Dear Friends & Neighbors,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Fire Island Pines Arts Project (FIPAP), I want to welcome you back to the Pines and let you know about our 2025 Summer Season:

Saturday, June 21 **BARN ON FIRE PERFORMANCES – 6:00PM**

The fourth annual Barn on Fire Writers' Residency Performances featuring two new musicals – *Lewis Loves Clark* and *Sunken Cathedral*.

Saturday June 28 **ANTHONY ROTH COSTANZA – 6:00PM**

Met Opera Star Anthony Roth Costanza returns to the Whyte Hall Stage with Steinway Artist Pianist Bryan Wagorn.

Saturday, July 12 **SASHA VELOUR – *THE BIG REVEAL LIVE SHOW* – 6:00PM**

Back by popular demand is drag queen sensation Sasha Velour in her *Big Reveal Live Show*. Ticket price includes Sasha's "Celebration Party" immediately following the show with Open Bar & Catered Food

Saturday August 9 **20th BIENNIAL ART SHOW**
FIPAP Patron Preview 12:00PM – 1:00PM; General Admission 1:00PM – 4:00PM

FIPAP's 20th Biennial Art Show featuring 38 local artists displaying works of art for sale at Whyte Hall. Come pick up some artwork to showcase in your home.

Saturday August 16 **PURE GLITTER – 6:00PM**

Join us for a special staged reading of Douglas Lyons' (Broadway's Chicken & Biscuits and MCC's Table 17) new play, *Pure Glitter*, featuring Broadway Veteran Performers.

August 30 and 31 **LABOR DAY WEEKEND MUSICAL – 6:00PM**

Always a community favorite event – stay tuned for the FIPAP announcement of this season's Labor Day Weekend Musical.

Please visit fipap.org for more details. To become a Patron or Underwriter for our 2025 season, please visit https://fipap.org/product/fipap-membership/.

FIPAP is always looking for volunteers. There are many behind-the-scenes tasks like assisting with ticket sales, offering to house a cast member for the weekend, helping out at Whyte Hall with the show, or just cleaning up after one of our events. If you would like to get involved, please visit https://fipap.org/volunteer-housing-form/.

Fire Island Pines Arts Project (FIPAP) is a non-profit organization founded in 1986 – it was founded in the Pines, by Pines residents and is 100% devoted to the Pines. FIPAP aspires to produce accessible quality performing and fine arts events to reflect and encourage the cultural vitality of our community. FIPAP has donated over $500,000 to help support Whyte Hall and other Pines organizations including outfitting the theatre when the building opened in 2007. FIPAP exists to bring art and music to the Pines.

I look forward to seeing you at a FIPAP event this summer!!!

Best wishes,
Steven Alan Black, President

2025 FIPAP BOARD

Steven Alan Black, President	Andre Almeida	Skie Ocasio	Lenny Vanella
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Rob Innes, Secretary	Teresa Lovito	Bradford Price	JD Winston
Nicole LaFountaine, Treasurer	Denise Lucy	Jim Vandernoth	

Catholic Mass in the Pines

A warm hearted thank you to the Fire Island Communities for attending and supporting the religious organizations and their services in the Pines over the many decades

The community Catholic Mass parish would like to share our deep gratitude to the wonderful and caring Priests that travel to the Pines to celebrate Mass with our communities this summer season;

~ Fr. Brian Ingram
~ Fr. Richard Long
~ Fr. Seth Awo Doku
~ Fr. Patrick Flanagan
~ Fr. Benignus Nwankwo

With their deep dedication to our ministry, we are able to celebrate a 2025 Summer season of Catholic Masses serving; Cherry Grove, the Pines & Water Island

Catholic Mass will begin Sunday June 15th, 2025 @ 12:30pm ~ Whyte Hall Community Center



Dear Fire Island Pines Neighbors:

The members of the Greater Fire Island Pines Chamber of Commerce welcome you to the 2025 Season!

The Chamber was established in 2002 and consists of over 50 businesses dedicated to servicing the needs of the Pines community by providing essential professional services and supporting the community infrastructure. Our membership is a mixture of home service providers, retail establishments, and restaurants, as well as legal, insurance, and real estate representatives . Come visit us at www.pineschamber.com or follow us on Facebook.

