

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

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Califon Crier

Volume 21, Issue 2
March/April 2014

1994 Founded by Cathy McVicker & Jim Ball (1995)

Editor, Hunterdon County
Central Printing & Mail

Califon Island Park - A Small Town Treasure

By Councilman Mike Medea

As I write this there is a foot or more of snow and ice on the ground. Rest assured, however, warmer days are ahead of us and with them comes increased use of one of the borough's most treasured assets, Califon Island Park. The Parks Committee, Town Council and numerous volunteers have made a concerted effort to improve park conditions and implement enhancements over the past several years. For example, last Memorial Day marked the ribbon cutting for our new playground, our ball fields are in better shape than ever thanks to a maintenance program we enlisted and the Veterans Memorial Garden is a vast improvement to the pavilion landscape. We have taken strides but the wish list does not stop there. We hope to implement several more projects this coming year and beyond.

We are extremely fortunate to have such a valuable asset within walking distance. It is a natural meeting place for Califon residents and our surrounding neighbors. The park is heavily used by young adults, parents with small children, grade school children and residents of all ages.

The Parks Committee is prepared to continue beautification efforts but we need your help. Unfortunately the actions of a few can quickly deteriorate our park's image and condition. It is frustrating to witness a lack of respect for our town's park in the form of graffiti and vandalism and it is saddening when park facilities that volunteers have worked so hard to implement are damaged intentionally. The park belongs to all of us and it is our responsibility to look after it. We need to treasure and care for our local resources, not tear them down and make them less desirable.

In recent history there have been instances where picnic tables, playground equipment, bleachers and signage have been either damaged or tagged with graffiti. This blatant disrespect (and in some instances illegal activity) cannot be allowed to continue. It degrades the condition of our park and it deflates the spirit of hard working volunteers. Furthermore, it diverts much needed funds away from enhancement projects and towards repairs, clean up and replacements. The Parks Committee along with Council have discussed methods to curb vandalism. We have included our police force in on the discussion as well. One option currently on the table is the installation of security cameras. The prevailing opinion is that we would rather focus funds on improvements rather than on security cameras. Nobody is overly eager to install cameras but it is a step that we are willing to take if conditions do not improve.

We need to pull together as a community and protect one of Califon's most valuable assets. We need to insist on respect for public property and refuse to accept vandalism of any magnitude. The Parks Committee welcomes your feedback and input. Feel free to reach out to any of our members or to participate in a meeting. Furthermore, if you witness or have knowledge of the occurrences mentioned above please do not hesitate to contact our police force (908-876-3232). Silence and non-action only encourages the behavior to continue.

Spring will be here before we know it. The park will once again be full of activity. Together we can continue to make improvements and ensure that the park will be enjoyed for generations to come.

DAFFODIL DAY IN CALIFON!

Lets spring into Spring, Boy do we need it...enough already with this snow!

We're going to have a Saturday Open House in beautiful downtown Califon.

"Daffodil Day "... we will drench the street with daffodils and celebrate spring.

The shops will have special sales, giveaways, drawings for discounts and prizes.

Refreshments and BEST OF ALL live music by Toby Loyd and friends. So save the date May 3rd Saturday...and come on down and join the fun....

IT'S TIME FOR JUNK IN THE TRUNK AGAIN!

March 1st through March 14th

Please drop your old clothing, soft goods, stuffed animals

in black trash bags; shoes bagged separately.

Hard toys that will fit into a box 24" x 24" 21"

Please place in front of the garage bays at the Califon Municipal Building.

All proceeds benefit Califon Elementary School PTA and the environment of course!

LOWER VALLEY COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Lower Valley Presbyterian Church will be opening up their community garden to residents for the third year this spring! If you are interested in renting a plot to grow organic vegetables and assist in the gardens designated for the Open Cupboard Food Pantry, please contact Claudia at the LVPC at Lowervalleypc@embarqmail.com or 908-832-2933. Rental is \$25.00 for one 4' X8' bed.

RECREATION NEWS

Califon Recreation Committee will host the annual Easter Egg Hunt Sunday April 13th at 1:00 p.m. The rain date is Saturday April 19th at the same time. Egg Hunters are asked to bring a bag or a basket to hold their eggs and to arrive a few minutes early to ensure a timely start.

