



Bonnet Shores

Marcel P. Fortin • 792-8252

"It was a dark and stormy night..."

While not very original, these words do describe the conditions in Bonnet Shores the night after Halloween. Some two-thirds of the Fire District was plunged into darkness for several hours as a result of the furious wind and rainstorm that darkened many areas of South County.

For many district residents, however, there was a place of warmth and light to which they could retreat in the company of friends and neighbors. Saturday, Nov. 1, was the occasion of the third annual Appreciation Night for the Bonnet Shores volunteers.

Once a year the Bonnet Shores Fire District Council treats the many volunteers who "make this place work," in the words of Councilman Bob Varone, to a night out. This year's fest was billed as an Italian supper, marking a change from last year's old-fashioned ham and bean supper.

Some 50 volunteers and family members showed up at the district's Community Center building on Bonnet Shores Road. While most of the district's lights were out, the power stayed on in one section - just around the center - and only flickered once or twice.

According to Recreation Committee Chairman Ruth Mahon, some 67 invitations were mailed out to members of the following committees: Recreation, Historical, Beautification, Land Trust, Bonnet Daze, Holiday Party, as well as some others who lend a helping hand when needed.

Councilors Lloyd Albert, Bill DeGizzo, Kathy Kelleher, Anita Langer and Bob Varone helped prepare and serve the food, aided by volunteers Gene and Eileen DeCiccio, Ruth Mahon, District Tax Collector John Carvalho and District Manager Ward Barry.

The popularity of this annual gathering is attested to by the fact that at least four of the invited guests had planned their annual return to Florida for the day following the dinner. This event gives all involved a renewed appreciation for the talents and efforts so readily expended for the benefit of all Bonnet residents. In retrospect, the warmth and light at the community center that evening was probably less a coincidence than it was a reflection of the spirit of community that is so much a part of Bonnet Shores - and all of South County.

When informed that I was going to submit this report, Ruth characteristically asked me to include a call for anyone who may be interested in serving on any of the activities or committees in Bonnet to call the Community Center at 789-4540 and "Leave your name. We need you."

Who knows, maybe we'll be seeing you next year!