



Califon Crier

Volume 17, Issue 3
May/June 2011

1994 Founded by Cathy McVicker & Jim Ball (1995)

Editor, Katie Vreeland

Property Reassessment and Taxes

By Mayor Charles Daniel

Last year, the town council decided that a property reassessment was necessary. Why? The decision was primarily due to the disparity between property market values and assessed values.

The last reassessment was completed in 2004, during the boom of the real estate market, which resulted in high assessed values. While assessed values remain constant, the value of most homes has decreased dramatically. Reassessment is meant to restore tax fairness throughout the borough.

Our current property reassessment was completed by the end of 2010. The Hunterdon County Tax Board sent "Notices of Property Assessment for 2011" (the green postcards) to each resident. This notification contains your 2011 total (land and building) property assessment. (It also contains your 2010 assessment so you can compare values.) The result of the reassessment was that the average residential property value decreased 10.8%. In 2010, the average home in Califon was worth \$368,000. Now, the average property value is now worth \$328,000.

Due to the decrease in property values, will property taxes decrease? The answer is no, since the amount of taxes needed to support all municipal government activities still remains. While the average property value decreases, the tax rate increases, resulting in a net gain of zero.

In April 2011, the town council introduced and passed a 2011 municipal budget — a budget that was well within the 2% tax levy mandated by the state. The municipal portion of taxes will increase \$26 for the average property value of \$328,000. If your home is valued higher, for example \$410,000, your tax increase will be \$33. If your home is valued lower, for example \$246,000, your tax increase will be \$20.

We — the town council, myself as mayor, Chief Administrator and CFO—continue to work diligently to keep municipal services at its highest quality while balancing a municipal budget with minimal impact to our taxpayers. If you have any questions concerning the municipal budget, please call me at 832-7850, ext. 207.

Mother's Day Bird Walk

Join Alan and Barbara Rennie as they lead a birding tour of Califon this Mother's Day (Sunday, May 8). The bird walk will begin at 8 a.m. and all will assemble in the parking lot of the Califon United Methodist Church (15 River Road). Children are most welcome and encouraged to attend!

The Rennie's have traveled the world following their lifelong passion for bird watching. Early May in Califon delivers exciting spring bird sightings as it is the height of migration for neo-tropical birds and heralds the return of native summer birds.

Plan to bring binoculars and wear sturdy, waterproof shoes. Also bring a field guide if you have one.

All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Dinner

The Califon Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary is hosting an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner Friday, May 6, from 5-8 p.m. at the fire department (41 Main Street). The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 4-12. Children under 3 are free.

Dinner will consist of salad, spaghetti with meatballs or sausage, bread, homemade dessert, and a beverage. Take out also is available upon request.

Celebrate Califon Volunteer Fire Co.

The Califon Volunteer Fire Co. is hosting a wet down to christen its newest engine and celebrate its 90th year in service Saturday, May 21, from 2-7 p.m. There will be food, drinks, and a deejay. T-shirts and coffee mugs will be sold. Call Rich Bergmann at (908) 328-5063 or visit www.califonfire.org for more information.

Haytown Nursery School Fall Open Enrollment

Haytown Nursery School, located in northern Tewksbury and just minutes from Califon, is accepting registration for its four programs.

Mommy/Daddy & Me, age 2, is an introduction to the school and faculty. It offers parents and children the opportunity to experience the school one day a week during the fall. These little students are then ready to join the rest of the school without mommy or daddy for either one or two days each week beginning in January, in the Terrific Twos and Threes program. The Younger Class, ages 3-4, attends school Monday to Wednesday from 9-1; the Older Class, ages 4-5, attends from 9-1, Monday to Thursday. Haytown also offers afternoon enrichment programs and optional Fridays.

For information or to schedule a tour, contact Director Marge Moore at (908) 832.5645 or visit www.haytownnurseryschool.org.

Califon Goes Green

Califon has a Green Team dedicated to initiating actions that will help move our town toward becoming a Certified Sustainable Community.

The certification program is sponsored by Sustainable Jersey. Sustainable Jersey strives for a better tomorrow one community at a time. The program encompasses the three equal, interrelated components of sustainability, to include: prosperity – support your local economy and use community resources; planet – practice responsible environmental management and conservation; and people – embrace social equity and fairness. This program is open to all municipalities in New Jersey. Califon Borough is one of 333 municipalities/towns that have registered to become certified.

The Green Team meets every First Tuesday of the month at the Municipal Building. We are always looking for people to get involved! Contact the Mu-

nicipal Office with questions (908) 832-7850 or visit www.sustainablejersey.com.

Upcoming Shredding Day

Now is the time to get rid of all the old papers you have stored in boxes and stashed around the house taking up precious storage space and collecting dust! The Sustainable Jersey Califon Green Team is hosting a complimentary Shredding Day for all borough residents Saturday, May 14, from 9 a.m.-noon. So bring your papers down to the municipal building and take advantage of this free service!

