

Califon Crier
The Borough of Califon
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Califon, NJ 07830

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Califon Crier

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Highland Municipalities Enjoy Benefits of Localized Exemption Decision Program

By The Califon Borough Planning Board / Board of Adjustment

Since introducing its Municipal Exemption Determination program in March 2013, the Highlands Council has certified 12 municipalities to issue determinations regarding some of the most common Highlands Act exemptions. The Borough of Califon is one of the 12 municipalities and its residents benefit from this program.

What does this mean? Our municipal officials, the zoning officer and planning / zoning board, can review these exemptions at the local level without having to involve the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) or the Highlands Council.

“Frequently, people have the misconception that they can’t build a deck, a shed, or an addition to their home if they are located within the Highlands Region,” says Highlands Council Chairman Jim Rilee. “That’s simply not the case. There are exemptions written into the Act that provide for these types of situations. Previously municipalities and property owners had to coordinate with the NJDEP or the Highlands Council to verify exemptions. This program eliminates that need and trains local officials to issue determinations for these specified exemptions.”

Califon Borough is one of the municipalities with an approved Plan Conformance Petition and is authorized by the Highlands Council and the NJDEP to issue 7 of the 17 exemptions in the Highlands Act. Below is a list of the exemptions eligible for municipal determinations.

- Exemption 1. The construction of a single family dwelling for owners own use.
- Exemption 2. The construction of a single family dwelling with conditions.
- Exemption 4. The reconstruction of any building or structure with conditions.
- Exemption 5. Any improvements to an existing single family dwelling.
- Exemption 6. Any improvement, for non – residential purposes, to a place of worship, public or private school, or hospital.
- Exemption 7. An activity conducted in accordance with an approved woodland management plan.
- Exemption 8. The construction or extension of trails with non-impervious surfaces on publicly or privately owned lands.

If you have a project you have been thinking about doing and are not sure whether or not it would fall under one of these exemptions, please contact the Municipal Offices at 908-832-7850 and they will put you in touch with the appropriate town official to guide you through the process. Since Califon Borough has taken the steps to become part of the Municipal Exemption Determination program and its officials have participated in the training necessary to issue determinations, we have the ability to have your projects reviewed faster and more efficiently.

The Municipal Exemption Determination Certification program does not change the language of the Highlands Act and only involves the governmental level at which exemption decisions are made. The complete language of each exemption can be found in the Highlands Act. For more information, visit: www.nj.gov/njhighlands/planconformance/#15

The information for this article was taken from an article appearing in the October 2, 2014 of the Hunterdon County Democrat.

HOUSEHOLD WASTE CLEAN UP DAY

When: Saturday November 8th, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Rain or Shine

Where: Hunterdon County Rt. 12 Complex- 314 State Route 12 East, Flemington.

For further information call 908-788-1110 or email: swrs@co.hunterdon.nj.us

2014 LEAF COLLECTION

Those autumn leaves are falling as we write this! As beautiful as they are, cleaning up after them can be a daunting task. The Borough will, once again, be sponsoring a boro-wide curbside pickup of leaves on the following SATURDAYS: November 15th, November 22nd, November 29th and December 6th

PLEASE NOTE: Leaves must be bagged in biodegradable paper bags only! Residents can purchase paper bags at our local hardware store, Califon Lumber or at any major hardware store. Please place bagged leaves on or near the curb, not in the street.

As always, we do encourage residents to compost their leaves, if they have the space available to do so. Composted leaves make rich soil for use on next year’s garden and on the beds around your property.

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

CALIFON BOOK STORE CELEBRATES 25 YEARS!

Come help us celebrate our 25th year in business by attending our upcoming events:

November 1st: 11am to 1pm- Children’s book signing accompanied by songs and games with DLee’s World. Author Diana Lee Santamaria will entertain and educate your children during this interactive event.

November 22nd: 11 am to 1 pm- Book signing with Humorist and NJ native, Ted Slate and his book, “My Life and Other Aggravations”.

November 29th: Small Business Saturday! Shop your local, independent bookshop and other local shops and receive special gifts and incentives. Califon Area Merchants Association thanks you!!

COLUMBIA TRAIL IS DESIGNATED OCTOBER 2014 TRAIL OF THE MONTH!

