



# Califon Crier

Volume 17, Issue 2  
March/April 2011

1994 Founded by Cathy McVicker & Jim Ball (1995)

Editor, Katie Vreeland

## **Volunteerism Keeps Califon Strong**

*By Councilman Tim Weiler*

Califon residents volunteer their time and energy to many local organizations making this a great place to live and work. These organizations contribute to our small town in many ways—aiding residents, protecting property, reducing municipal costs, and helping define our unique character. Califon is especially fortunate to have two organizations in particular: The Califon Volunteer Fire Company and The Califon First Aid Squad. You've no doubt heard the emergency whistles day and night. (By the way, one whistle indicates a call for the rescue squad, while multiple whistles indicate a fire call.) But how often do you think about those volunteering their time, energy, and safety to answer those calls?

The Califon Volunteer Fire Company was created in 1921 and will be celebrating its 90th anniversary May 21st this year. Presently, it is made up of forty volunteers who reside in Califon and other neighboring towns. The Fire Company primarily covers Califon and parts of Tewksbury and is one of only a few existing volunteer fire companies in New Jersey.

The Califon First Aid Squad has been serving Califon for over 50 years. Today, it is made up of eighteen members, many who are EMTs. Like the Fire Company, it also covers portions of our surrounding towns of Tewksbury and Lebanon Township. During weekly hours (6am–6pm), Clinton First Aid & Rescue Squad covers Califon's calls. Califon First Aid Squad answers all calls during remaining hours and on weekends.

Fundraising is an important part of these organizations. Most funds come from holding events and receiving donations. The town-wide sale in September, various dinners and dances at the firehouse, the monthly pancake breakfast, the carnival and fireworks, and, most recently, the winter bonfire are just a few. As a result, these become community events that help define Califon for who and what we are. At these events we have the opportunity to see and greet our neighbors and friends and meet new residents from surrounding towns. We talk. We laugh. Simply put, we have fun.

Many thanks to the Fire Company and the First Aid Squad and all the other volunteer organizations for your commitment and dedication to serving and making Califon a great community.

### **Spring Clean For a Good Cause**

From March 2 until noon on May 8, Califon School will be hosting a clothing drive! The school will be accepting clothing and accessories such as handbags, belts, and shoes, as well as soft household items like bedding, curtains, and stuffed animals needing a new home. Bikes also will be accepted, as well as hard toys—though they must fit into a 24x24x21 box. Items donated will result in 14 cents per pound for the school. All items must be bagged or boxed. Please place donations in front of garage bays at the Municipal Building on Academy Street. For more information, contact Joan at (908) 832-9482.

### **Green Eggs and ... Pancakes?**

A Green Eggs and Pancakes Dinner will be held Tuesday, March 8, from 5-7 p.m. at the Fairmount Presbyterian Church (247 Old Turnpike Road in Tewksbury). The price of the dinner is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children ages 10 or younger.

This July, approximately 80 local volunteers will be traveling to West Virginia to work on home restoration and renovation projects being coordinated by the Appalachia Service Project Inc. All proceeds from the dinner will support this important trip.

### **Califon UMC Upcoming Events**

Califon United Methodist Church has plenty to keep you busy this spring! Mark your calendars for these fun events.

On Friday, March 11, Califon UMC will be hosting a Roast Chicken Dinner from 5-7:30pm. Dinner consists of roast chicken, stuffing, gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, corn, cranberry sauce, choice of homemade dessert, and a beverage. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 years or younger.

On Saturday, March 26, beginning at 10 am, stop by Califon UMC for a soup sale. Come buy homemade soups by the quart. For more information or to place an order in advance, call Janine Ascenzo at (908) 832-8944 or e-mail [califonumc@gmail.com](mailto:califonumc@gmail.com).

On Saturday, April 9, Califon UMC will be having its Annual Fisherman's Breakfast from 6am-1pm.

### **Danny Boy's St. Patrick's Day Celebration**

Few tickets remain available for the Danny Boy's St. Patrick's Day Celebration, so get your tickets and reserve your seats today! Doors will open at 6pm on Saturday, March 19, at the Califon Fire Department. Dinner will consist of an all-you-can-eat buffet of corned beef and cabbage. There will also be a band and bag pipers, dancing, and a cash bar.

Proceeds from the event will benefit The Daniel T. Handy Memorial. Contact Wendy for more information at (908) 832-9240.

### **Happy Face Nursery School Open Registration**

Happy Face Nursery School of Califon is accepting applications for the 2011-12 school year. Happy Face has preschool classes for children ages 2 1/2 to 5 years old. Unique to our area is Happy Face's 2 1/2 year-old program—the youngest of preschoolers (who do not even have to be potty-trained!)—and Happy Face's Fabulous 5's program for children benefitting from an extra year before kindergarten or for kindergarten enrichment.

For more information, call (908) 832-7150, e-mail [info@happyfacenurseryschool.com](mailto:info@happyfacenurseryschool.com), or visit the website, [www.happyfacenurseryschool.com](http://www.happyfacenurseryschool.com).

### **Califon School News**

Califon School kindergarten registration opens in March to all Califon children who will be five years

old by Oct. 1, 2011. Kindergarten round-up will be in April. More information can be found online at [www.califonschool.org](http://www.califonschool.org) and will also be published in the *Hunterdon County Democrat* in late February.

Congratulations to sixth-grader Grace Gilbert for winning the Califon School Spelling Bee in January. "Quadrilateral" was the winning word. As the Crier was being written, Grace was slated to compete in the written phase of the regional bee at Northampton College in Pennsylvania February 24, then hopefully advancing to the next round March 24. Runners-up were sixth-grader Cassie Oeckinghaus, seventh-grader Heather Thomasovich, and seventh-grader Jonathan Baker. Congratulations to all our excellent spellers and good luck to Grace!

