



# Califon Crier

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1994 Founded by Cathy McVicker & Jim Ball (1995)

Editor, Katie Vreeland

## Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

*By Councilwoman Judy Salisbury*

Many things come to mind with the onset of the holiday season—Christmas tree blessings, the blessings of peace, the beauty of hope, the spirit of love, the joy of friends, and the comfort of family. May the lighting of this tree bring these gifts into your life this Christmas season.

Please join in gathering Dec. 3 for the annual Christmas tree lighting and Califon caroling. Listen for the fire truck horn heralding the arrival of Santa. Children of all ages are invited to greet Santa at the Municipal Building from 2:30 -4:25p.m. At 4:30, join us at the Train Station for the lighting of the tree and refreshments. This year, plan to share your favorite Christmas song or reading with everyone. Bring your kazoos, whistles, and horns, and lead the crowd in your rendition of an old favorite, or a newly inspired, song or Christmas reading. Creativity is encouraged! Wear your most festive hat or antlers! Inspire, spread cheer, laugh, and sing. Following the lighting and tree celebrations, we will carol through Main Street stopping at shops along the way. Many Califon businesses will remain open late for your shopping pleasure. Cheers and best wishes to all!

### Nature's Worst Brings Out the Best

Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee, and a major flash flood all occurred within a five-week window. According to NJ state climatologist David Robinson, "What we have recorded recently is so far off the charts that statistically it looks like it's something that occurs every 1,000 years."

Beth Wolfmayer is Califon's Emergency Management Coordinator and handled the emergency response expertly. Days before the hurricane hit, Beth worked diligently to make sure plans were in place for any emergency situation possible. During the hurricane, Beth worked tirelessly, assessing high-risk areas and communicating with the fire department, rescue squad, and the county. Beth's work continues as she handles FEMA activities for the borough. As mayor, my personal thanks go to Beth for her dedication to this increasingly important responsibility.

Califon's Fire Department responded to emergencies within our community as well as to our neighbors. Closing roads, removing fallen trees, rescuing passengers from stranded vehicles, and pumping flooded basements were just some of the activities performed by these volunteers. Special thanks and appreciation to Bill Kibler, Rich Bergmann, Shane Burd, and to all of the fire department volunteers (there were many others) for their dedication to the community and their tireless effort during this crisis.

Califon's Rescue Squad also worked with Beth and the fire department to respond to emergencies within and beyond Califon. A well-deserved thank you to Jim Dean, Ann Ryan, Bill Cutri-French and members of the rescue squad for their dedication and service.

Please remember that all of the members listed above – our emergency management coordinator, the members of Califon's Fire Department and Rescue Squad – are volunteers! Please support their dedication to our community as best you can.

### Bridge-to-Bridge 5K a Huge Success

Despite threatening skies, a record number of approximately 140 runners and walkers turned out on what became a beautiful Sunday, Oct. 2, to take part in the Bridge-to-Bridge 5K Fun Run/Walk in Califon, sponsored by Friends of Califon Island Park (FOCIP) and Califon Area Merchants and Professionals Association (CAMPA).

Runners and walkers proceeded down River Road cheered on by local residents (some even serenaded runners with a vuvuzela!) to Hoffmann's Crossing, and then looped back down the scenic Columbia Trail, finishing at the historic Train Station in Califon. The overall winner with a time of 19:25 was Joe Wysocki, with Califon residents Matt Ramarge (21:07) and Mike Medea (21:13) not far behind in 6th and 7th place, respectively.

After the race, approximately 40 children ages 10 and under participated in the Little Cougars Fun Run at Califon Island Park, and all were winners with prizes of homemade chocolate chip cookies and ribbons. Prizes were generously donated by CAMPA members and proceeds from the race will go toward the fund to rebuild the playground at Califon Island Park. Many thanks to all the Califon-area residents and businesses who made this race possible, but special thanks go to the Califon Rescue Squad, Fire Company, residents of River Road, and countless volunteers who made this event possible. FOCIP is proud to announce that the day's events netted approximately \$2,200 for the playground fund! Photos from race day (taken by Rachel Miranda Photography) can be found online at <https://www.collages.net/consumersite/guestlogin.aspx?furl=The-Special-Event-of-Califon-Bridge-to-Bridge-5K-Run-871554456>.

### **Clothing Drive to Benefit Califon School**

Clean out your closets and donate to the Califon PTA Clothing Drive to help raise funds for our school. Any clothing and accessories such as handbags, belts, and shoes, plus any soft household items like bedding, curtains, and towels will be accepted. Bikes, hard toys (must fit in a 24x24x21" box) and stuffed animals will also be accepted! They'll turn your used items into 13 cents a pound for Califon School. Drop off items anytime from Nov. 1-21 at the Califon Municipal Building (39 Academy St.) Place clothing bags neatly in front of garage bays. Contact Shannon Ayers at (908) 832-7580 with questions. As always, thank you for your support!