We are looking forward to a productive 2025. Working in conjunction with FIPPOA this Spring, we have provided funding to procure a coarse sand that was installed by the Town of Brookhaven in an attempt to help improve the sand portion of Fire Island Boulevard for the season. This should help in allowing trucks and carts to utilize that portion of the Boulevard more easily. In addition, we hosted our annual Kentucky Derby Party last weekend to raise funds for our annual donation to the Pines Care Center which is an integral service in our community.

We look forward to another Season working within the Pines community and ask that you support your local Chamber of Commerce businesses.

Sincerely,
Tammy Jaggi
President

FIRE ISLAND PINES FIRE DISTRICT

P.O. Box 193
Sayville, New York 11782
631-597-6860

May 8, 2025

Dear Community Members,

Welcome to the 2025 Season! We welcome back for his second year as Chief, Kyle Merker, along with the volunteer firefighters, auxiliary members, and the District staff who dedicate their time and effort in protecting our community.

For those of you who might not know, Commissioners are primarily responsible for developing and approving the budget for the district funded by a portion of your Brookhaven tax dollars, along with approving members and officers of the department. We also adopt and enforce rules and regulations for the fire department. Commissioners are elected for 5-year terms by those who are registered to vote in the Pines.

Commissioners are elected on the 2nd Tuesday of July (July 8th, 2025), and their term begins the following January 1st. To vote in this election you must be registered to vote in the Pines with the Suffolk County Board of Elections no later than 23 days prior to the election. To be eligible to run for a Commissioner you must be a resident of the Pines and submit your intent to run for this office in writing to commissioners@fipfd.org within 20 days prior to the election. This year there is one position that is up for election.

The schedule for when the Commissioners meet for the rest of 2025 is as follows:

5/17	12:30pm	
6/7	12:30pm	
7/8	6:00pm	Annual Commissioner Elections
8/9	10:00am	
9/6	12:30pm	2026 Draft Budget Discussion
10/18	10:00am	2026 Budget Approval
12/13	**10:00am**	**West Sayville Fire House**

All meetings listed above take place at the Pines Firehouse (34 Fire Island Boulevard) except for the 12/13 meeting which takes place at the West Sayville Fire House (80 Main Street, West Sayville). All meetings are open to the public, and we welcome your attendance.

Please remember that everything you need to know about the Pines Fire District and Fire Department can be found at www.fipfd.org. And we fully support the Chief and the other fire department volunteers in recruiting new firefighters. We urge those interested in joining the team to visit that website for more information.

Sincerely,
Fire Island Pines Fire District Board of Commissioners

Walter Boss, *Chair*
Rosemary Coluccio, *Commissioner*
Eugene Cook, *Commissioner*
Bob McGarity, *Commissioner*
Holly Rhodes Teague, *Commissioner*

Fire Island Pines Volunteer Fire Department
Phone: 631-597-6860 www.fipfd.org Insta @fipfiredept
34 Fire Island Blvd • P.O. Box 193, Sayville, NY 11782

TO: FIPPOA Membership
FROM: Chief Kyle Merker
DATE: May 17, 2025
RE: FIPFD Spring Report 2025

On behalf of the men and women of the Fire Island Pines Fire Department, I'd like to extend a warm welcome and best wishes for a safe and wonderful 2025 season.

The end of last season was a busy one, with two particularly significant alarms. The first involved a cart that veered off the boardwalk and overturned, injuring both the driver and passenger. The second was a structure fire on Cottage Walk that required a mutual aid response from 12 departments—8 from Fire Island and 4 from the mainland.

I mention these incidents to highlight an ongoing safety concern: carts blocking **Fire Island Boulevard near the Harbor**. During the overturned cart response, we had two injured individuals and an overturned vehicle in a ravine. We needed rescue equipment and personnel from our firehouse, while also coordinating boat transport to the hospital. Carts parked behind the wagon rack blocked a critical portion of the road, delaying both response and patient care.

Had the Cottage Walk fire occurred east of the harbor, responding departments from Fire Island—bringing trucks and equipment—would likely have been delayed by the blocked roadways. Additionally, firefighters arriving by ferry would have faced serious difficulty as we tried to transport them through the area to reach the scene. Both delays could have put lives and property at even greater risk.

