

Califon Crier
The Borough of Califon
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Califon, NJ 07830

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Califon Crier

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1994 Founded by Cathy McVicker & Jim Ball (1995)

Editor, Katie Vreeland

Backyard Leaf Composting

By Councilwoman Judy Salisbury

It happens almost overnight—the long, blazing-hot days of summer give way to cooler temperatures and shorter daylight hours. It is these dwindling daylight hours that trigger color changes in the leaves. The colorful display is pleasing and welcomed, though short-lived. As trees prepare for the onset of winter, they drop those little lovelies onto lawns and homeowners are then forced to deal with an excessive quantity of leaves. Thankfully, leaf pick-up services are provided for the first three Saturdays in November and early December—so get out your rakes and blowers, buy paper leaf bags, stuff 'em, and put 'em on the curb for pick up. But while you're getting your lawn back to pristine condition, you could be missing the perfect opportunity to put those leaves to good use. Instead of having them hauled away, consider composting.

Ancient Alchemists believed common materials could be changed into precious substances. In the spirit of Alchemy, we could all turn our abundance of leaves into “black gold”—dark, friable, nutrient-rich compost. By building a leaf compost pile in your backyard, you simply are making an environment that is ideal for the natural process of microbial decomposition. By following a few simple steps, a well-constructed compost pile can speed the natural process. In as little as four to nine months, you could have a finished product that—when added to gardens, flowerbeds, or hedgerows improves the organic content of the soil. Heavy clay soil of this area is in desperate need of amendment. With minimal effort, composting leaves can be rewarding, educational (get the kids involved!), and a great way to get some free soil amendments for your gardens. So consider the alternative to raking and curbside pickup. For more information on leaf composting, visit following websites: www.associatedcontent.com, www.state.nj.us, or <http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu> and type “leaf composting” into the search engine. Decay Happens—make the most of it!

A Call for Volunteers

The Borough of Califon is calling on volunteers to support its school crossing guards. Volunteers are needed as fill-ins and will only be called upon in the event a full-time crossing guard is unavailable. Crossing guards are needed in the morning from 8-9 a.m. and from 3-4 p.m. in the afternoon. Anyone who is available and interested in being on this replacement list is asked to contact Laura Eidsvaag at (908) 832-7850, ext. 201.

As One Door Closes, Another Opens

We welcome Katie Vreeland as our newest editor of the Crier! Katie and her husband, Cass, come to our area from northern Virginia and now make their home here in Califon. Prior to moving to New Jersey, Katie was a magazine editor for nearly five years for a nonprofit lobbying association in Arlington, Virginia. The Crier will continue to have the same information you've come to expect over the years, and the deadline for text will remain the same.

Anyone with news or wishing to comment on the Crier is asked to contact Katie via email at kvreeland@califonboro.net or call (908) 832-7850. Copy deadline for the upcoming Jan. 1, 2011 issue is Monday, Dec. 13. Though she has big shoes to fill, we're confident Katie will hit the ground running. As we say welcome to Katie we also express a heartfelt thank-you to Nancy Dean and Cathy Smith for their spirit of volunteerism and their many years of service and dedication to the Crier.

Bridge-to-Bridge Run a Huge Success

After a three year hiatus, approximately 95 runners and walkers turned out on a beautiful Sunday, Oct. 3, to participate 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 (CAMP). Participants traversed the beautiful three-mile loop down River Road to Hoffmann's Crossing, then looped back down the scenic Columbia Trail, finishing at the historic Train Station in Califon. Califon residents took the first three places. Matt Ramarge came in first with a finishing time of 20:53 while Kevin Smith came in second at 21:33, and Joseph Riccio rounded out third place with 21:35. Congratulations to the top runners and all participants!

After the race, approximately 40 children ages 10 and under participated in the Little Cougars Fun Run in Califon Island Park. All participants were winners and received prizes of homemade chocolate chip cookies and "gold" medals that were generously donated by members of CAMP. Proceeds from the race will go toward the fund to rebuild the playground at Califon Island Park. FOCIP is proud to announce the day's events netted approximately \$1,100 for the playground fund.

