

2020 Special Events Report

Special Events was pleased to be able to continue the tradition of hosting volunteer led community-based activities this summer.

In advance of the season we had planned for a robust summer of events inclusive of a large ballfield tent dance celebrating Quonnie's 90th anniversary year. However due to these uncertain times many discussions ensued, and we adjusted year 2020 to a smaller list of flexible activities that could adhere to RI's evolving COVID-19 guidelines on safe gatherings and social distancing.

We are sincerely grateful to everyone who lent a hand, re-negotiated vendor contracts, re-planned cherished activities and helped brainstorm modification so that we could create another season of wonderful memories.

Merchandise Sales: First, a special thanks to Dede Consoli who moved forward with resilience, ingenuity, and who graciously sacrificed even more of her free time so that we could provide a safe shopping experience for our Quonnie residents. Thank you to her shed-geunty and to her expanded trusty sales crew for dedicating many hours every Sunday to the cause (not to mention the countless off-season hours in preparation). We are happy to report that we achieve a 17% growth over year 2019 sales. These funds allow us to support our events as well as other community projects including a \$15,000 donation to the community's Water issue. Thankfully, Dede generously has agreed to run merchandise sales next summer as well!

Expenses: A special thanks to Kathy Alperin for attentively serving as Treasurer for this group. While we had a short event list this year, the contractual deposits incurred as part of the delayed 90th Anniversary Dance will be applied towards the event date for year 2021. This was possible due to Kathy's diligence renegotiating these contracts starting last Spring so that we did not lose the funds. Thankfully, Kathy has also generously agreed to continue her management of our fund next year as well!

2020 Event Recap:

- **July 4th Car Parade:** This year's parade took on a different look to remain COVID-19 friendly. We enjoyed a rolling vehicle parade with a longer route to allow for increased participation and safe viewing from more Quonnie lawns passed. Sarah Matthews and Sarah Reynolds championed the effort, complete with the traditional Dunn's Corner Fire Truck and Neal and Sherry Simon's horses leading the way. We had a record of 26 entries and the Quonnie Spirit was strong! A special thank you to the Quonnie Band for serenading us all with their beloved music in a tribute to Tom Battista.
- **July 18th Kids Ballfield Movie Night:** Diane McEnroe and Julie Low hosted 'The Princess Bride' on a perfect evening for movie watching and stargazing.
- **August 8th Adults Ballfield Movie Night:** Diane and Julie once again did not disappoint and hosted the action-packed 'Ford vs. Ferrari'. Kids and Adults enjoyed the roar of racing engines alongside COVID-19 friendly deserts supplied from Sarcastic Sweets.

- **August 12th Perseid Meteor Shower:** Finally, after 3 years in the making, we had a beautiful evening to enjoy the meteor shower hosted by Maud Bailey. Maud and Vin provided expert knowledge of the heavens to ensure that all spectators got a glimpse of these ‘shooting stars’.
- **August 13th Kids Scavenger Hunt:** This year’s innovative scavenger hunt was hosted by Katherine Huntington and Nancy Picard. Despite being held on the rain date, the scavenger hunt had strong participation, challenging clues and a good time was had by all that participated.
- **August 15th Sandcastle Contest:** As you might have noticed this beach was a little bit smaller this summer, but that did not stop the local budding architects and artisans. Adam and Elaine Heilemann hosted the event that had 20 entries this year with stiff competition in all categories.

A Look Ahead:

- **Year 2021**
 - **Quonnie 91st Anniversary Dance:** As many of you know, during the offseason we planned a significant Tent Dance to celebrate the 90th anniversary, however due to the uncertainty around COVID-19, the event has been moved to **July 17, 2021**. More details to follow closer to next summer. A special thanks to Cathy Miller, Kate Gilpin, Sherri Purcell, Katherine Huntington, Debbie Dupree, Sarah Mathews and Kathy Alperin for all their hard work planning and re-planning for 2021.
 - **Printed Quonnie Directory:** We will be updating the community directory for next season. Thank you in advance to Julia Mathews and Betty Wilson for spear-heading this initiative. Please go to [quonniecentral.org/ directory](http://quonniecentral.org/directory) to update your information online so that it is correct before next year’s printing.
 - **Additional 2021 Events Discussed:** Opening Picnic, July 4th Parade, Fun Run, Pony Rides, Kids Dance, Movie Nights, Kids Scavenger Hunt, The Social, Sandcastle Contest, Doggie Olympics and Beach Bingo
- **Year 2022**
 - **Printed Cookbook:** In 1992 the community published the first addition of “Quonnie Cooks”, a tribute to community member provided recipes. We are excited to celebrate our local chef’s again by publishing the 30th Anniversary addition. This initiative will be led by Linda Buffum, Dede Consoli, Sue Hess and Elaine Heilemann who will be researching a publishing partner and collecting recipes throughout the offseason. Stay tuned for more information

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

Thanks for a great summer!

Elaine Heilemann, Special Events Committee Chair