The Rails to Trails Conservancy has named the Columbia Trail, October’s trail of the month! Califon is highlighted in this great article about one of our great assets thanks to information provided by Council President Gil Smith who was interviewed for this article. Please check out the great article and photos at: www.railstotrails.org/news/recurringFeatures/trailMonth/archives/1410.html

HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES- SATURDAY DECEMBER 6TH

This year Santa will be visiting Califon on Saturday, December 6th so listen for Santa riding through your neighborhood. Then come on down to the Train Station around 3:00 pm to meet with Santa and join in hot cocoa and cookies. At 4:30 head over to Main Street in front of the flower shop to join in caroling along Main Street. We will end up at the Community Tree in the lot next to Bex Kitchen for the tree lighting at 5:00 p.m. All Califon Shops will be open before and during these events for your holiday shopping! Stop in and say hello and support your local businesses while enjoying the holiday spirit!

A Special thanks to Drew at Califon Lumber for donating the tree again this year!!

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:

Califon Borough Planning / Board of Adjustment, Jason Beard, Jessica Hickman-Beard, Laura Eidsvaag, Dr. Jim Gamble, Karen Mastro, Susan Skillman,

Deadline for January/February submissions: Wednesday, December 10.

EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE!
ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH!

The polling place is the Califon Municipal Building at 39 Academy St., Califon, N.J. 07830. The polls open at 6:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m.

“Vote by Mail” is an option for those who cannot make it to the polling place on the 4th. Applications for a Mail-in ballot are available at the Board of Elections in Flemington and at the Califon Municipal Building.

The following are some important dates:

Tuesday, October 28th : the last day to apply BY MAIL for a Mail-in ballot for the General Election

Thursday, October 30th : the County Clerk’s Office is open until 7:00 pm to vote in person by Mail-in ballot for the General Election

Saturday, November 1st: County Clerk’s Office is open from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm to vote in person by Mail-in Ballot for General Election

Monday, November 3rd: 3:00 pm 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, N.J. 08822. www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/countyclerk.htm
www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/depts/elect/electbd.htm

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

PLEASE VOTE! YOUR VOTE COUNTS!!

CALIFON 2014 HS GRADUATES
ACHIEVE HONORS AND HIGH HONORS

The Voorhees High School Class of 2014 boasted a number of honors and high honors students. The entire Califon community is proud that 77% of the 2014 Califon graduates achieved either honors or high honors. To further underscore the excellent achievement of the Califon students, it was noted that 38% of the 2014 Califon HS graduates became members of the National Honor Society.

2014 STREET FAIR A HUGE SUCCESS! THANK YOU!

On October 5, the Borough of Califon hosted its second annual Autumn Street Fair, in conjunction with the Jon Slusher Memorial 5K. The day was a great success with beautiful weather and hundreds of patrons in attendance. The Fair featured over 20 community organizations, first responders, and local businesses, as well as games, family attractions, and entertainment from three bands. It was a great day to showcase our unique Califon community.

An event like this requires extensive planning and coordination, which was started back in May 2014. One of the best parts about our Califon community is the dedication of volunteers who step up to support their town. I’d like to recognize and thank the following members of the 2014 Street Fair Planning Committee whose many hours of work made this event possible:

Food & Vendors Team: Mike Medea (lead), Kim Belsky

Entertainment Team: Kara Keiser (lead), Dave Bolles

Communications Team: Alison Ramarge (lead), Lauren Sanford (poster design), Melinda & Dan Hemberger (hand-painted sandwich board signs)

Security & Logistics Team: Chris Keiser (co-lead), Ed Latus (co-lead)

Special thank you, as well, to Mayor Charlie Daniel, Laura Eidsvaag, Karen Mastro, Califon Borough Council, The Slusher Family, the Califon Fire Company, Stan Zajac (trailer donations), The Smith Family (popcorn donations), Califon Book Shop (electricity and water), Califon Consignment shop (electricity), Bex Kitchen (electricity), Rambos (electricity and porch), Aegis Building Company (space), MOUNTAINVIEW Development (space), Acropolis (parking), Califon United Methodist Church (parking), Melicks (haybale donation), Bourbon

Street Liquors (beverage donation), Califon Rescue Squad, Washington Township Police, residents of Main Street, and all of the local community leaders, organizations, and businesses who helped to make the day a success.