Important Election Dates to Remember

- Tuesday, May 17 — last day to register to vote in the June primary election. As a reminder, voters can only vote Democratic or Republican in the primary election. However, you can declare either party that day at the polling booth.
- Tuesday, May 31 — last day to apply by mail for a mail-in ballot for the primary election. Mail-in ballot applications can be obtained at the Municipal Building or at the County Clerk office in Flemington.
- Thursday, June 2 — County Clerk's office will be open until 7 p.m. to vote by mail-in ballot for the primary.
- Saturday, June 4 — County Clerk's office will be open from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. to vote by mail-in ballot for the primary.
- Primary Election Day is Tuesday, June 7. Polls will be open from 6 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

Califon UMC Vacation Bible School

Califon United Methodist Church Vacation Bible School will be Monday, June 27, through Wednesday, June 29, each evening from 6-8 p.m. To register or for more information, call Janine at (908) 832-8944 or e-mail jnrascenzo@comcast.net.

Thank-You to Volunteers

A big thanks to all residents who ventured out April 16 to participate in the annual river clean up. Although the weather was less than favorable, many families still came out to support a very important project. Thanks to these volunteers, many bags of garbage were collected along the river banks and the roads next to the river — including tires, part of a boat, and many other interesting objects!

Califon was one of 21 clean-up sites participating in this annual clean-up day sponsored by The South Branch Watershed Association. If you could not make it this year, we hope you can join us next year. The more volunteers, the more impact we can make.

Curbside Brush Pick-Up

Spring curbside brush pick-up is scheduled for the week of May 23. Residents must comply with the following guidelines:

- Deposit minor amounts of brush in neat, untied piles at the curb — not in the street — before 6 a.m. May 23.
- No branches bigger than 6" in diameter — this service is not meant for the purpose of tree trimming, only brush.
- No stumps, grass, leaves, and/or construction debris/lumber.
- There will be only one pick-up per street.
- Do not drop brush at Califon Island Park.

The borough council thanks you in advance for your cooperation so that this service to residents can continue. Contact Laura Eidsvaag, Municipal Clerk, with any questions at (908) 832-7850 ext. 201.

2011 Dog Census This Summer

New Jersey Statute 4:19-15.15 requires all municipalities to appoint a person to canvass residents every year or at least biannually. Califon's last dog census was in 2009, so one will be conducted this year.

The state requires all dogs to be licensed and have an up-to-date rabies vaccination. This census will be conducted during the months of June, July, and August by a Califon resident who will be going door to door. So, if your dog is not licensed, now is the time to do so. Applications are available at the Municipal Building (39 Academy Street). Contact Karen Mastro at 832-7850, ext. 204, with questions.

Good News from Califon School

In April, the New Jersey Department of Education designated the Califon School district as "high performing" after the Quality Single Accountability Continuum — a lengthy and multi-pronged district performance review. This allows the state BOE to certify Califon school as providing a thorough and efficient system of education.

The 8th grade Distinguished Student Award for the 2010-11 school year is being awarded to Abby Flag-

ler, daughter of Tim and Joan Flagler. The award is based on a range of criterion including GPA, attendance, school and community service, and attitude.

Here is Califon's honor roll for the 3rd marking period. These students received As in every subject! Grade 6: Stevie Lynn Ader, Ben Brandner, Meredith Folsom, Ellie Gensch, Grace Gilbert, Taylor Hubiak, Cassie Oeckinghaus, Sydney Stoter, Beth Turello. Grade 7: Helen Avery, Jonathan Baker. Grade 8: Marisa Bohm, Abby Flagler, Mary Jolly.

CPR and First Aid Trainings

The Califon First Aid Squad is offering CPR and first aid training to the community through the American Heart Association. Two nights of training are offered. The cost is \$20 per night or \$30 for both nights.

On June 14 from 6-9 p.m. — Heartsaver AED Course, Adult/Child CPR and Use of a Defibrillator First Aid for Children and Infant CPR. On June 16 from 6-8 p.m. — Heartsaver First Aid Course.

For more information, contact Clare Cutri-French at ccutrifrench@aol.com or (908) 832-5182.

Are You Prepared in the Event of an Emergency?

In a wide-scale emergency such as a flood or major public health threat, do you have a plan in place? Would you require special help or know a friend or neighbor who might? There is a service called Register Ready that can help.

Register Ready is a confidential statewide online database that enables individuals with special needs and/or agencies that care for them to self identify in order for emergency responders to know who they are, what their needs are, and where they reside. For additional information or to register, call (800) 272-4630 or visit www.registerready.nj.gov. E-mail any questions to health@co.hunterdon.nj.us.

Be Environmentally Conscious

If you fertilize your lawn this spring, keep in mind that rain washes pollutants into storm drains which flows directly into our streams, lakes, rivers, and eventually the ocean. To find out how you can do

Due to space constraints, Calendar was not printed this issue. Go to www.califonboro.net to view upcoming meetings and events.

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

Contributors:

Janine Ascenzo, Rich Bergmann, Charles Daniel, Laura Eidsvaag, Melissa Fogg, Clare Cutri-French, Karen Mastro, Wendy Tiger, Georgia Woodruff

Deadline for July/August submissions is Monday, June 20.

