

# Califon Crier

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1994 Founded by Cathy McVicker & Jim Ball (1995)

Editor, Hunterdon County Central Printing & Mail

#### Thoughts of a New Councilperson

Written by Leo Janas

It is hard to believe in the heat of August that it has been seven months since I was sworn in as the newest councilperson during the cold first days of early January. While I had previously served on the Environmental Commission and the Board of Health, being on borough council has provided a whole new set of experiences and I have learned a lot.

Although I had briefly held elected office in the past and worked in government before, I did not really understand how much effort and expertise properly running a local government requires. The public meetings have specific laws, regulations and protocols that must be followed to ensure that deliberations and votes are carried out properly. This is particularly true for the first several meetings of the year when the budget and tax decisions are made. But before these meetings are held and decisions can be made, a whole host of professionals work to ensure that the governing body has the information that it needs to act. This is also true for the Environmental Commission and the Planning/Zoning Board, of which I am a member as the council liaison.

Another thing that I learned, and have been very grateful for, is that our local government does not experience the bitter, partisan politics that appears to pervade so much of government from the federal to the state and local level. Everyone was welcoming in the beginning and continues to be helpful and patient with the questions that a new person like me has. Even more important, my colleagues consistently approach issues in a spirit of cooperation, trying to do what seems best for the community without constantly imposing their own interests or ideologies. I know that we will never have to vote on huge issues like defense spending or national immigration policy, but I think other politicians could take a lesson from our mayor, administrator and all our other elected and appointed officials when it comes to trying to get things done without partisan bickering.

Local government works under the laws and regulations set by the state and federal government. As we look to important elections both this year and next, I would ask that voters evaluate candidates in part by what regulations and programs they propose regarding how to help local governments do their jobs better. Not just funding, but good laws and policies can help boroughs, townships and cities to provide important services like adequate local roads, good policing and solid land use planning. I do not often hear state and federal officials discuss these matters, but they can be vitally important to local governments trying to provide better services to their communities.

Of course, good government begins with good people, and I would encourage anyone who is able to consider volunteering for our local boards or other activities. Califon already has a strong sense of civic involvement and a whole host of community events run by dedicated volunteers, but there are still usually unfilled positions that could benefit from the time and talents of more citizens. I truly believe that government works best when it is seen less as "them" and more seen as "us," and there is no better way to do that than to get more people involved. I am certainly glad that I did.

### THANK YOU FROM THE CALIFON FIRST AID SQUAD

The Califon Rescue Squad would like to thank everyone who donated to the Coin Toss Fundraiser that was held on Main Street on Saturday August 13th. Thanks to the generosity of passing patrons, the Squad was able to raise funds that will be used to purchase supplies and equipment necessary for our mission of providing quality emergency care and transport.

Thank you again for your support!

#### HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Congratulations to Benjamin Beard, winner of the Historical Society's 8th grade Historical Essay Contest! His winning essay was about The Swamp House located on Main Street. Our postal and voting displays continue through October. The station will be open the 1st and 3rd Sundays in September and October from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. In addition, we will be hosting a fall guided walking tour to correspond with the Califon Street Fair on Sunday, Oct. 9th. Tours begin at 12:00 and

2:00pm at the Train Station. New items for purchase are mini train sets in a metal tin and "Califon" wooden train whistles. Our members meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at the train station at 8:00 pm. New members are always welcome!

#### ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD/METAL GOODS COLLECTION

Curbside collection of household/metal/white goods will take place on Friday, September 30th. Please have all items placed at the curb for pick up by 6:00 am. The following items will not be picked up if left at the curb: construction debris, hazardous waste, dirt/rock/concrete, tree limbs, leaves, vegetation, or brush. Please note: Freon does not need to be removed from refrigerators, freezers or air conditioners.

PLEASE PLACE A TARP OVER ALL SOFT GOODS (MATTRESSES, SOFAS AND RUGS)

(Watch for the next edition of the Califon Crier for information regarding leaf pickup in November)

#### **ELECTION NEWS**

Tuesday, October 18th is the last day to register to vote in the November General Election.

Voter registration forms are available at Borough Hall, 39 Academy St. and at the Hunterdon County Board of Elections, which will be open until 9:00 pm on the 18th. Registration forms are also available online at www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/countyclerk.htm.

Tuesday, November 1st is the last day to apply BY MAIL FOR A Mail-in Ballot for the General Election.

The Hunterdon County Clerk's Office at 71 Main St. in Flemington is open on the following dates at the following times to apply in person by Mail-In-Ballot for the General Election:

Thursday, November 3rd – 9:00 am to 7 pm Saturday, November 5tht – 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Monday, November 7th– 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Deadline

#### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH - ELECTION DAY

Polls will open at 6:00 am and close at 8:00 pm at the Califon Municipal Building, 39 Academy St., Califon, N.J. 07830.