If you are interested in being part of the Street Fair team for 2015, please contact Jason Beard at jasonbeard@yahoo.com.

Jason Beard, Street Fair Planning Lead

CALIFON PUBLIC SCHOOL’S
SHARED VISION INITIATIVE

All members of the Califon community are invited to take part in an important initiative that our school district has implemented. The school district is currently engaged in the process of developing a “shared vision.”

A shared school vision is a written statement that is developed with input from all of the school community’s stakeholder groups. The written shared vision statement will describe, in detail; what the school’s educational program and overall environment should look like in the present and in the future.

In order to accomplish this goal, we will need input from everyone connected with our school community. The process for this initiative includes focused group meetings followed by a final approval of a “shared vision” at a Board of Education meeting in December.

Additional opportunities for input will be provided by surveys that will be made available to everyone. Go to the school’s web site at www.califonschool.org and look for the posted surveys during the months of November and December. The input from the community is valued. The “shared vision” will serve as a guidepost for future decision making for the present and in the future.

Thank you in advance for your continued cooperation and support. We have an excellent school and we will strive to ensure that we continue to provide an exemplary educational experience for our children. For additional information, you may contact Dr. Jim Gamble by email – jgamble@califonschool.org or call the school at 908-832-2828.

CALIFON PTA NEWS

Luminary Sales: Let’s Light up Califon for the Holidays!

The Califon School PTA will 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 PTA will be taking orders for luminaries at the Fireman’s Pancake Breakfast on November 2, and order forms will be available on the PTA section of the school website (<https://sites.google.com/site/califonschoolpta/home>) or at the Califon Book Store. For more information please contact Susanne Skillman at smskillman@gmail.com.

Califon School PTA Holiday Luncheon
Tuesday, December 17, 2014, 11:30am.

Seniors, mark your calendars for Califon School PTA’s annual Holiday Luncheon, to be held on Tuesday, December 16, 2014, starting at 11:30am in the Califon School All-Purpose room. Califon Seniors are invited to join students and staff (and maybe even a special guest from the North Pole) for a buffet-style hot luncheon featuring spiral-cut ham and hot side dishes, dessert, and coffee, courtesy of the Califon School PTA. This is a wonderful Califon School tradition which brings the school and community together to share in some holiday cheer. If you are or know of a Califon Senior and would like to be added to our distribution list, please e-mail or call Jessica Hickman-Beard at jjcb20@comcast.net or 908-520-0109 by November 20. We look forward to seeing you there!

The Tricky Tray returns to Califon on Friday, January 30! After several years’ hiatus, the Califon School PTA Tricky Tray and Auction will be held on **Friday evening, January 30, 2015, in the Parish Hall of the Lower Valley Presbyterian Church in Califon.** Doors open at 6pm. Please mark your calendar and save the date. You won’t want to

miss this incredibly fun event. If you are interested in donating an item for the Tricky Tray (a basket, item, service, or a monetary donation), please contact Jessica Hickman-Beard at jjcb20@comcast.net or 908-520-0109.

CALIFON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH EVENTS FOR
NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER, 2014:

Fall Harvest Breakfast!!! Sunday, November 16th, 2014; 7:00 am to 11:00 am.

“All you can eat” breakfast, \$6 for adults, \$3 for children under 12. We’ll be serving eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, bagels, toast, coffee, tea and OJ. Please come out and join us and stay for worship (11:00 am)! Califon United Methodist Church, 15 River Rd, Califon (908-832-2318). Thank you.

Free Community Lunch! Saturday, December 6th, 2014, 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm: Our Community Lunch is open to all people and is served from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm. Please come and be our guest. Our hearts, our minds, and our doors are open to all people.

Cookie Walk! (Homemade Cookies) Saturday, December 13th, 2014: 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 13th, 2014: We will joyfully proclaim the Good News of our Savior’s holy birth through our Living Nativity Scene on **Saturday, December 14th, 2014 at 4:00 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; Wednesday, December 24th, 2014: 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.

12TH ANNUAL ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR- GIVE A GIFT
THAT KEEPS GIVING!!