There will also be a Just Dance Party in March, date TBD. Please watch for news on this fun night out. We are always seeking new members. If you are interested please contact Alison Ramarge at (908) 268-2077 or a.ramarge@hotmail.com.

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 or leidsvaag@califonboro.net; phone (908) 832-7850; or fax (908) 832-6085.

Contributors:

Greg Babineau, Jessica Hickman-Beard, Laura Eidsvaag, Sue Lavigne, Karen Mastro, Mike Medea, Jeff Mehl, Tim Norton, Lynne Parente, Alison Ramarge & Ben Tuttle.

Deadline for May/June submissions: Wednesday, April 16.

ALL A'S – SECOND MARKING PERIOD!!

The following students in the 6th through 8th grades at Califon School earned straight A's for the second marking period. Congratulations on your hard work!

6th Grade- Sara Andersen, Benji Beard, Lily Folsom, Ellie Hauptly, Alexis Judd, Taj Piontkowski, Emma Zande.

7th Grade- Matt Brandner, Sam Hauptly, Wendy King, Rebecca Nitti, Kara Riley, Celia Turello, Lauren Wagner.

8th Grade- Evan Andersen, Evan Cortese, Gwyneth Medea, Caroline Pereira, Paige Peterson, Will Rodenberger, Grayson Sieber.

CALIFON'S KINDERGARTEN ROUND UP

Califon Public School will be holding its annual Kindergarten "Round Up" on Tuesday, March 18, 2014 beginning at 2:00 p.m. Any child living in Califon Borough who will be five years old on or before October 1, 2014 is eligible for Kindergarten this September.

Please call the school as soon as possible to obtain the necessary registration and medical forms which are required to be completed for submission when you attend Kindergarten registration on the above date.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Dyer, Executive Secretary at 908- 832-2828 ext. 211 or Mrs. Patterson, School Nurse at 908-832-2828 ext. 212.

2014 DOG LICENSES ARE NOW DUE

If you haven't yet licensed your dog, there is still time. Please stop by the Municipal Building, drop off your application and check in the drop box by the back door of the Municipal Building or mail it to Karen Mastro's attention. The application form can be found on our website; www.califonboro.net at the very bottom click on Documents and there will be a dog licensing application you can print out. Or you can just write down all the information on a piece of paper. If your dog just had a rabies vaccination, I will need a copy of the certificate, if it is already in our system I do not need it.

Any questions, please email Karen at kmastro@califonboro.net or call me Mon-Thurs 908-832-7850 ext. 204.

Get it now to avoid accumulating late fees!

LOCAL BOYS "SCOUTING FOR FOOD"

Boys in Califon Cub Scout Pack 192 and Califon Boy Scout Troop 192 will once again be "Scouting for Food".

Here's how it works. On Saturday, April 26 a scout will leave an empty shopping bag with instructions at your front door or in your mailbox. During the week, you fill the bag with groceries. At the end of the week, leave it out on your porch or by your door. The scout will come back to your house on Saturday, May 3, or Sunday, May 4 to pick up the filled bag.

All the items collected will go the Open Cupboard Food Pantry in Clinton, which serves families in need in Northern Hunterdon County.

Please support our young people as they do their bit to combat hunger in our communities. For more information, contact Jessica Hickman-Beard at 520-0109 (jjcb20@comcast.net) or Lynne Parente at 832-6381.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR FIRE MARSHAL

Home fires occur more often in winter than in any other season. Here are some steps you can take to prevent home fires:

- Review [safety tips for portable heaters, woodstoves, fireplaces, generators, and candles.](#)
- Develop a [home escape plan](#) and practice it periodically.
- Ensure that you have [working smoke alarms](#) in every bedroom and outside every sleeping area. Test them monthly.

CALIFON'S BOY SCOUTS EARN THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

Three members of Boy Scout Troop 192 received the Boy Scout of America's highest award, the rank of Eagle Scout: Quinn Furnald, Matt Nanna & Colin Henderson. The boys have been a part of scouting since kindergarten and have each completed a community service leadership project as part of their advancement.

Quinn's project, completed in August 2012, benefited St. Luke Parish, where he expanded the Outdoor Worship Area, constructed seven additional benches (including a clergy bench) and constructed a two-tier bandstand for the choirs. He gained approval and support of the church community & held two local soccer clinics to help raise funds for the project.