### **Califon's Annual Rabies Clinic**

The Califon Board of Health will be sponsoring the annual free rabies clinic for dogs and cats on Saturday, Jan. 14, from 1-3pm at the Borough of Califon's Municipal Building at 39 Academy St. A snow date is set for the following Saturday, Jan. 21, at the same time. Applications for licensing your dog may also be completed at the clinic. Please remember a current rabies vaccination is required before you can license your pet. Please also note that all dog licenses must be obtained by Jan. 31. Contact Karen Mastro, Dog Registrar, with questions at (908) 832-7850 ext. 204.

### **CPR and First Aid Trainings**

The Califon First Aid Squad is offering a series of CPR and First Aid trainings to the community through the American Heart Association. The cost for each training is \$20 a night or \$30 for both nights. The trainings are: Nov. 28, 6-9pm: Heartsaver AED Course, Adult/Child CPR & Use of a Defibrillator; and Dec. 1, 6-8pm: Heartsaver First Aid Course. For more info, contact Clare Cutri-French at [ccutrifrench@aol.com](mailto:ccutrifrench@aol.com) or at (908) 537-6000.

### **Shopping Locally Leads to a Healthy Community**

Google "why shop local" and you will find numerous links to websites and other resources showing studies on

the economic impact big box stores, national chains, and Internet shopping have on local communities. Many studies indicate that twice as much or more of your money stays local when you shop locally versus when you shop the big guys. Of course there are times you need products that might not be available right here in Califon. But before you run to Wal-Mart or Target, look in town first, so that they in turn can support our schools, churches, and other local charities.

Members of CAMPA are selling beautiful, reusable, made in the USA shopping bags sporting the logo "LOVE CALIFON...SHOP CALIFON." All profits from the sale of these bags will be donated to Friends of Califon Island Park to help build the new playground. Find out who is selling the bags by visiting [www.califon.org](http://www.califon.org).

### **Support Local Charities and Global Needs**

Come to the 9th Annual Alternative Gift Fair at Lower Valley Presbyterian Church, 445 Route 513, Saturday, Nov. 19, from 10am to 2pm. Find unique gifts that make a real difference in the lives of people in need. Alternative giving means that you make a donation to a nonprofit organization in honor of someone. With each donation, you receive a gift card to present to person you are honoring. If you prefer to give tangible gifts, there will be a fair trade sale benefiting international artisans. (All purchases, both gift cards and fair trade items, are tax deductible.) A lunch of homemade soup, bread, dessert, and a beverage will be available for purchase. If you are unable to attend, visit [www.lowervalley.org](http://www.lowervalley.org) for an order form or contact the church at (908) 832-2933.

### **Califon School News**

Califon School welcomes new staff members and transitions! Long-time special education teacher Leslie Weiss is now the 5th grade teacher, while Marie Heyduke teaches middle school math and special education. Patricia Cassa has joined the team as a part-time special education teacher. Kyle Kays and Susan Annunziata round out the new hires as fifth- and first-grade aides, respectively.

Middle school science students now have the best of both worlds! They have new textbooks and access to those same textbooks online. Textbooks are now less likely to get lost or damaged and students have one less thing to lug around in their backpacks!

On Nov. 8, the Rutgers Science Explorer Bus will be back at Califon School for a second year. Middle school students board the bus and take on the role of a Center for Disease Control researcher to identify an unknown microbe causing a fictitious outbreak. Each grade will have a 1 1/2 hour session in the bus, which is equipped with a state-of-the-art lab.

This year New Jersey enacted new anti-bullying laws. These laws go by HIB (Harassment, Intimidation, and

Bullying). On Oct. 12, Dr. Kathleen Prystash conducted a Principal's Chat about this subject, educating parents on the new laws and the effects on their children.

### **Town-wide Leaf Collection**

Leaf collection will be on the following Saturdays this year: Nov. 12, Nov. 19, Nov. 26, and Dec. 3. New Jersey mandates that leaves be bagged in biodegradable paper bags only—plastic bags are strictly prohibited. Residents can purchase the paper bags at Califon Lumber or at any major hardware store. Once bagged, leaves should be placed curbside for pickup on the dates listed above. The contracted vendor for pickup is Peter Rubinetti – Private Disposal, LLC. Alternatively, the borough encourages leaf composting if possible. For more info, contact Judy Salisbury and/or visit the following websites: [www.state.nj.us](http://www.state.nj.us), [www.associated.content.com](http://www.associated.content.com), or <http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu>, and type “leaf composting” into the search engine.