To obtain a mail-in ballot or a change of party declaration form, or with any questions concerning elections, call (908) 832-7850 ext. 201 or 201 or e-mail leidsvaag@califonboro.net or kmastro@califonboro.net.

#### <u>CALIFON BOOK SHOP REOPENS</u> <u>FOR HARRY POTTER!</u>

Califon Book Shop opened Saturday, July 30 for a Harry Potter and the Cursed Child book release party. Thanks to Karen Cubberly the store was magically transformed and the guests were treated to a lively evening of themed games and refreshments. Our thanks to one and all who participated!

We are thrilled to see our old friends and customers and also the new residents of Califon as well as the visitors to town who stop in as they are strolling by during our newly expanded hours; Tuesday through Friday 10 AM to 6 PM and Saturdays 10 AM to 4 PM. Please join us for our official grand opening on Saturday October 1, 2016, the twenty-sixth anniversary of the stores first opening by Lori Buzby!

On Saturday, September 17 local children's author Felicia Sanzari Chernesky returns to 72 Main Street from 11 AM to 1 PM for her second book signing. She will be showcasing her book From Apple Trees to Cider Please! in addition to her other picture books. During this special fall event there will be book related activities and ideas for apple crafts. Everyone will receive a book mark, stickers and an apple eraser. Please come!

New Jersey resident Ann Rinaldi will be signing books from her extensive collection of historical fiction for young adults on Sunday, October 9 from 1 PM to 3 PM. Ms. Rinaldi is known for bringing history to life in tales such as the Revolutionary War story, Taking Liberty, and The Fifth of March, a story of the Boston Massacre. As noted on the back cover of these engrossing novels, "Warning: This is a historical novel. Read at your own risk. The writer feels it necessary to alert you to the fact that you might enjoy it." Enjoy, indeed!

David B. Watts will be speaking about his memoir Accidental P.I. on Saturday, October 15 from 1 PM to 3 PM. This story includes his journey from being a Plainfield, New Jersey patrolman, then a detective, and eventually having his own detective agency. The book offers an inside look into how cases are investigated and how facts are collected for trial. Mr. Watts is a licensed private investigator specializing in fraud and business. Don't miss the opportunity to learn about this side of police work.

Join us for our final October event which will showcase several authors and will take place on Saturday, October 29, from 1 PM to 4 PM. Books for horse and dog lovers will include those written by Lisa Holderby, Loren Spiotta-DiMare and 16 year old Lucy Friedland. The titles include picture books, middle grade novels and a coffee table book. An animal artist will also be showing and selling her work.

### JONATHAN SLUSHER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

The following students received 2016 Scholarships from the Jonathan Slusher Memorial Scholarship Foundation:

Kelly Monahan, Hunterdon Central; Taylor Brinker, N. Hunterdon, Kevin Chimiel, Mt. Olive, Christine Retnschler, Mendham.

There were no applicants from either Voorhees or Morris Central, the Foundation voted to award the Voorhees Scholarship to Charles Garrett IV, Voorhees winner from 2015 and the Morris Central Scholarship to Kelsey Cronin, a 2014 graduate of West Morrs Central. Both Mr. Garrett and Ms. Cronin are actively involved in Journalism Studies at their respective universities.

To date, the Foundation has awarded \$27,000 in scholarships to area seniors. Fees realized from the annual Jon Slusher 5k Run/Walk and donations fund the Scholarship Project. Contributions in any amount are gratefully accepted. To make a donation, address your check to the Jonathan Slusher Memorial Scholarship Foundation and mail to: 79 Guinea Hollow Rd, Lebanon, NJ 08833. We are a 501-c-3 charitable organization and are tax-exempt.

The Race/Walk is an event within the Califon Street Fair. Family members who do not participate in the Run/ Walk 5K will find myriads of entertainment and food available at the festival.

The race is Sunday October 9th. Registration will be at the Califon Train Station. Parking will be available at the fire department lot and the municipal lot. The race starts at 1PM at the bridge in Califon and will follow River Road to Hoffman's Crossing where the course loops left entering the Columbia Trail. The Finish is at the Train Station.

To register before October 9th on line: https://runsignup.com/Race/NJ/Califon/JonSlusher5K Or call Shirley Slusher at: 908-832-7383.

Trophies are given for the winning overall runner (male or female) and 1st place winners in the male, female and walker categories. First, second and third place medals are given in each age category and ribbons to all participating kids in the Fun Run.

#### **BEST WISHES AND WELCOME!**

The staff at the Califon Municipal Offices, the Planning/Zoning Board members and the members of Califon's Historical Preservation Committee would like to thank Barbara Margolese for the excellent work she has done over the past year as a secretary to these committees. Barbara's extensive experience and knowledge in these fields were extremely beneficial to our Borough and its residents. We all wish Barbara well on her new endeavors.

