

Califon Crier
The Borough of Califon
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Califon Crier

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CALIFON'S "HUNTERDON 300" CELEBRATIONS

By Councilwoman Kathleen Andersen

Hunterdon County is celebrating its 300th birthday in 2014. Each town has been asked to participate by planning one or more special events. Califon Council formed a committee to spearhead the town's efforts. After much discussion, the following are planned for next year.

Sunday, May 4 - Escorted Walking Tour I of Historic Califon, in conjunction with a special display by the Califon Historical Society at the Railroad Station.(12:00 Noon)

Sunday, June 1 - Open House and presentation on the history of Califon at the recently-restored Nellie Hoffman house and grounds on River Road. (1 – 3 p.m.)

Sunday, October 5 - Califon Day - Our main celebration

Califon Fireman's Breakfast (7-11:30 a.m.).

The Jon Slusher Memorial 5 K run, commencing at Califon Island Park;

Escorted Walking Tour II (12:00 Noon)

Special exhibit by the Califon Historical Society at the Railroad Station (12:00 Noon – 3);

Display at the historic Nellie Hoffman house (12:00 Noon – 3)

Street Festival on Main Street supported by the area merchants association (CAMPA) and other organizations. Includes music, food and more.

While the dates for these events are set, there is still much planning to be done. The Committee would like to involve as many groups from the town as possible such as students from Califon School, town businesses, Fire/First Aid, scouts, churches etc. Help is needed to coordinate and plan participation from all these various resources.

Please call Borough Hall at 832-7850, ext. 201 if you have any ideas or can help make any of these events truly special. Someone from the committee will contact you.

Current committee members: Kathleen Andersen, Tony Forrester, Gill Smith, Don Freibergs, Catherine Kitto.

A FIRE SAFETY MESSAGE

Currently in our community we have many active tenant rental properties in the Borough. Over 40 rental properties have been inspected since 2009 and it appears there may be more that have not been inspected. These inspections are mandated by the state and it is for the safety of the tenant and the best interest of the building owner. The property is checked to make sure there are working smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. There must also be an operational fire extinguisher. The owner of a rental property is responsible for insuring that fire and life safety procedures are adhered to. Please note that if a rental property is not inspected prior to occupancy the property owner could be subject to a fine of from \$500.00 up to \$2,000.00.

If you are a tenant and know that your property has not had a Fire and Safety Inspection or a Health Department inspection (also required by law) please contact the Municipal Offices at 832-7850. Or you can contact the Fire Marshal at 908-255-2424.

A CALL FOR SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD SUBSTITUTES

Califon is fortunate to have two new school crossing guards for the 2013-14 school year, to cross children at the General Store location and at the bridge location. Marlene Dudek, who was a Califon cross-

ing guard for many years and after a break of about 8 years, has returned to what she says is her "favorite" job.

Jeff Smith is new to this position and is doing a great job. We welcome them both and we are fortunate to have found two responsible and professional people.

We are desperately in need of substitute crossing guards in the event that Marlene or Jeff can't be at their posts. Substitutes will only be called upon in the event one of the full-time crossings guards is unavailable. Substitutes are needed from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Substitutes will receive \$17.57 per hour as compensation. Anyone who is interested and available to get on a substitute list is asked to contact Municipal Clerk, Laura Eidsvaag at (908) 832-7850 ext. 201 or Dep. Clerk, Karen Mastro, at ext. 204.

NOTICE FREE RABIES CLINIC

BOROUGH OF CALIFON
SATURDAY JANUARY 11th 1pm to 3pm
(Snow date Jan 18th)
39 Academy St, Califon

Sponsored by: Califon Board of Health & Califon Animal Hospital

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:

Kathleen Andersen, Jessica Hickman-Beard, Mayor Charlie Daniel,
Laura Eidsvaag, Claudia Gilbert, Karen Mastro

Deadline for January/February submissions: Wednesday, December 11.

