



# Califon Crier

1994 Founded by Cathy McVicker & Jim Ball (1995)

Editor, Hunterdon County  
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## Califon - A Healthy Place to Live

By Councilman Tony Forrester, Ph.D., R.N.

In so many ways Califon exemplifies a healthy community. Within a 2-mile radius of the iron bridge, opportunities abound for health-seeking citizens of our little borough. Quiet but not sleepy, Califon is a very active community. On any given day Borough residents and visitors can be seen getting healthy exercise in Island Park or along the Columbia Trail. The Trail is 7-miles long, easily accessible and healthy at any speed – strolling, walking, hiking, jogging, running, biking. Some of our neighbors, although perhaps not known to many personally by name, are quite well known locally for their routine friendly greetings and long walks through our safe neighborhoods.

Healthy nutrition is easily available in Califon, as well, and is better ensured by shopping for fresh fruits and vegetables at the local farm stands. Growing and sharing organically grown produce in our community garden or in our own backyards are also healthy choices. Our local stores, delis, cafes, restaurants and bistros offer many delicious, healthy and nutritious meal choices to please our pallets and keep us strong.

Spiritual and mental health are encouraged in Califon. There are many opportunities for healthy socialization – civic activities such as the fireman's breakfasts, street fairs, church and school activities. Religious worship and fellowship are available for those who seek them in our welcoming churches. Rejuvenating meditation can be had anytime we take a moment to enjoy the view of quiet beauty on the South Branch. Watching the ducks, geese and majestic blue heron gliding on and above the river can be a very energizing and reassuring experience. Perhaps a solitary morning actually in the river, wearing waders enjoying some catch-and-release time or fly-fishing is in order.

Healthy preventative behaviors abound in Califon. Families, large and small, young and old, model health prevention and self-care by staying current with routine immunizations, getting their annual flu shot and monitoring their health-status by seeing their primary care provider on a regular basis. Being good citizens by simply observing traffic rules and local speed limits makes us healthier by keeping our community safer.

Better health is also ensured by the environmental awareness we demonstrate when we responsibly participate in the recycling program and neighborhood, park and river clean-up days. Keeping our septic systems up-to-date and in good working order ensures a cleaner environment and healthier water supply. Even sharing useful household items by shopping in the thrift shop or the town-wide tag sale promotes a healthy environment by keeping goods in use and out of landfills. Recycling useful goods also encourages economic recovery.

Our local economy grows healthier every time we make a purchase in town from one of our local merchants. Just about anything can be purchased in Califon – wine and cheese for our tables, furniture for our homes, *objet de art*, hardware and lumber for decorating and improving our homes, even tackle for fishing. A healthy choice is made by smart consumers when they choose to shop in Califon.

Finally, there can be no greater example of healthy citizenship than seeing neighbors helping neighbors during times of crisis and need. Working together to recover from the crisis of Sandy is proof-positive of a healthy community. Jersey strong, yes, but with all the hometown charm of thoughtful citizens working together in a peaceful borough here in the valley.

### 2014 Needs Your Participation!

Please think of joining one of Califon's Boards, Committees or Commissions in 2014. We are always looking for residents who have an hour or two a month (if that for some boards) to help make Califon such a great place to live. Most of our committees require very little time commitment and you can choose what you would like to contribute. Right now the Board of Health is looking for a couple of members for this year. We usually only meet about 8 times a year with the summers off. Please stop on by to see what we are about or contact Karen Mastro at [kmastro@califonboro.net](mailto:kmastro@califonboro.net) or 832-7850 ext 204.

### Christmas Tree Pick Up

Please have your Christmas Trees sitting curbside by Friday January 17<sup>th</sup>. The Fire Co. will be coming around to pick them up on Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup>. These discarded Christmas trees will be used for the "Winterfest" bonfire on January 26<sup>th</sup>. Trees can also be dropped off at the Fire Co. Carnival grounds, behind the Municipal Building. There will be a "tree drop off" sign to start stacking the trees on that spot.

### **When the Snow Falls this Winter....**

According to the Borough ordinance the following rules will go into effect in the event of snow:

Owner(s) and/ or tenant(s) of any property abutting public roads of the Borough shall remove all snow and ice from the sidewalks within 12 hours of daylight after the snow has fallen and accumulated. A summons will be issued to violators.

Placing snow and or ice in the Borough or County roadways, whether paved or unpaved, is strictly prohibited. Whenever snow has covered Borough streets and an emergency exists, no vehicles can park on the streets until they have been plowed sufficiently. At the time, parking on the streets will resume so long as it does not interfere with the normal flow of traffic. Violators of these rules may have their cars towed at the owner's expense. Please also make sure your house number and mailbox are clearly visible from the road to make it easier for responders to find you in the event of an emergency.

### **Please Plant Responsibly!**

Spring time will be here before you know it and the Califon Environmental Commission would like residents to please think twice before planting invasive plants. There has been some concern about residents planting highly invasive plants such as bamboo on their property lines for use as a privacy screen. Please note however many varieties of bamboo are fast growing, fast spreading and do not recognize property lines. If it is not planted with the proper barriers in place and watched by the owner, these plants can quickly take over properties, poke through pools, foundations, patios, fences ect. This is a growing problem (no pun intended) all over the country and many municipalities have adopted Invasive Plants bans into their land use ordinances. The Califon Environmental Commission is not interested in adopting more rules for our residents, but it will have to take this into serious consideration if residents do not act responsibly when planting invasive plants.

