



Califon Crier

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1994 Founded by Cathy McVicker & Jim Ball (1995)

Editor, Katie Vreeland

Wanted — A New Recreation Chair

By Councilman Gill Smith

The Califon Recreation Committee is looking for a new chairperson. Without one in place, the Recreation Committee will be forced to take a hiatus in 2012 from the planning of community activities such as the Easter egg hunt and Santa visit.

For the past 12 years, it has been my privilege to serve on the Califon Borough Council — 7 years as Borough Council president and 10 years as a member and liaison/chairperson to the Recreation Committee. I can say from firsthand experience that the Recreation Committee is one of the most fun committees in town. Currently, the committee consists of the chairperson and four high school students. The annual Easter egg hunt and visit with Santa are two of the highlight events organized by this group. The Recreation Committee also helps out with the annual Memorial Day parade, but the bulk of the responsibility for that event is now handled by a separate subcommittee.

Time constraints of a new job and my commitments to the Califon Borough Council, Boy Scouts, and other volunteer organizations make it impossible for me to continue serving as chairperson of the Recreation Committee. The committee meets once a month and is a wonderful way to be involved in our community. Contact Laura Eidsvaag at (908) 832-7850 if you are interested in learning more about this volunteer opportunity.

First Aid Squad Blood Drive

On Saturday, March 10, from 9am to 2pm, the annual blood drive will be held at the Califon First Aid Squad on Bank Street (off of Main Street). Working together with the Blood Center of New Jersey, the Califon First Aid Squad is asking donors to come out and help ease the blood shortage.

In general, to qualify to give blood, donors must show a signed and/or photo ID, be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 120 pounds, and be free of a sore throat and fever. For more information about blood donation visit www.bloodnj.org or call 1-800-NJBLOOD. Contact Clare Cutri-French at ccutrifrench@aol.com or (908) 537-6000 for more information.

Upcoming Family Events

The Califon Recreation Committee will be sponsoring a Family Movie Night at Califon School on Friday, March 23. Doors will open at 6:45pm and the movie will start at 7pm. The movie will be suitable for all ages, rated G. Title TBA. Bring blankets, pillows, and whatever else you like. Popcorn will be served! This is a free event.

Also, join the Recreation Committee for the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 1 (rain date Saturday, April 7) at 1pm. The Easter Bunny will attend! Egg hunters will be grouped by age and prizes will be awarded for finding the

golden egg. Please arrive a few minutes early, bring a bag or basket for your eggs, and be ready to hunt at promptly 1pm. For more information, contact Alison at a.ramarge@hotmail.com or look us up on Facebook.

Electronics and Appliances Collection Day

Clinton Township is pleased to offer recycling of ALL electronics and appliances on Saturday, March 31 at Bundt Park (8 Red Schoolhouse Road, Lebanon) from 8 am until 1pm (rain or shine).

Acceptable electronics and appliances include: computers, laptops, monitors, keyboards, mice, cables, hard drives, televisions, cameras, video equipment, scanners, printers, copiers, fax machines, telephone handset systems, cell phones, home stereo and entertainment systems, electronic scrap, washers, dryers, stoves, ovens, refrigerators, freezers, and air conditioners.

There is a \$15 charge for each refrigerator, freezer, and air conditioner. Cash, check, or a cashiers check will only be accepted — no credit cards. Recycling attendants reserve the right to reject partial or full loads containing any unacceptable materials including, but not limited to: construction or demolition debris, solid waste, hazardous materials, and liquid waste, propane tanks, and batteries. For more information, call town hall at (908) 735-8800, ext. 200.

Tricky Tray Fundraiser

Happy Face Nursery School Tricky Tray returns on Friday evening, April 20, in the Parish Hall of the Lower Valley Presbyterian Church (445 County Road 513). Doors will open at 7pm and first drawing is at 8pm. We are in the process of accepting donations for prizes and will soon update this Facebook page and school website (www.happyfacenurseryschool.com) listing a selection of great baskets and prizes offered. The event is handicapped-accessible and limited to adults only. Hope to see you there! For more information, contact info@happyfacenurseryschool.com.

