

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

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Califon Crier

Volume 22, Issue 4
July/August 2015

1994 Founded by Cathy McVicker & Jim Ball (1995)

Editor, Hunterdon County
Central Printing & Mail

Small Town, Active Lifestyles

By Kevin Smith

Recently ranked as the "healthiest county in New Jersey" through a study performed by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, Hunterdon County boasts a number of characteristics which make it a top destination for those who seek an active, healthy lifestyle. The town of Califon in particular has plenty to offer for fitness fans, including the well-known Columbia Trail, the school's fitness-promoting activities, Califon Island Park, and more.

After being converted from the Central Railroad of New Jersey to a hiking trail, the Columbia Trail has turned into the perfect spot for biking, running, and other physical activities. Bikers can use the 16.2 mile trail to travel among Califon, High Bridge, and Washington Township. The flat, extended pathways are ideal for long-distance bike rides. Califon is known especially as a popular destination to pause from the trekking and grab a meal at any of the local eateries, which include Bex Kitchen, Rambo's Country Store, The Califon General Store, and Oscar's Gourmet Deli. The terrain of the trail also makes it ideal for exercise on foot, like evening walks with the dog, morning jogs, or even a day hike to admire nature. The Columbia Trail in Califon has also been used as the location of a variety of 5K runs, such as the Lebanon Township Education Foundation's "Run Into Summer 5K," and the Jonathan Slusher Memorial 5K Run. Even during the winter months when there is snow on the ground, the trail may be found to be populated by cross-country skiers.

Califon's school system is another part of the town which promotes healthy living. In 2008, Califon School received a grant for the assembly of the Project Fit America equipment, which now stands in the field behind the school. Students are encouraged to use the equipment in and outside of school; the equipment is also available for the public. Additionally, the school began the Walking School Bus program several years ago, which allows students to walk in a group to school while holding a yellow school bus sign. This encourages students to remain active and simultaneously organizes a fun, spirited community event.

There are plenty of other reasons which make Califon a welcoming location for people interested in physical fitness. Califon Island Park offers its green pastures for public recreation, including three athletic fields and a playground. The Califon Recreation Committee hosts events throughout the year designed to move people off the couch, such as "Just Dance" dance marathons in the park, and Califon Fun Days, a summer day camp which takes place in July. No matter the time of year, one's age, or one's personal interests, Califon has a way to keep everyone in peak physical shape, keeping true to its Hunterdon County reputation, and the happiness of its citizens.

MUNICIPAL OFFICES

Summer Hours: Please take note that the Califon Mayor and Council have decided to close the Califon Municipal Offices on Fridays from June 19, through August 28th in an effort to save on utility expenses. Municipal offices will be open Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. The Mayor and Council thank you for your cooperation.

Mayor and Council have also made the following alteration to their summer Council meeting schedule:

Meeting scheduled for Monday, July 6th – cancelled

Meeting scheduled for Monday, August 3, 2015 – cancelled

Meetings scheduled for Monday, July 20th and Monday, August 17th will be held as scheduled at 8:00 pm at the Califon Municipal Building, 39 Academy St., Califon, N.J. 07830.

Califon Fire Hosts the 95th Annual Carnival

Califon Fire Company will host its 95th annual carnival from June 29 thru July 4. This year's event will once again feature: rides, carnival games, a great assortment of food, fireworks on July 1 and July 3, a 50/50 raffle and much more. Pay one price wristband days are June 29 and July 1.

The carnival is located at the Firemen's Field behind the Municipal Building at 39 Academy Street, Califon.

CALIFON RECREATION COMMITTEE PRESENTS

CALIFON FUN DAYS!

Join us for our Third Annual Califon Fun Days from July 6-10 at Califon Island Park from 9:30-11am. Come for one day or all the days. While we welcome all ages, Califon Fun Days are geared toward ages 2-9. Each day is filled with craft, snack and fun activities for the children. Parents need to stay during the camp duration. Califon Summer Camp is free of charge.

Monday- Music Day

Tuesday: Design your own Califon T-Shirt

Wednesday: Water Color Day, paint the river on a canvas

Thursday: Take a walk and scavenger hunt on the Columbia Trail

Friday: Fishing Day-Bring your own gear and a parent to help!

For more information or to register your children please contact Claudia Gangemi, claudiagangemi@gmail.com or 908-377-3726

1st Annual Califon Classic Car Show

Sponsored by Veterans Memorial (FOCIP) & Califon Fire Company

Saturday August, 15 2015 * 9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM (rain date 8-16)

39 Academy St, Califon, NJ (Califon Municipal Building)

Registration starts at 7:30 AM

Music by DJ Doug* Food and Refreshments Available

People's Choice Awards (1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place) Winners will be announced at 2 PM

Sponsorships are available! * Gold \$100.00 and up * Silver \$50.00 * Bronze \$25.00

Contact: Bruce Morrow- 862-219-2911

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:

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Deadline for September/October submissions: Wednesday, August 19.