CALIFON FIRE DEPARTMENT SECOND ANNUAL SANTA VISIT

Gifts for Santa to deliver to children at their homes can be dropped off at:

Califon Fire House
41 Main Street
On December 11th and 12th
Between 5:00 – 8:00 PM

The child's name, address and phone number should be clearly labeled on each gift.
All gifts must be pre-wrapped.
(Limit one gift per child)

Delivery dates will be December 15th and the 22nd
Starting at 12:00 . We will call you ahead of time with
Your delivery date and approximate time.

\$25.00 donation per household

If you do not live in the Borough of Califon please call
Beth at 908-398-7351 to see if delivery will be available in your area.
Any questions, please call Beth @ 908-398-7351

“GET OUT AND VOTE!!”

Election Day is right around the corner: General Election is **Tuesday, November 5, 2013**. The polls open at 6:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. If you cannot make it to the polls on Election Day, there is always the option of “Vote by Mail”. Applications for a Mail-in ballot are available at the Board of Elections in Flemington and at Califon Municipal Building:

Tuesday, October 29th is the last day to apply BY MAIL for a Mail-in ballot for the General Election.

Thursday, October 31st - the County Clerk's Office is open until 7p.m. to vote in person by Mail-In Ballot for General Election.

Saturday, November 2nd - the County Clerk's Office is open from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to vote in person by Mail-In Ballot for General Election.

Monday, November 4th - 3p.m. deadline to apply at the County Clerk's Office in person for a Mail-In Ballot for the General Election.

Both the Hunterdon County Clerk's Office and the Hunterdon County Board of Elections are located at 71 Main St., Flemington.

For questions regarding voting, mail-in ballots, etc., please call the County Clerk's Office at (908) 788-1214 or the County Board of Elections at (908) 788-1190 or call the Municipal Offices at (908) 832-7850 ext. 201 or 204.

LEAF COLLECTION

Califon is continuing efforts to be green by following state regulations that strictly prohibit the use of plastic bags for bagging leaves for our curbside leaf pick up. Leaves must be bagged in biodegradable paper bags only and residents can buy the required paper bags at Califon Lumber or any major hardware store. Once bagged, leaves should be placed curbside for pickup on the following **SATURDAYS**: November 16th, November 23rd, November 30th and December 7th.

The contracted vendor for leaf pick up is once again Peter Rubinetti Private Disposal, LLC.

If possible and if space allows, the Borough does encourage residents to compost leaves. They make great soil as they break down, which can be used on your gardens and beds around your property.

CALIFON PTA AND BOOSTER CLUB SALES

Please visit the Califon PTA's bake sale table at the Fireman's Breakfast on November 3. There will be an assortment of baked goods just in time for Thanksgiving! While there, the PTA, along with the Booster Club, will be selling a variety of Califon School Spirit wear and items. So please come on down, pick up some goodies for Thanksgiv-

ing, check some items off your Holiday list at the Spirit Sale. Please contact Jessica Hickman-Beard at jjcb20@comcast.net if you have any questions.

Let's light up Califon for the Holiday Season! The Califon School Booster Club will once again sell luminary candles for the holiday season. Luminaries are placed at the curb every ten feet, and are lit at 6:00pm on Christmas Eve. If you have ever had the opportunity to drive around Califon during the past years, it is truly a breathtaking sight. Gallon milk jugs or paper bags are used for the containers with sand or stone in the bottom to hold the candle and, of course, be sure there is an air vent in the top and sides of the milk jugs. So start collecting those gallon containers! The Booster Club will be selling these candles soon so stay tuned for opportunities to light up Califon!

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

November 30th is Small Business Saturday and several Califon businesses will be participating in this special event by offering you extra savings on the products you buy, as well as making donations based on their sales that day to various local organizations.

When you shop with local merchants, more of your money stays close to home; supporting the parks, emergency departments, schools, churches and other things that make this community a great place to live.