Happy Face Highlights

Happy Face Nursery School of Califon will be holding open registration to the public starting Tuesday, Feb. 14. We offer preschool programs in the mornings and afternoons for children ages 2 1/2 to 5+ years. Highlights of our school include programs for 2 1/2 year olds (who do not even have to be potty trained!), 3 year olds, 4 year olds, and a special program called the Fab Fives. The Fab Fives is designed for children who need an extra year before kindergarten or for children already in a public Kindergarten who'd like to extend their day of fun and learning. It is also a wonderful alternative for those children not ready to enter a full-day kindergarten program.

We also offer The Happy Face PREPpy (Preschool Enrichment Program). It is an extended day enrichment program for students in the 4 year old and Fab Five programs on Mondays and Wednesdays. PREPpy students will bring their own lunch and stay for an extended day of Science, Math, and Sign Language enrichment and fun!

Lunch bunch, available Monday-Thursday, is available for all students ages 3 and older who can stay an extra hour or come an hour early from 11:30am to 12:30pm. All have lunch together and then play with friends. Lunch bunch is teacher-supervised with an emphasis on table manners and positive interactions. (Additional fees apply and space is limited.) Call the school (908) 832-7510, e-mail info@happyfacenurseryschool.com, or visit www.happyfacenurseryschool.com for more info.

Califon School News

Congratulations to the Califon School spelling bee winner, 8th grader Heather Thomasovich, who now has a chance to qualify and compete in the regional spelling bee. Grace Gilbert and Sydney Stoter were the 2nd and 3rd place winners, respectively. Mayor Charlie Daniel, Lavinia Trimmer, and Alan Schuetz served as judges.

The TREP\$ Marketplace is coming to Califon School once again on Friday evening, March 16, in the school gym. This is when young business people from grades 4-8 will showcase and sell their products. These young entrepreneurs attend workshops to learn about business plan-

ning, marketing, financing, and advertising before they sell their wares at the flea market-style event that is the TREP\$ marketplace. Doors open at 7pm and the public is encouraged to attend!

Califon School proudly announces their honor roll students for the 2nd marking period. Sixth grade: Evan Andersen, Kristian Jolly, Gwyneth Medea, Caroline Pereira, and Grayson Sieber. Seventh grade: Ben Brandner, Kayla Breitkopf, Meri Folsom, Ellie Gensch, Grace Gilbert, Taylor Hubiak, Kelly McLaughlin, Cassie Oeckinghaus, Emma Riley, Sydney Stoter, Helen Avery, Jonathan Baker, Evan Kozak, Charlie Rodenberger, and Heather Thomasovich.

Helen Avery, an eighth-grader at Califon School, won first place in an essay contest sponsored by the Daughters of American Revolution General William Maxwell Chapter of Belvidere, NJ. The contest asked students to pretend they were alive during the War of 1812 and then write from that perspective about a friend who later becomes famous for standing up for America. Helen's essay was written about Master Commodore Oliver H. Perry, who led the Battle of Lake Erie when an entire squadron of the British Fleet surrendered to U.S. forces. Helen will be honored at a luncheon in Hackettstown on March 3 and her essay was submitted to the NJ DAR American History Committee for state-level consideration. Congrats Helen!

Support Your Local Businesses

CAMPA and its members support local charities. Please



support them! Visit www.califon.org to see which local businesses are CAMPA members and help support your fire company, rescue squad, schools, and other local charities.

A Town Hall Meeting You Should Attend

A town hall meeting "How the Fair School Funding Plan Can Lower Your Property Taxes" will be held Thursday, March 22, at 7:30pm at Lebanon Borough Hall (6 High Street, Lebanon.) The meeting is being presented by Senator Michael J. Doherty.

Learn about the inequities of the current state school funding formula, the history and unconstitutional nature of recent Supreme Court decisions on school funding, Senator Doherty's plan for fair school funding, and about how adopting the fair school funding plan could translate into real property tax relief in your town. A Q&A session will follow. Learn more at www.fairschoolfunding.com. For more information, contact the Office of Senator Michael J. Doherty at (908) 835-0552.

