

Califon Crier
The Borough of Califon
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Califon Crier

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Hearing and Being Heard in Califon

By Councilman Jason Beard

We talk a lot about the importance of volunteerism in Califon - that selfless and donated time and energy that is the lifeblood of a small community. This is crucial, to be sure, but one does not need to volunteer for a position in order to contribute to our town; equally important are the simple dynamics of awareness and public discussion that inform our citizenry and leaders.

Why be informed? Why spend the time to come to a Town Council, Planning, or Board of Education meeting? There are dozens of decisions made every week in these types of meetings which directly or indirectly impact your life, property, and family. These meetings are advertised, open to the public, and normally scheduled in the evening hours - but are often poorly attended. The outcome of the decisions being made is greatly influenced by the input of the citizens of our town, and the ultimate health of our town is in many ways a product of our collective thinking. Our responsibility as citizens does not stop at the ballot box when we elect our leaders - truly effective leadership requires the ongoing input of the community. We are eager to hear your voice!

So as we enter the summer months and beyond, I'd encourage you to learn about the issues and opportunities facing our town, and become part of these conversations in their formal settings, beyond the backyard-and-BBQ discourse. The time required to scan an online agenda and attend an occasional meeting is not substantial, but the benefits to the town and yourself can be significant. Bring kids, too - a great way to learn about government on action!

In addition to the public meetings mentioned above, we are also leveraging technology to facilitate town communications, including:

Facebook (www.facebook.com/califonboro) - sign up for Facebook and "friend" the Califon Borough page to receive a steady stream of updates regarding town events, notices, and meetings in this popular social media.

Twitter (www.twitter.com/califonboro) - sign up for twitter and "follow" Califon Borough to receive updates regarding town events, notices, and meetings. Twitter also provides the ability for you to sign up to receive text messages regarding these notices.

Nixle (www.nixle.com) - register on Nixle to receive emergency emails and text messages from state and local police, fire, and OEM agencies.

Websites - there are numerous state, county, and local websites which contain valuable information. Two primary local websites on which key meeting dates, agendas, and minutes of interest are published are www.califonboro.net (municipal website) and www.califonschool.org (school website, including Board of Education information)

Your interest and engagement in the business of running Califon is essential and appreciated. Hope to see you at a future meeting, and please have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Califon Borough Police Update

The WTPD has been varying the placement of the speed monitor among Philhower Avenue, Main, Academy and School Streets over the past months. This device not only tells a driver when he or she is speeding, but also records that information so that patterns of speeding can be detected and police can take appropriate action.

Now that summer is here, a problem has arisen with a group of young people who ride their skateboards down the center of Main Street. Not only is this illegal, it is highly dangerous for both the skateboarders and those who are driving. The WTPD asks that anyone who sees such skateboarding to contact the police at 908-876-3232 to report the situation.

Residents of Califon Borough

Please note that the Califon Mayor and Council have decided to **close** the Califon Municipal Offices on Fridays during the summer months of July and August, in an effort to save on utilities. Municipal offices will be open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. **Fridays** from July 6th through and including Friday, August 31st, the Municipal Offices will be **CLOSED**. The Mayor and Council thank you for your cooperation.

Green Living Festival

July 14th 11:00am - 4:00pm at the Rock Spring Park. Free Event, Live Music, Food, Exhibits, Documentary Films and more.

THE CARNIVAL IS COMING...THE CARNIVAL IS COMING

The Califon Fire Co. sponsored annual Carnival begins on Monday, July 2nd through and including Saturday, July 7th. The Carnival, held at the Carnival Grounds behind the Municipal Building, 39 Academy St., Califon, NJ will be held from 6:00pm until 12:00 midnight.

There will be rides, wheels & games, food, fireworks, so come one, come all and join in the festivities. Tickets will be sold at the Carnival grounds and prior to the event at all local stores in town. Bracelet nights will be held on Tuesday, July 3rd and Thursday, July 5th - - - one price bracelets - unlimited rides.

Spectacular fireworks displays are scheduled for Tuesday, July 3rd and Friday, July 6th with a rain date of Saturday, July 7th. Fireworks are set off late, 10:30 - 11:00pm.

Come and enjoy the fun and support the Califon Fire Co.

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:

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Deadline for September/October submissions: Friday, August 17.

Dates to Remember

July 16th-18th - Sidewalk Chalk Contest on Main Street.

August 24th 7:00pm - Just Dance Party in the Park

Califon School News

The following is a list of Straight A students for the Califon School in the 4th marking period:
Grade 6: Danny Haus, Gwyneth Medea, Caroline Pereira, Paige Peterson and Will Rodenberger
Grade 7: StevieLynn Ader, Meridith Folsom, Grace Gilbert, Taylor Hubiak, Kelly McLaughlin, Cassandra Oekinghaus, Emma Riley and Sydney Stoter
Grade 8: Helen Avery, Jonathan Baker, Evan Kozak, Charlie Rodenberger and Heather Thomasovich

The Califon School held its 8th grade graduation on Thursday, June 14th and are proudly announcing the graduating class: Helen Avery, Jonathan Baker, Justin Carey, Jeremy Cortese, Evan Kozak, Charlie Rodenberger, Maria Rodriguez and Heather Thomasovich.