Matt Nanna completed his project in May 2013. He worked closely with Don Freibergs of the Califon Historical Society to construct a raised plexi-glass platform for an electric train at the Califon Train Station. The project entailed building special brackets to fit the style of the historic building. The train now runs around the inside walls of the building.

Colin's project, completed in September 2013, consisted of refurbishing twenty-six fire hydrants in Califon borough including stripping the paint, resealing the three water outputs and repainting them. The new accents are the silver metallic tops and a blue "H" near the base of the hydrants. During this time, Colin consulted with Rich Bergman, former Fire Chief, on his project.

Quinn's Court of Honor ceremony was held in June 2013, while Matt & Colin's ceremony is planned for Spring of 2014. All three scouts are thankful for generous donations, professional services and support provided by their troop, family, friends and local businesses. Troop 192 is proud of their hard work and accomplishments!

LEBANON TOWNSHIP ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION- LETS PLAY BALL!

Despite the snow, it is time to THINK SPRING.

Baseball registration is now open at ltaa.sportsoffice.com. Registration will complete at the end of February so we can run evaluations in March. PLEASE register today.

Note: Softball has a different registration page on the site.

Baseball season details:

The LTAA recreation baseball program runs from April through June and is comprised of 4 Divisions:

- Div 1 Rookie (Co-Ed): Grades K-1 (tee/machine pitch)
- Div 2 Minor Division: Grades 2-3 (machine/kid pitch)
- Div 3 Major Division: Grades 4-6
- Div 4 Babe Ruth: Grades 7-8

For questions on the upcoming season, please contact Greg Babineau at gregbabineau@gmail.com or 908-442-6587. Baseball registration is now open at ltaa.sportsoffice.com. Registration will complete at the end of February so we can run evaluations in March. PLEASE register today.

Note: Softball has a different registration page on the site.

2014 HUNTERDON HUSKIES FOOTBALL & CHEER REGISTRATION

Interested in your son or daughter joining a National Championship caliber football and cheer program? Would your child like to become a better athlete in general? The nationally recognized Hunterdon Huskies football and cheerleading program is now accepting registrations from area athletes for the upcoming 2014 season.

Register Today!

Registration Opens in early March for the 2014 season! Team sizes are limited – register early!

Visit www.hunterdonhuskies.com for more information and to register

online for the 2014 season. Join today and start your child on a winning path. If you have any questions about the Huskies, please call our Head Football Commissioner, Jeff Mehl at 908-399-9407, or our Head Cheer Commissioner, Sue Lavigne at 908-304-4571.

HUSKIES MEET THE COACHES DAY -- MARCH 22, 2014

Attend our annual *Meet the Coaches Day* -- meet the coaches, ask questions, and register in person!

- Saturday March 22nd
- 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- @ Huskies Field – Union Forge Field, 1 Washington Avenue, High Bridge; Rain location -- Custom Alloy, 3 Washington Avenue, High Bridge.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEAN UP DAY

Saturday March 8th, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 314 State Route 12 East, Flemington.

This is open to all Hunterdon County residents, small businesses and Farmers.

Below is just some of the items the county will be accepting for waste clean up. For a more detailed list please stop by the municipal offices for a flyer or contact the County Solid Waste and Recycling Services at 908-788-1110.

They will be accepting up to 10 gallons or 80 pounds of the following (at no charge), Quantities in excess of this will be charged.

Latex Paint*	Oil Based Paint*
Aerosol Cans	Varnishes/stains
Insecticides	Drain Cleaner
Herbicides	Pool Chemicals
Kerosene	Gas/oil mix
Paint Thinner	Fluorescent tubes**

*consolidate latex paints and oil based paints, keeping them type separated, to make full cans.

**Wrap fluorescent tubes in newspaper or put back in original sleeve

ANIMAL CONTROL

Tim Norton of Happy Tails Inn, will once again be serving as Califon's Animal Control Officer through an Inter Local services agreement with the Washington Township Police Department. Tim can be contacted at: 908-339-1109.

COMPUTER & ELECTRONICS COLLECTION DAY

Saturday April 12th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 314 State Route 12 East, Flemington.

The County will be accepting up to 10 items containing Electronic Circuit Boards including: Computers, Monitors & Televisions.

They will not be accepting: Air Conditioners, Dehumidifiers, Refrigerators, Propane Tanks or Hazardous Waste.