Rabies Clinic a Huge Success

On Saturday, Jan. 14, the Califon Board of Health sponsored their annual rabies clinic. With the help of volunteers from our community we were able to provide FREE rabies vaccinations to over 150 dogs and cats! Dr. Mary Beth Hamorski and assistant Robin Dietz from Califon Animal Hospital provided their services to administer the vaccinations. A sincere thank-you to the following Califon residents for bundling up and making this service happen: Judy Salisbury and her daughter Rosy, Barbara Bagstrom and her daughter Olivia, Grace and Abigail Flagler, and Heather Cameron.

A special thanks to Jeff Burke and his son Kenny, Zach Waseleski, and members of the Califon Fire Department who did a fantastic job in managing the flow of traffic and making sure the area was safe!

New Recycling Coordinator Appointed

The staff and governing body of Califon Borough would like to thank Steven Stanaback for volunteering to be our Recycling Coordinator. This position is not new to Steve as he served in this role a few years ago. Steve brings an array of knowledge and experience in this field and Califon is fortunate to have him representing us.

A Heartfelt Thank You

The mayor, council, and staff of Califon Borough would like to thank Katie Vreeland who has tirelessly served as the *Califon Crier's* editor for the past two years. Katie will be stepping down from her duties as editor and this will be her last newsletter. Getting to know Katie and working with her over these past two years has been nothing but a joy. With her background in editing, the transition working on our small town newsletter was flawless. Having just moved to Califon, Katie wanted to get involved in the town she now calls home, so she saw that we were looking for an editor and so the story goes! We wish Katie and her husband, Cass, much happiness as they welcome their new addition to their family this spring! If you or someone you know is interested in editing the *Califon Crier*, contact Karen Mastro or Laura Eidsvaag at (908) 832-7850.

United Way Offers Tax Prep Service

United Way of Hunterdon County is once again offering free tax preparation services to individuals and families through its IRS-certified Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

This IRS-certified service is available thanks to a unique partnership of United Way of Hunterdon County and the IRS. Individuals who earned less than \$50,000 in 2011 qualify for this free service. Last year, more than \$209,000 in refunds benefited local families and the local economy.

This tax program is completely free of charge — there are

no hidden fees — and refunds can even be e-filed with the IRS to receive a rapid refund without any fees. Appointments are required, but scheduling is easy. To schedule an appointment, call 2-1-1 or (800) 272-4630. Spanish-speaking preparers also are available upon request. For more info, contact Bonnie Duncan at (908) 782-3414 or bonnie@uwhunterdon.org or visit www.uwhunterdon.org.

Website Offers Hunterdon Bicycle Tourism Info

Just in time for spring, those looking for great bike rides have to look no further than www.bikehunterdon.org — a comprehensive webpage developed by HART Commuter Information Services.

The website provides a full description of path rides as well as a full-color photo gallery of what you might see along the trails. A Google map feature allows potential riders to view amenities along the routes including restaurants, bed and breakfasts, and other lodging, as well as other points of interest. A full list of local bike shops also is included on the site. There is even a section allowing cyclists to leave feedback of their experience.

HART Commuter Information Services is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting sustainable transportation such as bicycling. All HART programs and services are free of charge. For more info, visit www.bikehunterdon.org.

Meals on Wheels Serves Hunterdon Residents

If you are over 60, homebound, and/or have a disability, Meals on Wheels in Hunterdon can deliver a hot noontime meal Monday through Friday with weekend coverage if needed. Service can be short-term until recovery or longer depending on individual needs. Call (908) 284-0735 for more information.

Memorial Foundation to Honor Califon Resident

Califon resident Jon Slusher passed away in 2010 from brain cancer. He was editor of *The Hunterdon Review* and an avid runner.

Jon's family is in the process of establishing the Jon Slusher Journalism Scholarship Foundation available through Voorhees High School, Jon's alma mater. The foundation would make journalism scholarships in Jon's memory available at the school. The first scholarship would be awarded this spring.

The vision is to keep the foundation funded through the Bridge-to-Bridge 5K run, which takes place here in Califon each October. Recently, the Slusher family has requested to rename the 5K the Jon Slusher Memorial Scholarship Run. A portion of the proceeds from the run would be deposited into the foundation and used to fund scholarships. Additional money from the foundation would be used for the annual 5K run expenses and the remainder would be awarded to the Califon EMS squad.

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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.

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Deadline for May/June submissions: Friday, April 13.