CALIFON CRIER

The Califon Crier is published on a bimonthly basis. If you have news or feedback, please contact Katie Vreeland, Editor, at kvreeland@califonboro.net;

phone (908) 832-7850; or fax (908) 832-6085.

Contributors:

Kathleen Anderson, Melissa Baker, Laura Eidsvaag, Jessica Hickman-Beard, Nancy Knight, Karen Mastro, Laurie Perkalis, Alison Ramarge, Judy Salisbury

Deadline for January/February 2011 submissions: Monday, Dec. 13.

Local Girl Scouts Earn Silver Award

Congratulations to five Califon Girl Scouts from Troop 409 who recently earned the Girl Scout Silver Award—the second highest award in Girl Scouts. Krystina Galvez-Weber chose the Gift of Sight Program as her project. Krystina collected over 700 pairs of new and gently used sunglasses for those less fortunate. The glasses were then given to the Lions Club who restored them and then donated them to those in need.

Kelly Jenssen and Amy Parsons collected personal care items for teens with eating disorders being treated at the Somerset Medical Center. They then assembled “comfort bags” with the collected items and delivered them to the Somerset Medical Center to be distributed.

Kristen Baker and Emily Perkalis organized a collection in their community for the Children's Hospital Playroom at Saint Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick, NJ. The donated items included items such as board games, DVDs, books, crafts, and toys and were distributed to any patient up to 18 years of age. Kristen and Emily also cleaned and organized the Children's Library at Saint Peter's, where they then distributed their donations.

Congratulations Krystina, Kelly, Amy, Kristen, and Emily for your generosity and a job well done!

Leaf Collection Still Going Green

If you can't find the time to compost your leaves, you can at least take comfort in knowing that curbside leaf pick up in New Jersey is continuing its efforts to be green. For the second year in a row, state regulations **strictly prohibit the use of plastic bags, requiring that leaves be bagged in biodegradable paper bags only.** Residents can buy the required paper bags at Califon Lumber, 48 Main Street, or at any major hardware store. Once bagged, leaves should be placed curbside for pickup on the following Saturdays: Nov. 13, 20, 27, and Dec. 4. The contracted vendor for leaf pick up is Peter Rubinetti of Private Disposal, LLC.



Support Local Charities, Global Needs at Alternative Gift Fair

Come to the Alternative Gift Fair at Lower Valley Presbyterian Church, 445 Route 513, Saturday, Nov. 13, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. You can find unique gifts that will make a real difference in the lives of people in need.

Alternative giving is the act of donating to a non-profit organization in honor of someone. For example, a \$10 donation can provide a pillow to a client of the Interfaith Hospitality Network. A \$7 donation would allow four food items to be given to the Open Cupboard Food Pantry in Clinton. You receive a free gift card to present to the friend or family member whom you are honoring. Organizations participating in the fair include Appalachia Service Project, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Dr. Orlie Pell Fund, Heifer International, Newton Presbytery Nairobi Partnership, Pedals for Progress, Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity, and SAFE in Hunterdon. All gift card purchases are tax-deductible.

For people who prefer to give tangible gifts, there will be a fair trade sale benefiting international artisans through SERRV. In addition, this year there will be a table of hand-crafted jewelry items from Bead for Life, with proceeds going to the women in Uganda who make the jewelry. Lunch will also be available consisting of homemade soup, bread, beverage and dessert.

If you wish to participate but are unable to attend, information and order forms will be available online at www.lowervalley.org. Contact the church at (908) 832-2933 with any questions.

