

Greetings!

This has been the best and busiest summer EVER at the Island Community Center and we just want to keep in touch with the news that kept us all in high gear over the season. It's with all hopes that you took part in at least one of the summer's offerings, whether it be at the center or on the pier, during the Stonington 6 road race, at the Lupine Festival, boat races, Fisherman's Day, auction, Camp Kooky, kayak safety, Island Farmer's Market, low-impact exercise, pilates, birthday parties, Coast Guard ABC class, CPR and First Aid, Senior Card Sharks, basketball, inside and island-wide yard sales, the Island Pantry, Family Kickball, or came to get one great deal at the General Store or gather a bag of books for \$5. Whatever your purpose in joining us, we hope you had a positive experience at your community center!

This year we began the drive to teach water safety to youngsters. With the help of the Island Fishermans Wives that contributed traveling costs, Ann and Roger Hooke that contributed the funds raised from tide charts and Abby Gross, certified lifeguard, all the dozens of Camp Kooky campers received swim instruction that either began a basis or enhanced prior levels of swim safety. We're proud to have revived the historic swimming lessons for kids. Not only that, we organized excursions on the Miss Lizzie that taught lobstering techniques and island history, basic kayak safety (thanks to Bill and Old Quarry Ocean Adventures), the next level of nutrition through the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, and island nature appreciation together with the Island Heritage Trust and Michele Durr that coordinated hikes and activities. They even made granite ice cream. Together, we made a summer of fun for 4 weeks of Camp Kooky!

We delighted over 60 kids with an illusionist, jump house and flower pot design with Seamark during the Lupine Festival. This year's Stonington 6 10K road race saw the greatest participation with XX runners and XX walkers. Over 80 imaginative boats (and even one rocket) were built by young minds and little hands during the Fisherman's Day event. We served coffee for the boat races. 3 kayak safety clinics continued our pursuit in keeping our recreational boaters safe.

Our new endeavor, the General Store, that accepts your used items, sold nearly \$4,000. over this summer!! Our thanks to those of you that donated. This and the sale of books that was generously donated by Mr. York's Book Shoppe have created the traffic of folks that has resulted in new, wonderful friendships, a service for our island, as well as creative funding for the center. Our 3rd annual auction netted over \$5,000. through generous donations and a very dedicated board. We're proud to be working hard!!

As the leaves turn, our focus also turns to activities and winter needs. With the dramatic rise in the price of energy, especially in the cost of home heating oil, portending a crisis for many islanders during the coming cold weather heating season, the Island Community Center is stepping forward to help the community. In line with its mission to provide facilities and programs to enhance the well being of the community, the ICC stands ready to use its non profit status and paid staff time to act as a conduit and clearing house for community efforts to help those in need. The center, during its hours of

opening, with its rest rooms, comfortable areas for reading, game playing, wide and tv watching and internet connectivity, will provide a warm respite facility for those in need. The center will continue its various programs of walking, exercise and general well being and will enhance these and add others in response to community needs and requests. As an organization serving the whole island, partially supported by taxpayer appropriations and individual donations, we are ready to do our part. We are all in this together.