Some statistical reasons to shop local:

- Throughout the United States, only about 33.6% of the revenue from national chains is reinvested into the community, compared to the 64.8% return from local businesses. (2009)
- National chains often bring loss of employment. The opening of a Wal-Mart reduces retail employment by an average of 150 jobs in the county of its location.
- Local businesses are usually established in city centers, instead of on the margins of communities like large chains, so they contribute less to pollution, congestion, habitat loss and urban sprawl.
- If the people of an average American city were to shift 10% of their spending from chains to local businesses, it would bring an additional \$235 million per year to the community's economy.

To find out which merchants are participating in this event visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/LoveCalifonShopCalifon

CALIFON STREET FAIR A BIG SUCCESS!

Many thanks go out to the Califon Recreation Committee for the great Street Fair on Sunday October 6th. It was so nice to see people from the community taking time out to enjoy the music, food and visit the booths set up along Main Street. The dunking booth was a big hit with kids big and small, and we heard that Mayor Charles Daniel took the plunge at least three times! Nice arms out there!

A special thanks must go out to Councilman Michael Medea and Councilman Jason Beard who were instrumental in making this event happen. Also, big thanks to Councilman Tony Forrester who provided the Health Screening Van from the Rutgers School of Nursing where anyone could come on board and get a glucose test and blood pressure screening. Next year Tony hopes to be able to provide free flu shots!

If you are interested in becoming involved in these fun events, please contact the Municipal Offices 832-7850 or come to the next Recreation Meeting and see how you can help!

11TH ANNUAL ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR

The Lower Valley Presbyterian Church is celebrating 11 years of giving! The Alternative Gift Fair will be held on **Sat. November 16th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**, in the church's Parish Hall, 445 Route 513, Califon. Get an early start on your holiday shopping and 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 free custom gift card to present to the person you are honoring. Honor gifts are wonderful to give to teachers, relatives, business associates, or people who “have everything.” Alternative gifts are tax deductible, too — another way to save in this difficult economy. Twelve different local, national, or international organizations are featured, with at least one

representative from each who can tell you amazing stories about how donations are used. If you prefer to give tangible gifts, there will be a SERRV fair trade table benefiting international artisans. In addition, there will be beautiful beaded jewelry from Bead for Life, aiding the Ugandan women who make the items. A lunch of homemade soup, bread, dessert, and a beverage will be available to purchase. If you are unable to attend, visit www.lowervalley.org for an order form, or contact the church at (908) 832-2933.

A TIME FOR THANKS

With the closing of the second very successful season at the Lower Valley Presbyterian Community Garden, we would like to thank Pastor Chad and the members of the Lower Valley Presbyterian Church for welcoming members of our community to share their land and their vision with the residents of Califon.

About two years ago Judy Salisbury and I were working together as part of the “Califon Green Team” and we were searching for a location to start a community garden in Califon. With limitations on available, suitable land and little to no budget, we were beginning to give up on our plans when at the Califon Harvest Festival Judy and I ran into Chad Rodgers and told him of our woes. Chad advised that the Lower Valley Presbyterian Church had just started a garden for supplying the Open Cupboard Food Pantry with fresh produce, and so the story goes!

The members of the Lower Valley Presbyterian Church believed in the vision of this Community Garden and provided a beautiful fenced in area complete with a shed, and water lines for the gardener's plots. It has been a wonderful experience to have an opportunity to grow fresh organic vegetables in such a beautiful setting. Giving some extra time now and then to help tend to the food pantry gardens is a great way to give to others.

Our Harvest dinner on October 6th was a wonderful way to close out another successful season. With tables set up with in the garden, pot luck dinners for all to share and pumpkins for the children to paint, it encapsulated the community spirit and was truly a meal of Thanksgiving for all.

If you are interested in joining the Lower Valley Community Garden next season, Please email your interest to Karen Mastro at kmas-tro@califonboro.net or Claudia Gilbert at lowervalleyipc@embarqmail.com . More information to come in the upcoming Crier publications.

CALIFON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

What's Going on at Califon United Methodist Church in November and December? We're glad you asked!

Free Community Lunch! Saturday, November 9th, 2013: Our community lunch, which is open to all people, is served from **12:30 pm to 2:00 pm**. Please come and join us; our hearts, our minds, and our doors are open to you.