STORMWATER PROJECT - COMMUNITY UPDATE

By the time you read this, many of you will have attended the town's Public Information Meeting on June 18th, informing residents, officials and the business community of the Borough's plans for construction of the Railroad Avenue/Main Street Stormwater Improvement Project. To summarize the information from the meeting if you were not able to attend, this project has been in the developing stages for about five years and Mayor and Council are pleased to announce that the project has been awarded to Rock Solid Construction Inc. of Newark, NJ for \$1,168,831.00 and is slated to begin July 29th-30th, 2015.

The project will involve stream corridor improvements which include the replacement of an existing obstructed culvert and improvements to the existing open channel drainage system, construction of stormwater conveyance relief piping along Main Street and construction of mini-diversions, recharge trenches and re-vegetation area at Block 20, Lot 4.01. These improvements are necessary to reduce the incidences of flooding during heavy rains and improve water quality.

The first phase of construction will be the relocation of the existing water main on Main Street by Aqua NJ, owner of the water distribution system. Once this relocation work is completed on Main Street (anticipated 3-4 weeks; beginning July 6th), construction of the storm water improvements by Rock Solid Construction will begin; starting at Mill St. and working up Main St. Duration of this project is estimated to be approximately 9 months; completion date: February, 2016. Borough officials are aware that this construction project will cause some inconvenience to motorists, pedestrians, businesses, etc., but wish to assure the community that every effort will be made to minimize these inconveniences to the best of their ability.

The Construction Engineers for this project are Borough Engineers, Don Scott and Kelly Kimiecik, from the firm of Keller & Kirkpatrick. Contract documents for this project are available for viewing at the Municipal Building, 39 Academy St., Califon, N.J. 07830

Funding for this project has been made possible through:

- 1) STAG grant from the EPA; Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriations Act; State and Tribal Assistance Grant
- 2) New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust (NJEIT) Fund Loan
- 3) Hunterdon County funds
- 4) Borough of Califon funds

** Please be advised that the Borough was recently informed by the Hunterdon County Dept. of Engineering, Bridges and Roads that the J-1 bridge on County Rt. 512 in Califon will be under construction for a deck replacement on or around July 6, 2015. The duration of this project is estimated to be approximately 2 months, during which time the bridge will be closed to all vehicular traffic. The exact start date of this project will be identified at the County pre-construction meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 23, 2015 at 9:30 pm at the County Complex on Rt. 12 in Flemington. Following the meeting on the 23rd, check the County website and the Borough website for further information on the construction schedule, detours, and whether the bridge walkways will be open for pedestrians.

Mayor and Council wish to express a special THANK YOU to the community for your continued support of this very important and long awaited project. Your cooperation and patience is very much appreciated as this project gets underway!

"FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS"

For as long as one can remember, Califon Public School starts off the day with the sound of a bell tolling. Instructional Aide, Barbara Tiger, said the tradition dates back to at least the 1950's and probably earlier. Every day, the school's head custodian, George Fox, asks a student to help ring the bell in the morning, signifying the start of the school day. He starts the year off with the assistance of one of the pre-school children and works his way up to the third grade and includes any students that are new to the school as well.

Next year, much to the dismay of all, Mr. Fox will not be leading the ringing of the bell. After 26 years of dedicated service, Mr. Fox is retiring. In addition, Mrs. Tiger, who has worked in several different capacities at Califon Public School, is also retiring after 35 years of service! Both Mr. Fox and Mrs. Tiger will be sorely missed.

In honor of Mrs. Tiger's service, Mr. Fox thought it would be a nice token of appreciation to let her help ring the bell on Tuesday, June 16th. Mr. Fox is slated to ring the bell on the last day of school on Thursday, June 18th.

On behalf of the community, we all wish Mr. Fox and Mrs. Tiger much happiness in their retirement!

CALIFON STREET FAIR – CALL FOR VENDORS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Planning for the Califon Street Fair is underway, and we are seeking local vendors and Community Organizations who are interested in setting up a table or booth to participate in the Fair. The event will be held from 1-5 PM on Sunday Oct 4. Proof of insurance will be required in order to participate. Food vendors will be additionally required to provide inspection information for the Health Department.

If you are an interested vendor or community organization, please contact Kara Keiser at kdunn929@aol.com or Nina Tramutola at ntramutola@gmail.com. For general information about the Street Fair or to join the planning team, please contact Jason Beard at jasonbeard@yahoo.com.

"CALIFON ALUMNI WALL OF FAME"

The Califon School is pleased to announce the recognition and the induction of two current Voorhees High School students to the "Califon Alumni Wall of Fame". Abby Flagler and Nate Henderson have proven their success by demonstrating hard work, perseverance, and positive character while attending VHS. Their achievements and their picture have been displayed in the hallway of Califon School.

To be nominated a student must:

- Be a Califon alumnus
- Currently attend Voorhees
- Hold a GPA of 3.2 or better
- Be involved in at least three high school activities:
 - o Be a member of three different Varsity sports
 - o Be a member of two extracurricular activities (eg. clubs, honor society, band, etc.) and be a member of a Varsity sport
 - o Be a member of three extracurricular activities (eg. clubs, honor society, band, etc.)
 - o Demonstrate good character
- Include one letter of recommendation written by a Voorhees High School staff member

- If you would like to nominate a student, please use the attached nomination form and return to Mrs. Dyer in the main office, 908-832-2828.
- If the nominated student is chosen, we will reach out to the student's family in order to secure a picture for display. This information will be included on our website as well.