Bamboo is considered an "invasive exotic" and it crowds out native plants in our area which ultimately threatens bio diversity. Phyllostachys Aurea, Yellow Groove or Bissetti are just a few of the highly invasive varieties of bamboo. The Kudzu Vine, Ragweed and Multi Flor Rose are also highly invasive plants and should really not be used in your landscaping designs.

For more information on this topic please check out this website and look at the photos!

[http://electron.electronics.indiana.edu/foxd/bamboo/invasive\\_bamboo\\_laws.pptx\\_%20\(1\).pdf](http://electron.electronics.indiana.edu/foxd/bamboo/invasive_bamboo_laws.pptx_%20(1).pdf)

### **Califon Recreation Committee**

As 2013 draws to a close, the Califon Recreation Committee would like to take a moment to highlight some of the terrific community-building events that we have organized this year:

- Spring Easter Egg Hunt in Califon Island Park – attended by 100+ children and adults this year, and featuring egg hunting (of course!), jelly bean counting contest, and community fellowship
- Memorial Day Parade – our town's "signature" event this year featured the St. Anne's pipe and drum corp, the 13<sup>th</sup> NJ Civil War re-enactors, local Scout packs and troops, the Califon School Cheerleaders, local Fire and Rescue companies,

antique cars, and a huge party in Califon Island Park with food, games, and fun.

- Summer Fun Days – a new event this year attended by 100+, featuring a week of special activities in July for children including craft-making, a music day, fishing derby, sports, and more.
- End of Summer Movie Night in the Park – we set up the big screen and watched the movie 'Tangled' under the stars. Popcorn and refreshments were served!
- Califon Street Fair – we closed down Main Street on Oct 6 for our inaugural street fair event, featuring live music, local businesses and vendors, a (very popular) dunk tank, and lots of fun. Aligned with the Jon Slusher Memorial 5K and Califon Fire Co Pancake breakfast, this was a well-attended day full of fun and Califon community spirit
- Christmas Tree Lighting – featuring visits with Santa at the Califon Train Station, and followed by caroling and tree lighting on Main street, this event was very well attended (150+) and a great way to kick off the holiday season

The 2013 Califon Recreation Committee is: Alison Ramarge (Chair), Jason Beard (Council Liaison), Claudia Cangemi, Abby Flagler, Maggie Link, Kevin Smith, Gwenyth Medea, Benji Beard with additional special event leadership by Gil Smith (Memorial Day) and Mike Medea (Street Fair). We manage to do "a lot" with "a little" for Califon because of volunteer efforts of these citizens – thank you!

Thanks, as well, to our Califon business community and fire and rescue organizations for supporting these events, and being valued partners with the Borough in promoting our town.

We are seeking additional members for 2014! If you like what we are doing in the Califon Recreation Committee and want to be a part of it, please contact Alison Ramarge ([a.ramarge@hotmail.com](mailto:a.ramarge@hotmail.com)).

### **Mayor's Message - A Year of Thanks** **Charles Daniel, Mayor of Califon**

Looking back over the past year, I am amazed by the accomplishments of the volunteers in our Borough. Our resident volunteers make good things happen by giving their time, energy and personal commitment to the betterment of our community. A few examples are:

- The construction of the new playground at Califon Island – While spending a few years in the planning stages, construction began in the spring and was completed prior to Memorial Day. Special thanks to Mike Medea, Councilman, and the Parks Committee for their perseverance, dedication and hard work.
- The Main Street Fair – Music, food, vendors of food and crafts, face-painting, fire engines and even a dunking booth highlighted the best in what a small community and its local businesses have to offer. Thanks to the Recreation Committee and Jason Beard, Councilman, for a fun-filled enjoyable afternoon in the center of town!
- Stormwater Mitigation Project – If there is one thing I learned over the past year, it's that when dealing with the federal government, one must have patience, persistence and perseverance! The project's major accomplishment concerning the federal government was the monetary obligation of the grant to the Borough, meaning the federal money is truly ours! Tons of paperwork needed to be com-

pleted for this effort. Thanks to Laura Eidsvaag, Borough Clerk, Don Scott and Kelly Kimiecik, Borough Engineers, and Jon Mello, EPA Project Manager, for their dedicated effort, keeping this project moving forward!

Of course, there are those undertakings/responsibilities that must function every year but would not occur if not for those volunteering. For this, I am truly grateful.

- Memorial Day Parade – Councilman Gill Smith and a host of volunteers.
- Nellie Hoffman House Improvements – Councilwoman Kathleen Anderson and the Califon Preservation Committee.
- Environmental Commission – Councilman Patrick Farmer and the commission members.
- Planning Board – Bruce Morrow, Chair, and Linda Beers, Secretary and the board members.
- Board of Health – Councilman Tony Forrester and Karen Mastro, Secretary, and the BOH members.
- Emergency Management Planning – Coordinator Beth Wolfmayer, the fire department, the rescue squad and the police department.

