

Dear Fellow Community Members,

I grew up on Long Island, and was fortunate to have spent my childhood, teenage years, and my increasingly-distant 20's close enough to Fire Island to get to visit and enjoy it. Ultimately, I fell in love with it. For decades, it has been my sanctuary and safe haven, and now I couldn't be happier to call it home. Since the decision was made to buy a home here, we have been opening our home at the earliest day possible and closing it at the last minute–sometimes a little too late. A few burst pipes later, I still wouldn't change a thing. I never imagined that I would be able to spend so much of my life in the Pines.

One of the main reasons I've been able to live most of the year here is that my career offers me significant freedom. I own a small business IT consulting company that I started 15 years ago. I realized that small to medium businesses lacked the support and resources that larger companies typically had access to. I educated myself on current and emerging technologies, which enabled me to provide services that customers traditionally couldn't afford. I persisted through the challenges of the early years, and with time took on a business partner to help balance the responsibilities of our clients. We hired several additional employees throughout the following years and are now a thriving company that remains focused on building long lasting relationships with small businesses.

In 2013 my husband, Nick and I, became home owners in the quaint, Victorian historic district of New Rochelle, NY. Within months of moving in, the head of the neighborhood association asked me to join and bring new ideas (and tech advice) to our neighborhood of about 270 historic homes. I accepted and dove in headfirst. Over the next 5 years, I took a dwindling board and invigorated it with new members. Less than 40% of neighbors were paying dues, but after creating community events and fundraisers, setting up several websites for the association, and introduced digital payments, we more than doubled payees. The bones were there: all that was needed was some more engagement. We brought the community together to help support what is now a vibrant neighborhood, with new families arriving what seems like every few months.

After a few years something seemed to be missing, and that turned out to be a second home. A home that wove us into one of the most supportive communities I have ever been a part of–right here in the Pines. Nick and I had visited the Pines since our early twenties, spending weeks in rented homes and later with friends who were good enough to host us. As we enjoyed amazing company, the sun, beach, and entertaining, the Pines seemed like an obvious place to settle into. Three years ago, we found a house that we believed we could make into a home, and together with our partner Marc, we have worked tirelessly to bring the house up to our standards, all while developing life changing relationships. Simply put, we are in love with the community that exists here.

Since the last election, we have spent countless more hours involved in the Pines community, which has allowed me to draw more focus on what parts of the community and FIPPOA I believe I could be most valuable. As a member of the Pines Party Committee, I came to know what it means when something comes together by "community effort." I believe my partners and I had a positive impact within the committee and garnered relationships that we will continue to foster to bring more love and amazing programming to the Pines. Coming into our third season as renters in the harbor, we are the proud owners of the Mooring Wood, docked at the Sunset dock. We spend most evenings entertaining friends, new and old, by watching one of the best views in the Pines from our boat. In spending so much time in the harbor, speaking with the amazing dock hands and Dennis, the harbor master, and continuing to grow our relationships with other boat owners, we have gathered some input on what could be improved, and what opportunities could even be capitalized on to increase profit from the harbor. I would very much like to join the harbor committee, and work with the current chair and members to bring some fresh ideas to this gem of the Pines.

Lastly, I would continue to be a resource for the community with regards to current and emerging technologies, with particular focus on privacy and data protection, to always make sure the Pines community is both benefiting from technology, while also secure.

I am honored to be considered for a board position and in devoting myself further to the Pines. I look forward to expanding a multitude of offerings to our community and continue a long tradition of pride and love.

Your neighbor,

Richard Margolius