



# Califon Crier

Volume 19, Issue 1  
January/February 2012

1994 Founded by Cathy McVicker & Jim Ball (1995)

Editor, Katie Vreeland

## **Looking Back, Moving Forward**

*By Mayor Charles Daniel*

The past year will be remembered for its unusual weather patterns – Hurricane Irene and its partner Tropical Storm Lee, as well as the Halloween snowstorm. Each storm created its own destructive forces, such as major flooding along the river, storm water runoff surges on Main Street, and excessively long power outages. Weather experts have stated that New Jersey received more precipitation in 2011 than any other year since records have been kept, and that the “100-year storm” may occur more frequently.

The message is loud and clear — the storms will continue, so plan ahead!

Well, planning has already started and is moving forward. A preliminary engineering plan is under review for the Main Street area. This project is partially funded by the federal government Storm Water Grant. The challenge for the town, however, is to fund the matching part of this grant, approximately \$400,000, since the request for a waiver of the matching portion will not be approved. Califon’s finance committee will be making recommendations on how best to procure the funding.

In terms of emergency preparedness, a new committee, called the emergency management committee, will implement the lessons learned from this past year’s storms for a more successful crisis response. Beth Wolfmayer, our emergency management coordinator, will lead this team, consisting of members from the fire department, rescue squad, police department, and town council.

Other challenges exist. Califon Island Park’s playground must be disassembled by 2014, due to insurance regulations. The existing playground was totally funded and built by volunteers approximately 20 years ago. If we are to follow the example set before us, a volunteer committee is needed to plan, fundraise, and implement a new playground.

During 2011, many Califon residents have volunteered their time and energy to make Califon an extraordinary community. I’m sure this spirit of volunteerism will continue into 2012 and that our challenges will be met with the same enthusiasm and support! We – the mayor, town council, and municipal staff – wish you a safe holiday season and happy and healthy new year!

### **Califon Fire Company Winterfest**

The Annual Winterfest will be held Saturday, Jan. 28 (snow date of Feb. 5). The Califon Fire Company would like to invite the community out from 4-8pm. Come enjoy the bonfire and amazing fireworks! Indulge in the fire company’s delicious hearty food and beverages. Bring your ice skates (weather permitting) to skate on the bigger ice rink. If interested in sponsoring or donating to the fireworks, contact Walt Ader (908) 328-1426.

### **Christmas Tree Pick-up**

Please have your Christmas trees sitting curbside by Friday, Jan. 20, as the Califon Fire Company will be coming around for pick-up. Trees also can be dropped off behind the Califon Municipal Building. Please look for a tree drop-off sign.

### **It’s Time To License Your Dog!**

A reminder to all Califon residents—2012 dog licenses are due by Tuesday, Jan. 31. Licenses may be obtained at Borough Hall, 39 Academy Street,

between the hours of 9am until 3pm, Monday through Thursday.

Applications for dog licenses also are available on the Borough's website, [www.califonboro.net](http://www.califonboro.net), under Forms. Print out and complete the application and mail it along with a proof of rabies vaccination certificate and a veterinarian's certificate or notarized affidavit stating the dog has been altered. Please include a check payable to Califon Dog Account. The fee is \$11 for a dog that has been altered and \$14 for an unaltered dog. Please note there is a delinquent fine of \$5 per dog, per month after Jan. 31.



### **When the Snow Falls This Winter...**

Please be advised that the following rules, according to Borough ordinance, will go into effect in the event of snow:

Owner(s) and/or tenants(s) of any property abutting public roads of the Borough shall remove all snow and ice from sidewalks and gutters of roads within 12 hours of daylight after snow has fallen and accumulated. A summons will be issued to violators. Placing snow and/or ice in the Borough or County roadways, whether paved or unpaved, is strictly prohibited. Whenever snow has covered Borough streets and an emergency exists, no vehicles can park on the streets until they have been plowed sufficiently. At that time, parking on the streets will resume so long as it does not interfere with the normal flow of traffic. Violators of these rules may have their cars towed at the owner's expense. Please also be sure your house number and mailbox are clearly visible from the road to make it easier for responders to find you in the event of an emergency.

### **Tricky Tray at Happy Face Nursery School**

Save the date! Happy Face Nursery School of Califon is hosting a Tricky Tray Friday, March 20. Doors

open at 7pm and first drawing is at 8pm. Happy Face is in the process of accepting donations for prizes and will soon update their Facebook page and website, [www.happyfacenurseryschool.com](http://www.happyfacenurseryschool.com), listing a selection of great baskets and prizes offered. The Tricky Tray will take place in the Parish Hall of the Lower Valley Presbyterian Church, 445 County Road 513 Califon. The event is handicapped accessible and limited to adults only. Hope to see you there! For more information, contact [info@happyfacenurseryschool.com](mailto:info@happyfacenurseryschool.com) or Jessica at (908) 520-0109.

### **Califon School News**

The Science Fair will take place Feb. 15 from 6-7pm at Califon School. The 6th-8th graders will follow the scientific method in an experiment of their choice. The students will present, explain, and answer any questions about their projects at the fair.