The following students received awards upon graduating:
Califon Historical Society Award: Evan Kozak; President's Excellence Awards: Helen Avery, Evan Kozak, Charlie Rodenberger, Maria Rodriguez and Heather Thomasovich; President's Achievement Award: Jeremy Cortese; Booster Club Awards for Sports: Helen Avery, Jonathan Baker and Jeremy Cortese; PTA Award: Justin Carey; PTA Music Award: Heather Thomasovich; PTA Rudie Award: Helen Avery; CAMPA Award: Jonathan Baker; James Ball Citizenship Award: Evan Kozak; Communications Award, Sponsored by Edna and Gary Deckhut: Helen Avery; Daniel Handy Memorial Award: Evan Kozak; Califon Education Association Award for highest GPA all through middle school: Heather Thomasovich; Walter J. Miller Award for most academically improved: Jeremy Cortese

In addition, each year the Califon PTA honors the former Califon student who graduates from Voorhees High School with the highest GPA. This year, the PTA is proud to announce that Amanda Altavilla, Califon Class of 2008, earned this award.

North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District

The New Jersey Department of Education has announced a list of the lowest performing, in needs improvement, and highest performing schools in the state. The list is part of a new accountability system developed from the waiver granted to New Jersey for No Child Left Behind. **Both North Hunterdon and Voorhees High Schools are the only schools in Hunterdon County to be included on the list of the Highest Performing schools in the state!** For the full NJDOE press release and the list of schools, please visit: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/news/2012/0411rac.htm>

Congratulations to Social Studies Teacher, Jennifer O'Steen, who was selected as the 2012 Teacher of the Year for Voorhees High School! Ms. O'Steen has been a teacher at Voorhees since 2001. She coached Girls Lacrosse for six years and has been the Head Coach for Varsity Girls Soccer for the past seven years. She organizes the annual Memorial Day program, is the Model United Nations Team Advisor, and organizes the Relay for Life event at Voorhees High School. She was recognized with other county teachers of the year at a luncheon on June 1st.

Graduation of the Class of 2012 from Voorhees High School was held on Friday, June 8th. Over 250 seniors received their diplomas, with over 90% of the class planning to attend two or four year colleges or universities this fall.

Happy Face Highlights

Happy Face Nursery School has been educating local families since 1973. It is a New Jersey State Certified, non-profit, non-sectarian institute governed by a Board of Trustees. The same ideas, philosophy, perseverance, motivation, teacher dedication, and family involvement that started Happy Face Nursery School in 1973, are what keep it going today.

Happy Face Nursery School of Califon is now holding open registration. We offer preschool programs in the mornings and afternoons for children aged 2.5-5+ years. Highlights of our program include programs for 2.5 year olds (2.5 year olds do NOT 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 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 4:00 a.m. and Fab5 a.m. programs on Monday and Wednesdays 11:30am - 2:00pm. 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 aged 3 and up who can stay an extra hour or come and hour early from 11:30am to 12:30pm. All have lunch together and then play with friends. Lunch Bunch is teacher supervised with emphasis on table manners and positive interactions.(Additional fees apply and limited space is available)

New this year is "Stay and Play" from 2:00-3:00pm on Monday and Wednesdays after PREPpy, your child would have the option of being at Happy Face for a full day.

Please call the school at 908-832-7510 to arrange a visit, or feel free to email us at info@happyfacenurseryschool.com or visit our website at www.happyfacenurseryschool.com for more information! Come home to Happy Face!

WANTED: 1,500 School Supply Kits for Hunterdon County Students in Need of Tools 4 School

Did you know there are almost 1,300 children living on Hunterdon County who are eligible for free/reduced priced school meals, according to a 2011 New Jersey Department of Education report? That is only part of the story as there are many families straining to make ends meet on increasingly shrinking budgets. United Way of Hunterdon County, in collaboration with our school nurses and social service agencies, would like to alleviate some of the strain by helping more than 1,500 Hunterdon County students start the next school year prepared. United Way's Tools 4 School program provides students in need the necessary basic tools so that they are ready to learn and equipped to achieve greater educational success. All children look forward to arriving on the first day of school with new backpacks, notebooks, and pencil boxes. But not all

families can afford these items and are forced to make tough choices. **That is where you can help!** Feeling good about themselves and having the tools they need to complete their school work really helps children get off on the right foot as they start a new school year! Won't you help give a child a fresh start this school year?

