

Special Events report for 2019

The summer of 2019 was a banner year for many of our events, and we could not be more grateful to all of the volunteers, from stalwarts to first-timers to members of the next generation, who helped us make another season of wonderful memories.

Merchandise Sales: First, special thanks to Dede Consoli and her hardy shed and cashier crew for dedicating two hours every Sunday to the cause (along with so much more during the off-season) and growing merchandise sales by about 35 percent this summer; these funds allow us to support our events as well as other community projects. Dede generously has agreed to run merchandise sales next summer, too, and is looking for additional volunteers. Please note, any affinity groups (QTC, Quonnie Open, etc.) who need merchandise, please speak to Dede pre-season so she can plan in advance to cover your needs.

Expenses: There were no unexpected costs this year and we are excited to help fund a big tent dance next summer to celebrate the 90th anniversary of Quonnie. A special thanks to Kathy Alperin for diligently serving as treasurer for this group.

Recap of this year's 11 events with a look at next year:

- **Opening picnic:** Thanks to Elaine Heilemann, Maud Bailey and Kate Gilpin for organizing this fun time on the beach with the Infamous Q Band! Pizza and cornhole for kids was a nice, new addition.
- **The Fun Run:** Patti and Rusty Rueff did a phenomenal job *running* this event these last five years. This summer, 400 people finished the race! The Reuffs are now handing the 2020 baton to Jenny and Chris Licht.
- **The 4th of July Parade:** Suzanne O'Brien, Katherine Huntington and Tom Battista, with MC help from Chris Licht, organized another spirited parade with the theme of Quonnie Traditions. Sarah Reynolds and Sarah Matthews will organize for 2020. Theme to be announced in September.
- **Pony Rides:** Thanks to Neal and Sherry Simon for bringing their horses to the ballfield for kids to enjoy.
- **Kids Dance:** Thank you to Jen Siegal, Samantha Coogan and Katherine Huntington for planning a great dance with a better DJ than the year prior. This is a great event held annually at the Grange and coordinated with East Beach.
- **Movie Nights:** We had two fun movie nights on the ballfield this summer: "Surf's Up" in July with ice cream, and "Bohemian Rhapsody" in August with popcorn. Thanks to Diane McEnroe and Julie Low for organizing these fun evenings.
- **The Social:** There was record attendance for the Quonnie Social, with over 230 attendees enjoying cocktails and conversation on the ballfield. Thanks to Olivia Consoli, Kelsey Duffy, Julia Deady and Ben Marlor for making the magic happen, and to the Infamous Q Band for playing. Additional thanks to their day of support which included: Maria McEnroe, Keith Marlor, Patrick Lewers, Mickey Alperin and Grace Morganthaler

- **Scavenger hunt:** About 50 kids turned out for the scavenger hunt, organized by Nancy Picard and Katherine Huntington, complete with candy prizes, pizza and a slightly more challenging must-find list this year.
- **Meteor Shower:** The weather did not cooperate with us this summer but thank you to Maud Bailey who has tried for the last two years. We are planning again for 2020 and will have two rain dates on hand next year.
- **Sand Castle Contest:** Thank you to Cathy Miller, Sherri Purcell, Laura More and Jannine Lesham for organizing a successful event complete with charming prizes and all-natural creations. We had 12 participating groups on the rescheduled Sunday rain date. Amazing creations were built and popsicles were enjoyed by all. In 2020 we will be moving the event to an earlier date in August to encourage increase participate in advance of back-to-school timing.

Additional Events to Look Forward to Next Summer: Our plan is to do all of the above with the addition of two more events, dates TBD:

- **Doggie Olympics:** Jane Walsh has offered to host this. More details will be forthcoming.
- **Big Tent Dance: A celebration of Quonnie's 90th Anniversary:** A subcommittee of volunteers will help organize.

As a reminder, if anyone would like to join Special Events all are welcome! Please email specialevents@quonniecentral.org.

Thanks for a great summer!

Tina Cassidy and Elaine Heilemann, Special Events Committee Co-Chairs