Get in the Christmas Spirit with Califon

Califon will be spreading holiday cheer around town Saturday, Dec. 4. The activities will kick off at 2:30 p.m. with a parade through town, complete with Santa himself. Between 3 and 4 p.m., follow Santa to the Municipal Building where he'll be waiting with a treat to hear what's on your wish list. At about 4:30 p.m., join your neighbors at the train station museum to sing holiday carols, followed by the annual tree lighting ceremony just around dusk. In the event of inclement weather, the events will take place the following weekend, Dec. 11, same place, same time. The day is sure to put you in the Christmas spirit!

Luminary Tradition Continues

Lining the streets of Califon with luminaries (small candles placed in paper bags or vented milk jugs) on Christmas Eve is a beautiful and longstanding tradition. To help continue the custom, the Califon School Booster Club is again selling luminary candles and bags. To order, call Judi Mansilla at (908) 832-9233 or Melissa Baker (908) 832-6498. Candles and bags will be sold Sunday, Dec. 5, at the Fire Department pancake breakfast on Main Street.

Holiday Luncheon Hosts Califon 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 take place Wednesday, Dec. 15, from 11a.m. until 1:30p.m. at Califon School. The meal will include Rambo's spiral ham, mashed potatoes, corn, salad, and dessert. Lunch delivery is available for homebound seniors. As usual, a special guest is expected and will be bringing extra treats and surprises. Contact Carolyn Murin with any questions.

Nellie Hoffman House Restoration Update

The restoration of the downstairs of the Nellie Hoffman house on River Road is complete, except for furnishing. Through the efforts of the Califon Preservation Committee and generous donations of time and materials, the first floor walls have been re-plastered and some work has been done on the ceilings and floors. The walk-in fireplace was uncovered and repaired and the walls repainted. The next step is to being work on the upstairs—a project that is off to a good start, having completed the installation of new floors. To help move the project closer toward completion and a community-wide celebration projected for next spring, contact Councilwoman Kathleen Andersen at (908) 832-7841. Your time, labor, and monetary donations are always appreciated.

MB = Municipal Bldg, Academy St.
 MUS=Museum, Academy St.
 CPS = Califon School, School St.
 CIP = Califon Island Park, Bank St.
 UMC=United Methodist Church, 15 River Rd.

Mark Your Calendar for Annual Rabies Clinic

The Califon Board of Health will be sponsoring its annual free Rabies Clinic for dogs and cats Saturday, Jan. 15, from noon until 3pm at the Borough of Califon's Municipal Building, 39 Academy Street, in Califon. As in the past, the clinic will once again be provided free of cost to Califon residents. In the event of snow, the clinic will be rescheduled for the following Saturday, Jan. 22—same time, same place.

Please note, Califon residents can drop off completed dog license applications at the clinic or pick up additional applications during this time. And remember the state of New Jersey requires you to provide proof of a rabies vaccination before a license will be issued. Contact Karen Mastro, Dog Registrar, (908) 832-7850 ext. 204, with any questions.

NOVEMBER 2010

1 & 15	Council Meeting	MB	8 pm
2	Parks Committee	MB	8 pm
3	Board of Health	MB	8 pm
7 & 21	Historical Museum Open	MUS	2-4 pm
8	Board of Education	CPS	7:30 pm
9	Recycling Committee	MB	8 pm
9	Environmental Commission	MB	8 pm
12	Ham Dinner	UMC	5-7:30 pm
13	Household Hazardous Waste Cleanup Day	Town-wide	9 am-1 pm
23	Police & Finance Meeting	MB	8 pm
24	Planning Board Meeting	MB	8 pm

DECEMBER 2010

1	Board of Health	MB	8 pm
5 & 19	Historical Museum Open	MUS	2-4 pm
6 & 20	Council Meeting	MB	8 pm
7	Parks Committee	MB	8 pm
8	Board of Education	CPS	7:30 pm
13	Board of Education	CPS	730 pm
14	Recycling Committee	MB	8 pm
14	Environmental Commission	MB	8 pm
14	Recreation Committee	MB	8 pm
21	Historical Society	MB	8 pm
22	Planning Board Meeting	MB	8 pm
28	Police & Finance Meeting	MB	8 pm