We are asking individuals, companies, and organizations to participate in our Tools 4 School program by either donating school supplies or provide United Way of Hunterdon County with a monetary donation to support the program. Donations will be accepted through August 13, 2012 and will be used toward the creation of basic school supply kits including backpacks, pencils, pens, highlighters, notebooks, filler paper, folders, glue sticks, pencil cases, 2GB flash Drives, scientific calculators, pencil sharpeners, composition books, scissors, crayons, and markers depending on each students' grade level.

Please consider partnering with United Way of Hunterdon County in this program. A list of needed school supplies can be found on United Way of Hunterdon County's website along with a list of drop-off locations. For information on Tools 4 School, please visit www.uwhunterdon.org or call Amy Anderson, Program Coordinator, at (908) 782-3414 ext. 24.

United Way is working to advance common good by focusing on income, health and education. These are the building blocks for a good life - a quality education that leads to a stable job, enough income to support a family through retirement and good health. Our goal is to invest in improving lives and conditions in Hunterdon County by creating long-lasting changes that prevent problems from happening in the first place.

Califon Area Merchants and Professionals Association

The Califon Area Merchants and Professionals Association (CAMPA) is pleased to announce the upcoming launch of its new website, which will replace the existing site by late July at www.califon.org. The fully modernized design is by Lebanon Township resident Amy Dandola-Grubb of Vivid Oak Design Studio. Each CAMPA member has their own business page, which can be edited at their convenience and includes optional live Facebook/Twitter feeds and Google Maps integration. Businesses are intuitively organized so visitors can quickly find what they need while supporting the "Shop Local" movement. Envisioned as a resource for local residents, the site also includes the only known comprehensive calendar of local events across town borders. Visitors may subscribe so events automatically display on their personal calendars, and community groups may submit event listings. Business owners in and around Califon are encouraged to join CAMPA by contacting ED Varty of Pets Pets Pets at 908-832-0551 or signing up at the new website.

Summertime Bash / Customer Appreciation Day

Pets Pets Pets in Victorian Square on Rt. 513 will be hosting a Summertime Bash / Customer Appreciation Day on July 28th from 10:00am to 4:00pm. There will be specials on products, food and refreshments including their almost famous Dirty Water Hot Dogs, and live entertainment. Also make reservations for the following opportunities:

- To have a 6 x 9" full color pastel of your pet drawn by Adrea Gianchiglia see her work at www.agillustration.com you can send photos (daylight no flash) to Pets Pets Pets to have Andrea do the illustration ahead of time and pick them up the day of the bash or call for an appointment to have it done at the store on the day of the bash. A special reduced price of \$60.00 per illustration will be charged.
- To meet with Animal Communicator Ginny Palmieri. \$20.00 per 15 minute session.
- Between 10:00am and 12:30pm you can treat your dog to a visit with Karen Stiff-Carroll of a Canine Myotherapy session. \$15.00 per 15 minute session.
- Please contact the store at 908-832-0533 for appointments for any of the above.

First Aid Squad & Local Merchants

The Califon First Aid Squad would like to thank: Pets Pets Pets, Califon Natural Foods, Oscars Gourmet Deli, Rafferty Hair and Skin and Califon Wine and Spirits for helping the squad with our fund drive. Please stop in and say hello to these merchants and consider making a donation. The donation cans will be located at these are merchants for a few weeks before they make their way to other Califon merchants.

Annual First Aid Squad "Tag" Sale & Household/Metal/Whitegoods pickup

The annual First Aid Squad sponsored "Tag" sale is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, September 15th. The Borough of Califon will be conducting the annual household/metal/white goods pickup the week of September 17th, following the "tag" sale. More information on both events can be found on our website, www.califonboro.net, and on facebook and twitter. Please check these sites as the summer progresses for updates on and conformation of these two events and for changes in dates, if any, or call the Municipal Offices at (908) 832-7850 ext. 201.

Recreational Activities Available in NJ

As the summer season is now upon us, the NJDEP would like to remind you of the various events and natural resources that are available for you at New Jersey's 39 State Parks, 11 Forests, 50 Historic sites and 121 Wildlife Management Areas.

Last Year, New Jersey's State Parks had 19 million visitors and offer opportunities to experience first-hand our natural and historic beauty by visiting our wildlife management and interpretation centers, hiking trails, lakes, rivers, forests, beaches and historic monuments and battlefields covering nearly 800,000 acres.

NJ has launched a new mobile phone application to help visitors plan for and make the most out of their trips to NJ State parks, forests and historic sites.

Check out the following links for more info. on these events: Division of Parks and Forestry: www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests; Calendar of Events: www.nj.gov/parksandforests/calendar/index.html; The Official NJ State Parks and Forests Guide: www.pocketranger.com/apps/nj/apps.php; Official NJ Tourism Website: www.visitnj.org