Lanes – Marshall, MO

\$6 per game per person

Shoe Rental: \$2

Jester's House – Warsaw, MO

Monday-Thursday, \$16/lane

Friday-Saturday, \$27/lane

Shoe Rental: \$4

Alley Cats Entertainment, Warrensburg, MO

Monday-Thursday, open to 5pm \$25/hour, 5pm to close \$30/hour

Friday, open to 5pm \$25/hour, 5pm to close \$35/hour

Saturday, open to close \$35 per hour (9pm-12am all you can bowl \$15/person)

Sunday, all day \$30/hour

Shoe Rental: \$4 per person

Union Bowling Center, University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO

\$5 per game (includes shoes and tax)

\$22 an hour per lane (includes shoes and tax)

Lunar Bowl, Blue Springs, MO

By Game

\$4 weekday

\$5 nights & weekends (no game rate during Cosmic Bowling)

Hourly Lane Rental – for up to 6 on a lane

\$27 day rate per hour

\$29 after 5pm

\$37 weekend (Friday 5pm – Sunday)

\$37 peak rates

Shoe Rental – \$3.75

Do I have to pay when I reserve a lane?

Yes. Reservations require payment at the time of booking.

Are there refunds if I cancel?

Yes, depending on when you cancel. Specific timelines and policies will be clearly outlined when booking becomes available.

Hours & Operations

What will the hours be?

Memory Lanes will be open:

Sunday	12pm-8pm
Monday	10am-10pm
Tuesday	10am-10pm
Wednesday	10am-10pm
Thursday	10am-10pm
Friday	10am-12am
Saturday	8am-12am

Memory Lanes will be closed on the following holidays: Easter and Christmas Day.

Hours may vary on other holidays, including possible full-day closures.

In addition, Memory Lanes may have modified hours of operation in cases of inclement weather and/or modified hours for maintenance, up to and including facility closure.

Kitchen hours and Esports Arena hours may differ from Memory Lanes hours.

Will it be open during the day?

Yes, daytime hours will be available for open play, groups, programs, and food service.

Esports & Gaming

What is the esports arena?

Memory Lanes will include a dedicated gaming space where participants can play video games recreationally or competitively.

Do I need to bring my own equipment?

No—equipment will be provided.

Will there be tournaments or programs?

Yes! Plans include:

- Weekly open play
- Monthly tournaments
- Seasonal camps and events

Parties & Group Rentals

Can I host a birthday party or group event?

Absolutely! Memory Lanes will offer party packages and rental spaces, including a party room. More information will be released closer to grand opening on parties and events.

Can we bring our own decorations?

Yes, with some guidelines:

- No confetti, glitter, or piñatas
- No wall attachments (tape, nails, etc.)
- Balloons allowed in the party room only
- All decorations must be removed by the end of your reservation

Do we get extra time to decorate?

No—your reservation time includes both setup and cleanup.

Food & Drinks

Will there be food available?

Yes! Memory Lanes will feature a kitchen/grill offering items like:

- Burgers
- Pizza
- Nachos
- Sandwiches
- Snacks and drinks

The final menu and pricing is still being finalized. Check back closer to grand opening for more information.

Can we bring in outside food or drinks?

In most cases, no, outside food and drink will not be allowed. However, for events or reservations policies may vary.

Will alcohol be served?

No. Memory Lanes will be an alcohol-free facility.

Family & Community Use

Is Memory Lanes just for kids?

No—it's designed for all ages, including families, teens, adults, and seniors.

Is this a private business or a public facility?

Memory Lanes is a public, community-focused facility operated by the Sedalia Parks & Recreation Department.

Why is the Parks Department building a bowling center?

The goal is to provide affordable, accessible recreation opportunities that bring the community together in a safe and welcoming environment.

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Who can I contact for more information?

Please contact Sedalia Parks & Recreation for updates, details, and future announcements. Information will be updated as additional details are finalized. Please check back regularly for the most current updates.

You can also watch our website at www.sedaliaparks.com or follow us on Facebook. A Memory Lanes dedicated page coming soon!