

Merchandise Sales is the engine behind the Special Events machine that runs our wonderful community. Our main purpose is to generate funds to pay for the social events throughout the summer that make Central Beach the unique community that it is. In recent years, merchandise sales have grown into a significantly larger business allowing the extra funds to be donated back to the community in the form of grants. This year the following grants were requested and approved in addition to the full roster of special event funding that we always strive to do:

- 1) \$4,800 towards voter eligibility legal work
- 2) \$1,500 towards support for documentarian scanning and organizing of our historic documents, to have proper cataloging of our files from the past in digital form.
- 3) \$1,750 towards new and replacement speed signs for our roads designating all roads at 15 MPH.
- 4) \$500 towards a new swing and repair work at the playground.

Merchandise Sales has a grant process, and we are pleased to award these four requests with funding. If there are additional requests in the community, the group is committed to looking at new requests as needed.

It takes a true village to make merchandise sales work. Traditionally I list the names of every person who helped me and this year, that list would be a mile long. While I have not listed each name here, I am extremely grateful for the support of my neighbors and friends who volunteered tirelessly to sell merchandise all ten Sundays of the season. I recognize that volunteering to assist me is a choice and you are donating precious family time to help make merchandise sales successful. I encourage more people to raise their hands to help, to alleviate the burden on the few who volunteer weekly.

A special thank you to my 7am set up crew: Peter Rettig, Tom Lanna, Steven Bruckenthal and Victor Consoli without whom we could not function. Also, a separate thank you to my treasurer Kathy Alperin who is the hardest working, behind the scenes reason we have had such success year after year. Also, to my sister Linda Buffum for all her digital work to get me organized and ready to open preseason...I am most grateful. And lastly to Ed Mellick who lends us electricity year after year, thank you.

I want to personally thank everyone who chooses to shop and support the Q Logo Shed. We had another record-breaking year and with new challenges in the marketplace this year it was a wonderful accomplishment to reach our volume goals. Retail may be dead across the country but here in Quonnie at our humble shed, it continues to grow and thrive.

Thank you for your continued support as I wrap up my fifth (plus 4 other previous) season as your manager. I appreciate the generous feedback you give me and am always open to your suggestions. Please follow me on Instagram @Qlogoshed and feel free to email me with your thoughts at dede.consoli@gmail.com I already have plans in place for a remarkable 2023...Can't wait to show you!

Onward,
Dede DePatie Consoli
Manager, Merchandise Sales