This is a **dangerous and growing problem**. The number of motorized carts has increased significantly in recent years, and we've alerted local authorities in hopes of an enforceable solution. In the meantime, **please avoid blocking Fire Island Boulevard near the harbor**. Your cooperation can literally save lives.

Training & Personnel Updates

Our training program is well underway. You'll see us around town conducting drills and driver education. We aim to be as unobtrusive as possible, but please be patient if we temporarily block a path or make noise. Also, follow directions from our Fire Police—they're there for your safety as well as ours.

We're proud to share that two firefighters have come off probation and are now full members. We currently have **nine probationary members**—two enrolled at the Suffolk County Fire Academy, and seven newly onboarded and now beginning their training.

Interested in Joining?

Do you think there's a firefighter in you? Curious about what it takes? Even if you're only slightly interested, we'd love to meet you. We're hosting a **Happy Hour and Info Session** on **Saturday, May 31st, from 4–6 p.m. at the Firehouse Annex**. It's a casual social event where you can meet the team, ask questions, and learn more. Email us at **recruitment@fipfd.org** for details—we'd love to hear from you.

Upcoming Events

- **Bingo Nights** begin Thursday, **July 24**, and will run for six weeks. Please join us!
- Our **Annual Community BBQ** is scheduled for **Saturday, July 26**. As always, it's our way of thanking you for your continued support. We'll have free burgers, hot dogs, beer, and soda—and DJ Mike Borowski will be spinning again. We hope to see you there.

Quick Updates

- **Rescue throw bags** will be installed on the beach on **May 18**.
- Follow us on **Instagram** for public safety updates, fire warnings, and department news.

Annual Safety Reminders

- **Lithium-ion battery safety**: These are increasingly common and can pose serious fire risks. Only use manufacturer-approved chargers and equipment, keep them dry, and store them with your fire-exit strategy in mind.
- **Check your smoke and CO detectors**: Replace the batteries if you haven't already.
- **Keep roadways clear**: This includes carts, vehicles, debris, and yard waste. Remind contractors and service providers not to obstruct access for emergency vehicles.
- **Hurricane season** runs from June 1 to November 30. Storms are getting stronger. Review the Hurricane Preplan on our website: www.fipfd.org.

Fire Island Pines Volunteer Fire Department
Phone: 631-597-6860 www.fipfd.org Insta @fipfiredept
34 Fire Island Blvd • P.O. Box 193, Sayville, NY 11782

Final Thoughts

Firefighting is challenging, time-consuming, and physically demanding. But it's also deeply rewarding. You'll push past your limits, join a close-knit team, and help people through some of their worst moments. We need more people like you to keep this department strong and thriving.

Thank you for reading. Please feel free to say hello when you see me around town—I'd love to meet you. And don't forget to follow us on Instagram.

Enjoy your summer—and stay safe.

Respectfully,
Kyle Merker
Chief, Fire Island Pines Fire Department

@FIPFIREDEPT

PinesMarina

HAPPY SPRING!

I am pleased to report that after the winter the harbor has minimal damage to the piles and bulkheads. The single pile that broke has already been replaced. We dredged in the early winter months to minimize the impact on all parties that use and transit the harbor. This was a larger project than normally scheduled (500cu/yd vs 300 cu/yd) dredging operations in the hope that we will not need to again for 2 years. This also puts us on a schedule for late season dredging as opposed to our previous early season dredging schedule that was a difficult time with the amount of harbor traffic in the spring. Dennis, our harbormaster, has done soundings, and the harbor is holding its depth well to date.

We are working through the permit process to replace the aging bay side harbor bulkheading. We have plans in hand and are currently filing the paperwork for the permit approval.

The 2025 season outlook is fantastic. We again are at full capacity and continue with a waiting list that has homeowners, contractors, and non-residents on it. Unfortunately, due to our size constraints we are limited in the slip rentals that we can provide.

We will continue to expand the harbor staff hours as our staff returns for the season over the next couple weeks to assist all boaters, ferry passengers and keep freight moving on the freight dock.

Wishing everyone a wonderful summer season!

Jim Vandernoth	Capt. Dennis Murphy	Karen McCutcheon
Harbor Chair	Harbormaster	Community Manager

PINES CARE CENTER

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Pines Care Center Spring 2025

Since 1984, Pines Care Center (PCC) has supported physicians serving our community from offices located in Whyte Hall on Coast Guard Walk.

