



## **MEDIA INVITED**

### **CHERRY GROVE OFFICIALLY DEDICATES ITS NEWLY RESTORED "HISTORIC" COMMUNITY HOUSE AND THEATER IN CEREMONIES THIS WEEKEND**

- WHAT:** DEDICATION CEREMONIES AND RECEPTION TO OPEN THE RESTORED CHERRY GROVE COMMUNITY HOUSE AND THEATER
- WHEN:** 5:30 pm, Saturday, May 28, 2016 (Refreshment and tours will follow the ribbon-cutting ceremony)
- WHERE:** Cherry Grove Community House, Bayview Walk, Cherry Grove, Fire Island, New York
- WHY:** Grand Opening of the newly restored and renovated Community House and Theater, a 5-year, \$1.2 million project funded primarily by local residents with a grant from the NYS Department of Parks and Recreation
- WHO:** Community board members from the Cherry Grove Community Association and Arts Project, and resident donors who led the effort, state and local officials.
- BACKGROUND:** A major community improvement campaign to rescue the historic Community House and Theater in Cherry Grove, New York, one of the nation's oldest gay communities in the United States. The House, which was formerly an old barn floated across the Great South Bay in 1948, has served as the heart and soul of the town for nearly 70 years. In 2010, it was determined that the structure was too dilapidated to stand safely, and a million-dollar campaign was launched to save it. In 2012, both the NY State and Federal government declared the House as a "historic site" to be listed on Registers of Historic Sites. Construction began in 2013 and continued over the winters of 2014 and 2015, culminating this spring in the completion of the first floor. A second floor outdoor pergola and deck are planned for 2017.
- HOW TO GET TO CHERRY GROVE:** Take the Sayville Ferry (41 River Road) to Cherry Grove. The 4:20 pm ferry will arrive at 4:45 giving ample time to arrive at the ceremonies. Off the boat, take a right at the center of town and walk west for about 500 feet. Alternated travel is by water taxi from neighborhood communities on Fire Island.
- CONTACT:** For more information, contact Joyce Yaeger, press relations, Cherry Grove Community Association, 917-783-6105 or 631-597-6099. Press materials including photos and floor plans can be downloaded from <http://cgcai.org/soch-press>