

## 2021 Special Events Report

### Quick history lesson:

*In the mid-'50s Special Events was started by Sophie Byrne and Edith Goman to give the children of Quonnie planned activities and to raise money to support miscellaneous projects that the associated budget could not cover. Today that community spirit and volunteerism remains strong! Our group of dedicated volunteers plan, and host cherished activities throughout the summer as well as help facilitate Sunday's Merchandise Logo Sales whose profits fund our events and necessary central beach projects that benefit our community.*

Special Events was pleased to be able to continue the tradition this summer even with a shorter list of events in order to keep everyone safe and healthy.

**Merchandise Logo Sales:** A special thanks to Dede Consoli for concepting, organizing, sourcing, and buying all this year's merchandise. Her great eye for design, paired with the attentive management of the money by Kathy Alperin and Roberta Peet, enables us to return profits from the sales directly into the community. We sincerely appreciate all of their hard work and effort!

**Directory Management:** A special thanks to Julia Mathews, Betty Wilson and Chris Harris for maintaining our online database and producing the quality printed directory for sale on Sundays at the Q Logo Shed. It's a great resource for us all and it came out great!

### 2021 Event Recap:

- **Opening Picnic:** Appreciation goes out to Katherine Huntington and Meg Murphy for hosting a fun opening picnic where old and new neighbors gathered to welcome in the new season.
- **July 4th Parade:** We were all able to enjoy a wonderful July 4<sup>th</sup> parade this year under the theme 'Quonnie rocks at the beach' complete with delightfully hand-painted rock awards from Peggy Ogden. Our deep appreciation goes out to Sarah Matthews for her very well-orchestrated celebration and all who supported the day's event: Glenn Thomas for his sound system (and Barry O'Brien for recommending Glenn), Chris Licht for performing the MC duties, our esteemed judges Julie Low, Andrew Minea and Taylor Rettig, Emily Poggi who beautifully sang the national anthem, Diane McEnroe who supplied electrical power and both Claire Matthews Feigenbaum and Nic Feigenbaum who managed registration. Additionally, a special thank you to the Quonnie Musicians for serenading us all with their beloved music in a tribute to Tom Battista.
- **Kids and Adult Ballfield Movie Nights:** Appreciation goes out to Diane McEnroe and Julie Low for hosting both 'Luca' and 'Jaws' on two perfect evenings ideal for movie watching and stargazing.
- **Sandcastle Contest:** Appreciation goes out to Eric Buse, Erin Neubardt and Debbie Dupre for planning a really exciting sandcastle contest, complete with building

categories, prizes and refreshing popsicles. Thank you also to their esteemed judges: Mary Carpenter, Marilyn Rettig and Nancy Picard.

- **(UPCOMING & NEW) 9/18 Annual Meeting Bonfire:** to conclude the summer we are inviting everyone to join us for a central beach bonfire to toast another wonderful season together. Our hosts will be Maud Bailey and Roberta Peet who will set and manage fire prep and close. **All are invited from 6:30p - 8:30p and please bring your own everything: chairs, drinks, snacks, etc.**

We are also sincerely grateful to everyone who planned an event this summer but then had to pivot when we needed to cancel, thank you all!

- **Quonnie Social:** Ben Marlor, Keith Marlor, Kathy Marlor, Olivia Consoli, Julia Deady and Emma Newton
- **Kids Scavenger Hunt:** Katherine Huntington, Nancy Picard and Amy Murphy

### **Looking ahead to summer 2022!**

Our goal is to bring back all of our traditional events above plus include the fun run, kids dance, the kid's scavenger hunt, the Quonnie social, pony rides as well as explore adding in some new events like beach bingo and an adult scavenger hunt.

We are very hopeful that we can celebrate our postponed 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary dance for this upcoming Quonnie's 92<sup>nd</sup> year. It will be a big, tented ballfield dance with food and music supplied. Year 2022 will also be the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of "Quonnie Cooks" a cookbook started by community members. Stay tuned for more information on these two events!!

### **Last but not least, please join Special Events and keep volunteering!**

Our events only happen due to the commitment and support of our volunteers and their love of Quonnie! Everyone is welcome to join Special Events so if anyone would like to learn more and become a group member, please reach out to me at [specialevents@quonniecentral.org](mailto:specialevents@quonniecentral.org).

We are also seeking year **2022 parade theme submissions** and local artisans to volunteer their unique skills for **contest prize making** (i.e. parade, sandcastle, scavenger hunts, bingo). If anyone has parade themes they want to submit or is interesting in donating your time and talents, please reach out to me at [specialevents@quonniecentral.org](mailto:specialevents@quonniecentral.org).

Thanks for a great summer!

Elaine Heilemann, Special Events Manager