### **Election Day**

The General Election will be Tuesday, Nov. 8. Polls will be open from 6am-8pm at the Municipal Building. For more info or to register to vote, call the Office of the Clerk/Administrator at (908) 832-7850, ext. 201.

### **Nellie Hoffman House Welcomed Visitors in October**

Califon residents and other visitors got a sneak preview of the restoration work that's been done at the Nellie Hoffman house Sunday, Oct. 2, in conjunction with CAMPA's Harvestfest. Califon Preservation Committee member Jerry Andersen explained the work that has been done indoors and Voorhees senior Max Kane talked about his Eagle Scout project which replaced a cement walkway to the house with bricks. Several visitors volunteered to help with the next stage of the restoration.

### **County-wide Hazardous Waste Collection Day**

Hunterdon County will again be sponsoring a Hazardous Waste Collection Day Saturday, Nov. 12, at the Hunterdon County Complex (314 State Route 12, Flemington) from 9am-1pm, rain or shine. For more information, call (908) 788-1110 or email [hcu@co.hunterdon.nj.us](mailto:hcu@co.hunterdon.nj.us).

### **Volunteers Needed**

The following boards and committees are in desperate need of volunteers! Please consider stopping by one of their meetings to see what it is all about. Meetings are usually held once a month or on an as-needed basis and generally do not last more than one hour.

- \*Recreation Committee-2nd Tuesday at 8pm
- \*Parks Committee-1st Thursday at 8pm
- \*Califon Board of Health-1st Wednesday at 8pm
- \*Environmental Commission-2nd Tuesday at 8pm
- \*Green Team-1st Tuesday at 8pm

Call Laura Eidsvaag or Karen Mastro with any questions at (908) 832-7850.

### **Haytown Nursery School Dinner Dance**

Haytown Nursery School will be hosting its annual dinner dance fundraiser at the Oldwick Fire House Friday, Nov. 4, from 7pm until 11pm. This year's theme, in celebration of the Halloween season, is “A Masked Celebration.” Festive dress and masquerade masks will create a party atmosphere and a mask-making station will have all the necessary tools for making a unique disguise. The evening will feature dinner, dancing, prizes, and giveaways as well as a tricky tray and silent auction. Tickets are \$50/person. Call (908) 832-5645 to order.

### **Light Up the Streets of Califon with Luminary Candles**

Lining the streets of Califon with luminaries on Christmas Eve is a longstanding tradition. Luminary candles and bags may be purchased through the Califon Booster Club. Order forms will be distributed through Califon School to families with school-age children and distributed throughout local neighborhoods. Luminaries and bags will also be sold at the Dec. 4th Califon Fire Company Pancake Breakfast. Contact Judi Mansilla at (908) 832-9233 or Sandy Anderson at (908) 832-0056 to order.

### **Annual Holiday Lunch for Califon Students and Seniors**

Each year, the Califon School PTA invites borough senior citizens to join students and staff for a homemade holiday lunch. This year's festivities will be Thursday, Dec. 15, from 11am-1:30pm at the Califon School. The meal features Rambo's spiral ham, mashed potatoes, corn, salad, and dessert. As always, we are expecting a special guest with extra treats and surprises. Lunch delivery is available for homebound seniors. Call Melissa Baker at (908) 832-6498 for more info.

### **Bring Holiday Cheer to a Child in Hunterdon**

As the holiday season rapidly approaches, United Way of Hunterdon County has launched its Holiday Hands program to help local families in Hunterdon County. Holiday Hands connects individuals, groups, and organizations with a family in need during the holiday season. All of the families/individuals are screened by our agency and partner agencies to determine eligibility, so you know your generosity is going to those among us who need it the most.

How does it work? Families and individuals are in need of “adoption” this holiday season. We will match you with a family and/or individual and provide you their wish list. You will be responsible for bringing unwrapped gifts to United Way of Hunterdon County's office by Dec. 9. Don't have time to shop? Gift cards are always needed, especially for individuals and families that are not “adopted.” If you, your company, or your organization are interested in learning more about the program, contact Amy Andersen at (908) 782-3414, ext. 24 or via email [amy@uwhunterdon.org](mailto:amy@uwhunterdon.org).

**\*\*As a reminder, the Fire Company's Pancake Breakfast is the first Sunday of each month from 7am until noon!**

**Califon Crier**  
The Borough of Califon  
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Califon, NJ 07830

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*www.califonboro.net*

The Califon Crier is published on a bimonthly basis. If you have news, comments, or feedback, please contact Editor Katie Vreeland at [kvreeland@califonboro.net](mailto:kvreeland@califonboro.net); phone (908) 832-7850; or fax (908) 832-6085.

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***Deadline for January/February 2012 submissions: Friday, December 9.***