On Monday, Dec. 5, 2011, middle school students at Califon School were treated to a presentation by the Alliance for Climate Education. Mr. James Hoagland was the presenter. This free, dynamic, and interactive program discussed the science of climate change and background, consequences of global warming, and possible solutions to solve this serious issue. Students learned about greenhouse effect and how our lifestyle is contributing to global warming. Erratic weather, storms, floods, droughts, and natural disasters are influenced by our changing climate. The children were left with the message that their generation is in the position to help. Each child was asked to think about one thing s/he can do to help impact the environment positively. This educational lesson made a powerful impression on the students and encouraged them to think about how they use energy.

Congratulations to the following students who made Straight As for the first marking period! Evan Andersen, Gwyneth Medea, Caroline Pereira, Paige Peterson, Ben Brandner, Meri Folsom, Ellie Gensch, Grace Gilbert, Taylor Hubiak, Kelly McLaughlin, Cassie Oeckinghaus, Emma Riley, Sydney Stoter, Helen Avery, Jonathan Baker, Evan Kozak, Heather Thomasovich.

### **Writer's Support Group**

A writer's support group is forming at the Califon Book Shop this month. It will be led by Tewksbury author, Loren Spiotta-DiMare.

Students can bring their works in progress (i.e., magazine articles, picture book manuscripts, adult how-to proposals, short stories, and novels) to read and discuss. Those interested in both traditional and self-publishing are welcome. Spiotta-DiMare will continue to share tips on the publication process.

Groups will meet twice a month on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30pm. The drop-in fee is \$15. Since space is limited, prospective group members should call the Califon Book Shop at (908) 832-6686 to register.

### **Changes to Your Emergency Phone List**

Residents, please note that the telephone number for non-emergency calls to the Washington Twp/Califon Police Dept. has been changed from (908) 832-7400 to (908) 876-3232, which will forward you right to dispatch. Please do not use the 832-7400 number any longer as that account has been closed! Continue to call 911 for all emergencies.

### **Household Waste Collection Day**

The next Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day sponsored by Hunterdon County Utilities Authority will be held Saturday, March 10. Drop off your hazardous materials at the Hunterdon County Complex on Route 12 in Flemington. Future dates for drop off/collection will be Saturday, July 14 and Saturday, Nov. 10.

### **Volunteers Desperately Needed**

The Borough is in desperate need of volunteers for the Environmental Commission and Parks Committee, Sustainable Jersey Green Team, and the Recreation Committee. If you are interested in any of these worthwhile committees, contact Laura Eidsvaag at (908) 832-7850, extension 201.

### **Last Call for the Playground Committee**

Regular readers of the *Crier* know that the Friends of Califon Island Park has been putting out the call for new leadership to spearhead an effort to raise the funds necessary to rebuild the playground that otherwise will be torn down by October 2014.

This is our last call! If you are interested in stepping up to help, contact Carolyn Murin at (908) 832-9682 or [cermurin@gmail.com](mailto:cermurin@gmail.com), or Jessica Hickman-Beard at (908) 520-0109 or [jjcb20@comcast.net](mailto:jjcb20@comcast.net) for more

information and to learn what is involved. If no one steps up, the group will disband and the approximate \$13,000 raised to date will be donated to the Borough for the benefit of the Park.

Now is your chance to make a difference for your community. Please call today!

### **North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School News**

In the 2011 National Merit Scholarship Competition, the high school district had two seniors named as semi-finalists and 26 seniors named as commended students. Students were chosen based on their scores from the 2010 Preliminary SAT (PSAT) exam or National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Commended students place among the top 5 percent of the 1.5 million students who entered the competition by taking either exam. Semifinalists have the opportunity to become finalists and receive a \$2,500 scholarship.

The Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce has named two of our students the winner and runner-up for Amazing Kids in Business competition. Cate Ronan from North Hunterdon High School was the winner for her business, "Angels to Africa." Jessica Bollman from Voorhees High School was the runner-up for her eBay business. Congratulations to Cate and Jessica!

Voorhees High School has a dedicated autism program for the first time this school year. The district's autism program affords individuals the opportunity to receive an appropriate education in the least restrictive environment of their home district. This program streamlines students' experiences to access the high school's many varied curriculum options and extracurricular activities. Beyond the most positive student-centered educational benefits, this program results in fiscal savings to the district of approximately \$40,000 per student.

To view the latest district news, visit [www.nhvweb.net/index.php/news-of-the-month](http://www.nhvweb.net/index.php/news-of-the-month). For upcoming school events, visit North Hunterdon: [www.nhvweb.net/nhhs](http://www.nhvweb.net/nhhs), or Voorhees: [www.nhvweb.net/vhs](http://www.nhvweb.net/vhs) school webpages online.

### **Fire Company Pancake Breakfast**

The Fire Company's Pancake Breakfast for January is canceled. The next breakfast will be Sunday, February 5 from 7am until noon. Come out and support your local fire department while enjoying a yummy breakfast!

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

Presorted Std.  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 231  
Chester, NJ 07930

***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:**

Rich Bergmann, Charles Daniel, Laura Eidsvaag, Melissa Fogg, Jessica Hickman-Beard, Karen Mastro, Carolyn Murin, Maren Smagala, Loren Spiotta DiMare

***Deadline for March/April 2012 submissions: Monday, Feb. 13.***