PCC is made possible entirely through the generosity of community donations. These contributions directly fund our mission: to ensure everyone in our community has access to high-quality medical care—free of charge and close to home.

Our 2025 season began on April 25 and will continue through October, marking our longest season to date—and the longest continuous medical care presence anywhere on Fire Island. We are deeply committed to ensuring that highly qualified physicians are available locally, helping residents and visitors avoid unnecessary trips to the mainland for treatment.

In 2024, PCC treated 720 patients. Only 10 required transport to a mainland hospital—a rate that is more efficient than most other Fire Island communities.

Clinic hours are from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM and 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM, seven days a week. Physicians are available to see all patients, often staying beyond scheduled hours to meet the community's needs.

Available Services Include:

- STI/HIV testing (in partnership with FCA)
- Counseling referral resources (provided by THRIVE)
- Free Narcan kits, fentanyl and xylazine test kits
- Prescription pickup through a mainland pharmacy, delivered via ferry (M-Sat. 2pm)

For more information or assistance, visit www.pinescarecenter.org for the most up-to-date calendar and scheduling information or please call us at 631-597-6160.

PINES CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Serving the Fire Island Pines Community Since 1966

INFO@PINESCONSERVATIONSOCIETY.ORG

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Welcome back to the Island everyone – The Pines Conservation Society was engaged in a strategic planning process during 2024, designed to re-focus our Mission and Vision Statements as we move forward after 58 years of serving The Pines Community.

You may have noticed that our standard program of removing dead pine trees from the right Of way of all walks was completed early April. We'd like to thank Bartlett Tree Service and FIPPOA for their support in this long time PCS initiative. Our efforts to thwart the Beetle damage has resulted in an all-time low of (25) trees taken down, chipped and removed from Fire Island .

Get your shovels out … PCS spring plant offering will be arriving the in May, date to be confirmed.
Please contact your designated delivery choice from freight dock to your homes to secure your orders. Thanks for keeping Pines in the Pines … we are proud to bring back our two curated native plant pollinator pallets this year. "Sunny Honey" and "Shady Lady" to introduce and provide a food source for beneficial insects, Butterflies, and Bees in either your sunny or shady garden beds. PCS is donating 2 sun pallets that will be planted at the Post Office , Blvd side . Check them out … and yes there will be signage for information.

Our PCS "Project Blush" of planting native Rosa Virginiana amongst the beach grass will continue to be developed now that the beach has been restored. Check out the test planting At Ward & Andy's at 417 Ocean … it was the only one to survive the beach storms and erosion .

We ask that you join us at our annual Labor Day Sunday Brunch at Whyte Hall to support our Initiatives in The Pines … it's our biggest fundraiser.

Standby for our extremely popular GO NATIVE series with dates and details to follow … one of PCS most anticipated and enjoyed events.

Enjoy the 2025 Season

Scott Ahlborn, President & the PCS Board

P.O. Box 5339
Fire Island Pines, NY 11782
= = = = = = = = = = = = = =
www.pinesconservationsociety.org

FIRE ISLAND PINES HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dear Pines Community,

We're excited to share a few updates as we head into the 2025 season:

- **Leadership update:** John Dempsey has been elected President, succeeding founder Bobby Bonanno. Bobby, who established the nonprofit 15 years ago, will remain on the board while enjoying retirement in St. Petersburg, Florida.

- **Board expansion:** Gianfranco Lentini has joined the board, alongside existing members Bo Fridsberg (Treasurer) and Bill Hildebrandt.

- **Historic walking tours:** "A Walk Through History" will return this season, featuring two tours of Ocean Walk and a new tour along the Waterfront.

- **New podcast series:** We're producing a special series in collaboration with Jess Rothschild, host of the award-winning *Finding Fire Island*. This multi-episode project will preserve the stories and legacies of the oldest generation in the Pines. Interviews will take place this summer.

- **Publishing milestone:** *Fire Island: A Century of Art*, an art historical survey edited by John Dempsey and published by Phaidon Monacelli, will be released in Spring 2026.

- **Community engagement:** Our social media reach continues to grow—with 10.5k followers on Instagram and 7.5k on Facebook.

- **Merchandise:** Pines Historical Society hoodies and T-shirts are now available for purchase at TOLA.

- **Fundraising:** As we expand our mission heading into 2026, fundraising will be a major focus this season. You can support our work by making a donation here.

