

ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER, INC.



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Fall Greetings!

This has been the best and busiest summer EVER at the Island Community Center and we just want to keep in touch with you and provide the news that kept us all in high gear over the season. I hope that you were able to take 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 Food Pantry, Family Kickball, or if you just 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 Fishermen's Wives who provided traveling costs, Ann and Roger Hooke that contributed the funds raised from tide charts and Abby Gross, certified lifeguard, dozens of Camp Kooky campers received swim instruction and either began a basis or enhanced their prior levels of swim safety. We're proud to have revived these historic swimming lessons for kids. I know that Margaret Grindle and May Williams are both looking down on us with great admiration.

In addition, we organized excursions on the Miss Lizzie and were taught lobstering techniques and a bit of island history, basic kayak safety (thanks to Bill Baker 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 when they coordinated hikes and activities for us. They even made granite ice cream. Together, we created a summer filled with fun for 4 weeks of Camp Kooky! This opportunity would not have been possible without the kindness of our many scholarship contributors.

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 over 225 participants. Over 80 imaginative boats (and even one rocket) were built by young minds and little hands during the Fisherman's Day event. Coffee was served for the boat races. Three kayak safety clinics continued our goal of keeping our recreational boaters safe.

Our new endeavor, the General Store, that accepts your used items, sold nearly \$4,000 worth of household goods over this summer!! Our thanks to those of you who donated and those of you who made purchases. This and the sale of books that was generously donated by Mr. York's Book Shoppe has created the traffic of folks that has resulted in new, wonderful friendships, a valuable service for our island, as well as creative funding for the center. Our 3rd annual auction netted over \$5,000 through generous donations from our community 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. 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 operation will offer, comfortable areas for reading, game playing, television watching and internet connectivity, will provide a warm respite facility. The center will continue its on-going 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.

As always, if you have any ideas for programs or events that you would like the ICC to sponsor please feel free to contact me. We are all in this together.

Warmly,

Patricia Gross
Executive Director