FIRST AID/ RESCUE SQUAD ANNUAL TAG SALE

The Califon First Aid/Rescue Squad is busy planning their annual "Tag Sale" to be held this year on Saturday, September 19th. The town will once again, be offering the Household/ Metal/ White Goods Clean Up Day, following the annual tag sale, during the week of September 21st. More details to follow in the next edition of the Crier!

SUPPORT UNITED WAY OF HUNTERDON COUNTY'S TOOLS 4 SCHOOL AND HELP BOOST A CHILD'S CONFIDENCE

FLEMINGTON, NJ- June 8, 2015. United Way of Hunterdon County (UWHC) is running its annual Tools 4 School supply drive. The program provides 1,300 school supply kits and/or backpacks to ensure all Hunterdon County students go back to school feeling confident and prepared. Supply donations will be accepted through August 7th. Visit www.uwhunterdon.org for drop-off locations (available by mid-July) and a list of needed supplies.

We are asking individuals, companies, and organizations to participate in the drive by either donating school supplies or providing a monetary donation to support the program. Any amount of supplies or dollars donated will improve the life of a Hunterdon County student in need. Donations will be turned into basic school supply kits suitable for each student's grade level. Supplies ranging from erasers and crayons to backpacks and scientific calculators are all in high demand. An easy way to give is by visiting <https://yougivegoods.com/tools4school2015>.

Additionally, there will be Stuff the Bus drop-off days at the following locations:

July 25 – Branchburg/Whitehouse Station Walmart plaza
Aug. 1 – Flemington Walmart
Aug. 8 – Clinton Walmart
Aug. 9 – Shoprite of Clinton

Please consider partnering with UWHC for this program. Community participation is what allows Tools 4 School to exist. We are counting on you! If you have further questions, please call Amy Andersen, Volunteer Engagement Manager, at (908) 782-3414 x24.

CALIFON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

"Did you know that the town of Califon once had its own baseball team and village band? Come find out more, view photos, and see treasures from our past at the Califon Historical Train Station. The Station is open the first and third Sunday of each month from 2:00 - 4:00 pm."

JONATHAN SLUSHER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2015 WINNERS

2015 Scholarship winners are announced today by the Jonathan Slusher Memorial Scholarship Foundation. All awards are \$1,000 each and are given to high school seniors who express an interest in Journalism/Communications. Winners are: Charles Garrett, IV, from Voorhees High School; Jonathan Spelletti, Hunterdon Central; Jacqueline Petruccio, West Morris Central;

Nicklaus Green from Mendham and from Mt. Olive, Samantha Grillo and Sabrina Negron.

Fees from the annual Jon Slusher 5K Run/Walk support the awards and the 2015 Jon Slusher Run/Walk will be included in Califon's Festival Day of October 4. Beginning at 1PM, Oct 4, runners will gather at the bridge, proceed down River Road, loop left at Hoffman's Crossing and proceed down the Columbia Trail to the historic Califon Train Station. For family members who do not run or walk, entertainment is available at various events taking place at the street festival.

The Race/Walk is a USATF Grand Prix event. This means that athletes belonging to USA Track and Field, New Jersey, receive a reduced application fee and earn 500 points toward cash prizes given by USATF. Some changes in registration this year: age categories include: 9--14; 15--19; 20--29; 30--39; 40--49; 50--59; 60--69; 70--79; 80+ Entry fee is \$25 until Oct 1, after Oct 1,--\$30. Kids 10 and under--\$5 and families of 4--\$40.

Trophies will be given for the winning overall runner, (male or female), and top athletes in the male, female and walker categories. First, second and third place medals are given in each category and ribbons given to all kids participating in the fun run.

The Jonathan Slusher Scholarship Foundation is a 501-c-3 charity and all donations are tax deductible.

VOORHEES JR. VIKINGS FOOTBALL PROGRAM CURRENTLY HOLDING OPEN REGISTRATION FOR THE 2015 SEASON

When: Now

Where: Register online@ www.jrvikes.com

Who: All entering K- 8th grade in the Voorhees High School sending districts.

Questions: Call Bob Edmund at 908-591-4714 / rsedmund@aol.com

2015 DOG CENSUS

Please be advised that this summer there will be someone representing the Califon Board of Health canvassing Califon completing a dog Census. This will probably take place mid July to mid August.

Why are we doing a dog census?

New Jersey Statute 4:19-15.15 requires all municipalities to appoint a person to canvass residents either every year or **at least** bi-annually. Our last dog census was in 2013 so we will be conducting one this year. The state requires that all dogs must be licensed and have a current rabies vaccination. Our census will be conducted during the months of June, July and part of August. This will be conducted by a resident of Califon Borough and they will be going door to door.

So, if you have not had a chance to get your dog licensed, now is the time to come down to the Municipal Building and complete an application!

If you have any questions, please contact Karen Mastro at 832-7850 ext. 204.