Great job to last year's eighth grade class! They posted the highest NJ ASK scores in all of Hunterdon County, as announced by Chief School Administrator, Dr. Kathleen Prystash.

Sixth through eighth grade students will participate in Califon School's science fair, which will be Wednesday, March 16, from 7-8:30pm in the school gym. Each grade will be awarded first-, second-, and third-place winners. Judges will consist of the following parents: Thomas Baker, Timothy Flagler, and Mary Beth Meade, as well as teachers. There will be hands-on activities and a treasure hunt for attendees. Stop by to support our young scientists and meet their science teacher, Mrs. Allison Wiesel.

Sydney Stoter, a sixth-grader at Califon School, won first place in a writing contest sponsored by the NJ Association for Gifted Children (NJAGC). Sydney's essay, "The Unpredictable Future," was about what she imagines life will be like in 2031. Her winning entry will be on display on March 11-12 at the Crowne Plaza Somerset-Bridgewater and printed in NJAGC's program book.

### **Did you know... ?**

- Califon's 2010 8th grade class was one of only two Hunterdon County 8th grade classes with a 100-percent passing rate on all three sections of state tests.
- Califon had the highest percentage of 8th graders scoring Advanced Proficient in the county on the math and science tests.
- Califon school district's cost per pupil is the third lowest of all Hunterdon districts.

- Because of cuts in state aid, our school has less total revenue than we did three years ago. (Meanwhile, we have more students.)
- Califon significantly reduced administrative expenses by sharing a business administrator with two other districts.

The Califon School Board of Education wishes to thank our teachers and administrators for all of their efforts to “make our children’s lives extraordinary.” A special thank-you as well to Califon residents for their support.

### **FOCIP Thanks Califon Second Graders**

The second graders of Mrs. Torcivia’s class at Califon School kept the true spirit of holiday giving this past Christmas. As a gift to their teacher, the class made a donation to the Friends of Califon Island Park (FOCIP) in her name. The second-graders donated a total of \$21.50 of their own money to the efforts. FOCIP is so thankful for this donation and truly impressed by the second graders’ commitment to their community!

FOCIP is a non-profit organization dedicated to sustaining and improving Califon Island Park. Recently, fundraising efforts have been focused on replacing the playground. For more information about FOCIP, e-mail Alison at a.ramarge@hotmail.com or find us on Facebook!

### **Annual Easter Egg Hunt**

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by the Califon Recreation Committee, will be held at Califon Island Park on Sunday, April 17, at 1pm with a rain date of Saturday, April 23, same time, same place.

Festivities include egg hunts for children in pre-school through 8th grade, a jelly bean guessing contest, “golden egg” prizes, and, of course, a visit from the Easter Bunny!

### **2011 Rabies Clinic a Huge Success**

The Califon Board of Health sponsored their annual free Rabies Clinic on Saturday, Jan. 15. According to Karen Mastro, over 225 cats and dogs were vaccinated at this clinic, making it the most successful clinic to date! The borough says a special thank-you to the following volunteers: Amanda Altivilla, Kathy Altivilla, Barbara Bagstrom, Olivia Bagstrom, Abigail Flagler, Grace Flagler, Judy Salisbury, Maggie Salisbury, and Rosie Salisbury.

### **Unique Program for Local Students**

Students in 4th through 8th grades of Califon Public School will practice entrepreneurship and creativity through a TREP\$ marketplace program. This program teaches students how to start their own businesses during six weeks of in-school workshops taught by teachers and volunteer parents.

Students will have the opportunity to showcase their unique and economical products and services at a flea-market style event open to the public, Friday, March 4, from 7-9pm, in the Califon School gym. A snow date is scheduled for Saturday, March 5.

Stop by this special event to browse, buy, or just offer encouragement to these young entrepreneurs. (Please note this event is cash only.) For more information, visit [www.TREP\\$ed.com](http://www.TREP$ed.com).

### **Staff Changes**

Califon Borough welcomes Helen Brenan as our new Recycling Coordinator! Helen is the owner/operator of Purl Jam here in Califon and we thank her for taking time out of her busy schedule to volunteer her services for this worthy cause.

The borough has adopted a new recycling ordinance that complies with recent state-mandated changes. Helen and other committee members will be instrumental in educating residents and business owners of these changes.

### **Meals on Wheels Fundraiser**

“Meals on Wheels Takes Flight” is an exciting new fundraiser that could have you heading to a warm locale for a winter getaway!

Meals on Wheels in Hunterdon is offering a limited number of raffle tickets for the chance to win two round-trip airline tickets to anywhere in the U.S., Mexico, or the Caribbean. Tickets cost just \$20 each and the winning airline tickets will be good for one year from the drawing date of April 15. Raffle tickets are available for purchase at Meals on Wheels locations in Annandale, Flemington, and Lambertville. Proceeds from ticket sales will support Meals on Wheels programs. For more information, call (908) 284-0735.

Due to space constraints, the calendar for March/April was not printed this issue. To view upcoming meetings and events, visit [www.califonboro.net](http://www.califonboro.net).

**Califon Crier**  
The Borough of Califon  
39 Academy Street  
Califon, NJ 07830

Presorted Std.  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 7  
Califon, NJ 07830

***CALIFON CRIER***  
*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.

**Contributors:**

Janine Ascenzo, Jessica Hickman-Beard, Melissa Fogg, Rosemarie Loescher, Karen Mastro, Joan Nitti, Alison Ramarge, Kim Schundler, Cathy Smith, Gil Smith, Monica Strenk, Wendy E. Tiger, Tim Weiler

***Deadline for May/June 2011 submissions: Monday, April 18.***