For Larger Quantities or Commercial Disposal of Other Items Contact: NewTech Recycling, Inc. @ (732)469-9774.

HUNTERDON COUNTY IS CELEBRATING 300 YEARS!

The Hunterdon County Tricentennial Committee will be hosting an array of events for all residents to join in the celebration of Hunterdon County's 300th birthday. The Califon Municipal Offices have FREE calendars from the Tricentennial Committee listing all of the events. Please come on down and pick one up. You can also visit their website at www.hunterdon300th.org.

A Gala Celebration at the Grand Colonial will be held on March 29, 2014. Tickets for this event are on sale now and there is a limit of 250 tickets available. This will be an evening of fun, musical entertainment and fine dining, with bidding at both a live and silent auction. Attire is semi-formal, black tie optional.

Tickets available for purchase at the Flemington Headquarters (908)788-2030.

COME ON DOWN TO THE PARK FOR THE SPRING STREAM CLEAN UP!

Many hands make light work! Please mark your calendars and come on down Saturday, April 26 to the park to help clean up the River banks of

Califon. Califon will once again be participating in this valuable yearly event sponsored by the Raritan Headwaters Association. Last year volunteers removed 6 tons of trash throughout Morris, Somerset and Hunterdon on the cleanup day. This is a rain or shine event. If you only have one hour to spare between games, that is fine!

This is a great event for Cub Scouts, Brownies, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Youth Groups, Families, Neighbors, everyone!

If you know you will be able to help out in any way, email or call Karen Mastro at kmastro@califonboro.net or 908-832-7850 ext. 204. All reserved volunteers will get a free t shirt!

WHAT IS HAPPENING AT THE CALIFON BOOK SHOP

As we dig out of the snow, we invite you to attend one of the many upcoming events at Califon Book Shop.

March 1st- We will celebrate Read Across America Day with a Dr. Seuss themed party. Stop in for Crafts Books and Snacks!

March 6th- Cabin Fever Garden Party. Medea Landscaping will be co-hosting this event from 5-7 p.m.

Come on down and meet our local landscape architect and learn about preparing for spring and general landscaping. Wine and snacks will be served.

March 29th- Local author Kimberly Borin will present her newest book, Learning and Growing with Laughter Salad. This interactive event is from 12 p.m. -2 p.m. Ms. Borin will facilitate a discussion and activity to help us explore our love of reading and of course sign books to take home.

The Califon Book Shop continues to host the popular Story Time every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. No registration is required and all are welcome!

BOY SCOUT TROOP 192

The Califon Boy Scout Troop 192 had a fulfilling 2013. The troop participated in many activities, such as the Winter Klondike Campout in February at Yards Creek, which happened to be one of the coldest weekends of the winter when the temperature dipped to 3 degrees. Also, at Ockanickon Summer Camp the boys earned three awards, the "You Make a Difference" Service Project Award, the Honor Troop Award and the Clean Camp Award.

The troop Service projects included serving at many Fireman's pancake breakfasts outside of our scheduled months of May and December, raising 1,192 pounds of food for the Open Cupboard Food Pantry in Clinton with our annual Cub Scout/Boy Scout food drive and continuing construction on the LVPC community gardens. We had two fundraisers; a Spring Car Wash at the LVPC and a Holiday bake sale at the Califon Fireman's December Breakfast.

We have fifteen scouts in Troop 192. Several have advanced in rank and three new Cub Scouts have crossed over. Bob Runge will join Assistant Scout Masters Tim McLees, Bill Cutri-French and Chris Parsons and along with the Scoutmaster, Ben Tuttle, will encourage leadership and life skills among the scouts. Art Owens, retired SM remains active in the Troop for support and as our Round Table representative for Council news. Two of our newest Eagle Scouts are Matt Nanna and Colin Henderson. We recognized Zee and Len Entrabartolo for their many years of volunteer service with the troop at our Spring Court of Honor.

The troop would like to thank the community for their continued support especially during the annual Spring food drive. Our 2014 food drive will be April 26th (bag drop off) and May 3rd (bag pick up).

If you are interested in joining the Califon Boy Scout Troop 192, please contact Scoutmaster, Ben Tuttle at 908-537-4542. We are looking forward to celebrating our 20th year as Troop 192 with the scout community this summer!