I'm sure I am missing some of the ad-hoc committees that form throughout the year. For that I apologize. My sincerest thanks to all for your time and service, making Califon the best possible community to live, work and grow!

We – the Mayor, town Council and municipal staff – wish you all a safe holiday season and happy and healthy New Year!

### Free Rabies Clinic

The Califon Board of Health will be sponsoring a Free rabies Clinic on Saturday January 11, 2014 from 1 to 3 p.m. at 39 Academy St (Municipal garage bays). The Snow date is January 18<sup>th</sup>. We are happy to advise that the Califon Fire Company's Junior Firemen will be directing the traffic flow. Please follow their instructions in order to keep the line moving!

Please make sure all dogs are on a leash and cats in a carrier. If there are any young residents (5<sup>th</sup> grade and up) that would like to assist in this clinic, please contact Karen Mastro at [kmastro@califonboro.net](mailto:kmastro@califonboro.net) or 908-832-7850 ext. 204.

Volunteers are needed and appreciated. This is a great way to earn your service hours while having fun!

### It's Time to License Your Dog!

All Califon Borough residents are required to license their dogs. The 2014 licenses are due by Friday January 31<sup>st</sup>. Applications are available right here in the Califon Crier, on the Califon Borough Website ([www.califonboro.net](http://www.califonboro.net)) under Documents at the bottom of the web page or you can come down to the Municipal Offices and pick one up. A proof of Rabies Vaccination Certificate and proof that your dog has been altered if applicable must be included in your application.

Altered dogs are \$11.00 and unaltered dogs are \$14.00 to license for the year. Please make checks payable to the Borough of Califon.

*Please note there is a delinquent fine of \$5.00 per dog, per month after January 31<sup>st</sup>. Please get your applications in early!!*

### **NOTICE TO ALL DOG OWNERS**

Dog Licenses must be obtained by January 31<sup>st</sup>. Please complete the below application upon receipt of this mailing to avoid accruing late fees!

N.J. Fees as scheduled should be enclosed with your application along with a certificate of your dog's current rabies inoculation. Rabies inoculation must not expire during this year of licensing.

Two surcharge fees have been imposed by the State of N.J.- (1) N.J. Pilot Clinic Fund Surcharge of \$0.20; (2) N.J. Animal Control Population Fund Surcharge- \$3.00. Along with a copy of the rabies certificate we will also need a veterinarian's certificate, or and affidavit stating the animal has be altered. The proof of alteration only needs to be submitted the first time you are licensing your dog with Califon after the alteration takes place. Our system will store this information for future reference.

Fee: Spayed or Neutered dogs.....\$11.00  
Unaltered Dogs.....\$14.00

### **Checks should be made payable to "Borough of Califon"**

It would be appreciated if you could enclose a self addressed stamped envelope for the return of your license.

\*\*\*\*\* Please note a DELINQUENT FINE OF \$5.00 PER MONTH PER DOG WILL BE ASSESSED AFTER JANUARY 31<sup>ST</sup>. Please avoid this late fee and get your applications in early!

### **LICENSE APPLICATION FOR DOG OWNERS**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Road or Street: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Male ( ) Female ( ) Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Breed \_\_\_\_\_

Hair: Short ( ) Medium ( ) Long ( ) Colors: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Dog: \_\_\_\_\_

Is Dog Neutered or Spayed? ( ) Yes ( ) No

Date Current Rabies Vaccination Expires \_\_\_\_\_

Fee Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*\* There will be a free Rabies Clinic held on Saturday January 11<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Califon Borough Hall- 39 Academy St. Snow date will be Saturday January 18<sup>th</sup>. Please follow directions of the Califon Jr. Firemen when entering the clinic site.

Califon Crier  
The Borough of Califon  
39 Academy Street  
Califon, NJ 07830

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**Winterfest 2014**  
**January 26<sup>th</sup> – 4p.m. to 8 p.m.**

Come on down to the Fire Company's carnival grounds to enjoy an evening with your friends and neighbors by the bonfire or skating on the ice skating rink (weather permitting). There will be plenty of delicious food and beverages and an awesome Fireworks display is planned for the conclusion of the evening.

The Carnival Grounds are behind the Municipal Building at 39 Academy Street.  
If you have any questions, please contact Walter Ader at (908)328-1426.  
Snow date will be Saturday February 1<sup>st</sup>.

**CALIFON CRIER**  
*www.califonboro.net*

The Califon Crier is published on a bimonthly basis. If you have news, comments, or feedback, please contact the borough with "Califon Crier" in the subject line at [kmastro@califonboro.net](mailto:kmastro@califonboro.net) or [leidsvaag@califonboro.net](mailto:leidsvaag@califonboro.net); phone (908) 832-7850; or fax (908) 832-6085.

**Contributors:**

Walt Ader, Charles Daniel, Laura Eidsvaag, Tony Forrester, Karen Mastro and Alison Ramarge

***Deadline for March/April submissions: Thursday, February 13.***