Fire Island Pines Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve and promote the legacy of Fire Island Pines. Visit us at pineshistory.org or on Instagram or Facebook.

The Pines Foundation

Fire Island Pines SEASHORE DEFENSE FUND

May 17, 2025

We Take Care of the Beach So the Beach Can Take Care of You

The 2025 season is upon us. Jaws are dropping as returning Pines residents arrive and see the newly restored beach. It is remarkable.

FIPPOA worked diligently with those government agencies holding the resources and authority to address the incredible crisis we faced. Restoring our beach and dune was a herculean task. Behind all of FIPPOA's efforts, SDF funds were available, if and when needed so we knew we could move forward quickly even as we waited upon government agencies to eventually allot the necessary funds needed. For example, the SDF funded urgent droning images that were required.

As a reminder, the first step was for FIPPOA to organize a stop-gap intervention. TrapBags were installed from the center to the west end of the Pines, the part of our dune most devastated by Christmas Storm Elliott in 2022 and the freak storms that followed in 2023/2024.

More importantly, FIPPOA, with a coalition of partners, locked in an Emergency Repair funded by the federal government and conducted by the Army Corp of Engineers from last November to mid-March. SDF funding played a role throughout this effort with its ongoing initiatives to keep our beach healthy – dune fencing, KEEP OFF THE DUNES, Beach Bins and Lane Posts to mitigate vehicular traffic.

Using money raised (thank you!) from our SDF fundraising appeal at the end of 2024, we were able to secure funds to pay the cost to move sand from the Great Lakes dump site to the storage site provided by

Point o' Woods in case of other emergencies. We are grateful to Point o Woods neighbors for holding the sand.

Continuing in 2025, good sand fencing practices will bolster the efforts to rebuild the dune. More serpentine fencing has been added the entire length of the Pines. The Beach Bins are now installed at each public access walk. We will be adding dog poop dispensers soon. Like the KEEP Off DUNES signs they are a reminder that staying off the dunes is a critical element for restoring the health of the beach.



Good fencing practices continue

The SDF continues as the emergency funding mechanism allowing immediate action when a catastrophe faces our most valuable asset – our incomparable beaches. It took eight years after Sandy for the Feds to restore our beach and dune. Impressively, this most recent Emergency Repair organized and driven by FIPPOA happened in less than a year. As part of The Pines Foundation, the SDF uses funds when needed to lend support for preservation and maintenance measures and to augment the larger beach reclamation work.

At times, it can seem like an endless battle, but our efforts are paying off. Your generous donations serve only one purpose; they assure that our beaches remain healthy, ready and clean for you to play, explore and enjoy.

We need to remain vigilant and commit ourselves to doing everything in our power to prepare, preserve and protect our dune. One thing is certain - bigger and stronger storms are inevitable. There are no guarantees about the dune's maintenance. Keeping the SDF coffers

filled remains key. We will also continue to raise community awareness of the fragility of our dune and what each of us can do to protect it.

There are three things above all that we can do:

1. We must commit ourselves, our friends, renters, and visitors to our community to preserving the dunes by not walking on them. Thirty Keep Off Dune signs have been added.



Thirty KEEP OFF DUNES Signs

2. We must do our best to keep our beach clean. Use the Bins, purchased with SDF donations, for trash. They are located at the base of each public access walk.



Beach Bins

Support the SDF with your dollars and by pledging your personal responsibility for keeping the dune healthy—now and in the future. Check out our website and consider a donation. http://seashoredefensefund.org. You can continue to purchase SDF tote bags (over 1,000 purchased so far) at The Pines Pantry. The Pines Liquor Shop and the Pines Pantry, as they do each year, will generously support SDF. The SDF is grateful to be a beneficiary of the Pines Party, too. Our Beach Defenders who, partnered with the Pines Liquor Shop, did a great job in completing the final sweep post last year's Pines Party to ensure no trace was left behind. We welcome volunteers for our next post-party clean up, Saturday, August 9th. https://www.fippoa.org/get-involved/#become-a-volunteer



Our Beach Defenders. Thank you!

Every time you think about this remarkable sandbar that we call home, remember the Seashore Defense Fund takes care of the beach so the beach can take care of you.

Let's play, explore and enjoy!

Russell Saray

SDF / Chair