Ham Dinner! Friday, November 15th, 2013: We will serve a wonderful Ham Dinner from **5:00 pm to 7:30 pm** on **Friday, November 15th**. We'll have fresh-baked ham, cabbage, mashed potatoes, green beans, corn, apple sauce, beverage and dessert. Price is **\$10 for adults, \$5 for children under 12**. Thank you for your support.

Free Community Lunch! Saturday, December 7th, 2013, 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm (see above for description)

Cookie Walk! Saturday, December 14th, 2013: We will have our annual Cookie Walk beginning at **10:00 AM** on **Saturday, Dec. 14th**. Please stop in and pick-out your favorite assortment of yummy homemade holiday cookies; we'll do the baking and you can do the eating! Thank you for your support.

Living Nativity Scene Saturday, December 14th, 2013: We will joyfully proclaim the Good News of our Savior's holy birth through our Living Nativity Scene on **Saturday, December 14th, 2103. Our first showing is at 4:30 pm; our second showing at 6:30 pm**. Please come out and join us as we remember and cherish our Savior's birth. “Oh come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!”

Christmas Eve Services; Tuesday, December 24th, 2013: We will gather for a family-oriented Christmas Eve service at **5:30 pm**; and then celebrate our Savior's birth with a more traditional service at **7:30 pm**. Both are **candle-lighting services**. All people are more than welcome to attend; please come and join us.

All events and services take place at **Califon United Methodist Church, 15 River Road, Califon, NJ, 07830**. Please call **908-832-2318** or **908-975-3016** if you would like more information. Thank you and May God bless you with a beautiful holiday season and a happy and healthy new year.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR SEPTIC!

Your septic tank is your responsibility. Protect your investment in your home by properly maintaining your septic tank and drain field. Here are the top four things you can do to protect your septic system:

1. Inspect and pump your system every 3 years by a licensed inspector / contractor. Have your effluent filter inspected and replaced when needed.
2. Use water efficiently; Avoid septic overload. Use high efficiency fixtures/ appliances. Repair leaky faucets and toilets.
3. Do not dispose of non biodegradable items or household hazardous wastes in sinks or toilets. (try not to use too much commercial cleansers, try baking soda and vinegar for much of your cleaning. It is cheaper, better for your system and better for our environment.)
4. Care for your drain field; plant only grass over and near your septic system. Roots from trees or shrubs may cause damage to the drain field. Also, do not park/drive vehicles on any part of the system.

If you have a clogged drain DO NOT use caustic drain openers! Try boiling water or a drain snake to open clogs.

A great guide to septic systems and their maintenance can be found at:

<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dwq/pdf/septicmn.pdf>

The Hunterdon County Department of Public Safety, Division of Public Health Services are also a great resource. The can be reached at 908-788-1351.

MAIN STREET/RAILROAD AVENUE STORM WATER PROJECT UPDATE

After 3 years of various environmental studies performed by the Borough engineer, numerous reports submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and different funding options analyzed for Califon's matching funding requirement, the Storm Water Grant has finally been obligated by the Federal Government to Califon. “Obligated” means that Califon has the environmental approval of the EPA as well as the financial approval of the Federal Government to move forward with the Storm Water Project and can utilize the federal funding. This is a major milestone for the advancement of this project that literally was announced by the EPA a few days before the federal government shutdown. Talk about timing!

Next steps for the project include further environmental and hydrological studies that will aid in the engineering and design of the storm water discharge system. Also, in order to meet the Borough's obligation to match the federal funding, the Borough will apply for an Environmental Infrastructure Trust Fund loan, a low interest state loan program that will significantly reduce Califon's debt service.

Once the design for the storm water discharge system has been completed, a public session will be announced for the Second Quarter, 2014. Excavation is anticipated to start the spring of 2015.

Any questions, please contact Mayor Charlie Daniel at 832-7850, ext. 207 or cdaniel@califonboro.net.