The Lower Valley Presbyterian Church is celebrating 12 years of giving! The Alternative Gift Fair will be held on Saturday, November 15th from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the church’s Parish Hall, 445 Country Road 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 non-profit 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 for teachers, relatives, business associates or people who “have everything.” Alternative gifts are tax deductible, too — another way to save in this difficult economy. Sixteen different local, national and international aid organizations are featured, with at least one representative from each who can tell you amazing stories about how donations are used. **New this year — we are excited that The Seeing Eye, Meals on Wheels, 52 Reasons to Love A Vet and America’s Grow a Row will be represented at the fair.** If you prefer to give tangible gifts, there will be a SERRV fair trade table benefitting 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 for purchase. If you are unable to attend, visit www.lowervalley.org for an order form or contact the church at 908-832-2933.

2015 RABIES CLINIC

The Califon Board of Health will be sponsoring a FREE Rabies Clinic on Saturday January 10th 2015 from 1pm to 3pm at the Califon Municipal garage bays, 39 Academy St, Califon. Snow day will be Saturday January 17th.

GREETINGS FROM ST. JOHN NEUMANN

St. John’s Annual Tricky Tray

Friday, Nov. 7 come enjoy a fun night for all, winning, eating and socializing. Doors open at 6pm and the drawings start at 7:30. Specials include IPAD, TV and Shopping Spree. \$10 admission fee gives you your first card of tickets. For info call **908-832-2513**. St. John Neumann is located right next to Valley View School in Lebanon Township at 398 CR 513, Califon NJ.

2nd Annual FOOD/WINE/CHOCOLATE TASTING @ Saint John Neumann in Lebanon Township/Califon. Saturday, Nov 22 at 7PM. Beatles music will be performed on piano, with vocalists. There will be a selection of vendors, just in time for holiday orders. \$25 before Nov 10 (\$30 at the door). For tickets or more information, contact Maggie Baumann at [908-832-2207](tel:908-832-2207) or Saint John Neumann's at [908-832-2513](tel:908-832-2513).

Christmas at St. John’s in Califon

The Catholic Community of St. John Neumann invites you to celebrate the Christmas Season.

St John’s Thanksgiving Day Mass is at 9:30 on Nov 27.

The **Church Decorating and Christmas Party**, complete with goodies and a visit from Santa occurs on Tuesday, Dec 16th starting at 6pm. Come join the festivities of decorating the church, singing and socializing. Kids and adults are welcome.

Community Reconciliation Service is on Wednesday Dec 17 at 7pm. Followed by individual Reconciliation for any who wish.

Christmas Masses are on Christmas Eve, Dec 24 at 5:00pm and 7:30pm. And on Christmas Day at 10:30am. We wish you a Blessed Christmas and hope you will join us or one of the area churches to celebrate.

VOORHEES MUSIC ASSOCIATION FESTIVAL FEATURES
CRAFTERS, GAMES, FOOD AND FUN

More than 100 crafters, games for children and food are all part of the 5th annual Voorhees High School Music Association Festival on Saturday, November 22.

Held indoors at Voorhees High School, the festival features more than 100 crafters and vendors offering everything from knitted items to soaps to jewelry to baked goods to fine crafted woods and dozens of other unique items. It’s a great place to do some holiday shopping while supporting local small businesses.

There’s also plenty to keep the kids busy, with carnival-style games, face-painting, sand art and prizes. The festival also will include a variety of foods available for lunching or snacking.

The first 1000 adults to attend will get a free chance to win gift cards to local businesses!

Proceeds from the festival benefit the Voorhees High School Music Association, which supports the school’s talented teen musicians and vocalists by providing instruments, enrichment opportunities, and scholarships for Voorhees students.

The festival will be open 9 AM – 4 PM and admission is free. Voorhees High is located at 256 County Route 513 in Lebanon Twp. For more information, visit www.vikesmusic.com.

HUNTERDON COUNTY COMMUNITY
PAPER SHREDDING DAY

Saturday November 1st 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – Hunterdon County Rt 12 Complex, 314 State Rt. 12 East, Flemington. They will be accepting up to 10 boxes of papers for shredding! For more information contact www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/recycling.html or 908-788-1110.