We also like to welcome Terri Lyons, who will be taking over the Planning/Zoning and Historical Preservation Committee secretary position. Like Barbara, Terri will be part of a shared service we have with Washington Township. Terri will work for Califon part time and also brings with her much experience in this field. We look forward to working with Terri!

#### CALIFON'S 4TH ANNUAL STREET FAIR OCT. 9TH

On Sunday October 9, from 1-5 PM the Borough of Califon will host its 4th Annual Street Fair. Mark the date on your calendars now!

All are welcome to attend this free event! Sections of Main street will be closed to automobile traffic and the historic downtown area will be transformed into a communal scene of fall fun, food, and entertainment.

The Califon Street Fair has been growing in leaps and bounds each year. This year the Califon Fire Department will have a beer garden, and there are even more vendors and food options available. Musical highlights include the live bands the Woodford Brothers Band and Pepperville. Free games and entertainment will be offered by the Califon Recreation Committee, including pumpkin painting, face painting a bounce house and more.

"This year," says Califon Mayor Charlie Danial, "we want to show off Califon's unique and exciting combination of old and new. From the centrally located Victorian Plaza on 513 to the historic downtown, beautiful Rockwell style exteriors give way to trendy and unique locally run shops." Local businesses include consignment stores like Califon Consignment Store and Bits and Boots, where you can discover great finds at affordable prices, Califon Healthy Foods and Supplements and Pets, Pets, Pets, where you can discover surprisingly delicious and healthy treats for man and beast – respectively. The Califon Book Shop, with activities for children and author readings, is one of the best independent book stores around.

Hungry? How about a classic burger with the best choice meats from Rambos, the mouthwatering outdoor grilled Pulled Fork sandwiches and sides, or try gourmet salads and wraps with a cappuccino or a mouth-watering dessert at Bex's. "In Califon, the businesses and their owners are local, but offer the best of everything everywhere."

"To help us grow and spread the word about Califon and the Fair, we have several sponsors – Staiano's Furniture, Peapack Gladestone Bank, Record Publications, and Groendyke Insurance," says fair committee head Jason Beard.

In addition to the Street fair festivities, the Jon Slusher Memorial Bridge to Bridge 5K (www.jonslusher.org) will also be held on the same day, kicking off at 1 PM.

The Street Fair event is sponsored by The Borough of Califon. Street parking is available around town, except in the closed areas. Information and updates on the event and applications for vendors are at www.facebook.com/groups/CalifonStreetFair/ and through Karen Mastro at kmastro@califonboro.net or 908-832-7850; 204.

Be sure to join the celebration Sunday, Oct. 9 from 1-5 pm.

For more information or applications for vendors please contact Karen Mastro at kmastro@califonboro.net or 908-832-7850; 204

#### 31ST ANNUAL TOWN WIDE TAG SALE

Saturday September 24th – 9 am to 4 pm Rain date- Sunday Sept. 25th.

\$30.00 donation to Califon First Aid Squad gets you a Tag Sale Sign for your lawn and your location on the map- and many friends, neighbors and garage sale shoppers coming to your sale!

You can also choose to set up your wares at the Califon Train Station/Flea Market Area- first come first serve for spots.

Look for sign up forms in the mail, at the town hall or on the web at Califonems.org

Return completed forms by Tuesday September 20th to CFAS-POB 253, Califon, NJ 07830.

Maps will be available on the day of the sale- at the Flea Market Area. Any questions or anyone who is interested in joining the squad please call Jay Klein, President @ 908-500-0105. Cadets can join at 14yrs old and you can take the EMT class at 16. Ambulance drivers must be 21

We provide paid training, all uniforms and a rewarding sense of community and helping others in times of need.

The squad gets together at our building every Thursday of the month at 7pm. Second Thursdays are Drill Nights and Third Thursdays are meeting Nights. First and Fourth Thursdays are a mix of social and drill time.

#### RECREATION HAPPENINGS

The Califon Recreation Committee is pleased to announce our community events calendar for 2016. We have some great events planned. Mark your calendars – more information regarding each event will be publicized closer to the event dates.

Questions or interest in volunteering to help with these events may be directed to Recreation Committee Chair Jason Beard at JasonTBeard@yahoo.com.

Date	Time	Event	Location	Description
Fri, Sept 23	8 PM (TBC)	Movie Night Under the Stars	Califon Island Park	Join your neighbors and bring your lawn chair for an outdoor movie screening in our beautiful park by the river.
Sun, Oct 9	1 – 5 PM	Autumn Street Fair	Main Street	In what is fast becoming a favorite Califon event, we close Main Street to enjoy an afternoon of great live music, local vendors, community groups, food, entertainment, and fun. The Fair coincides with the Jon Slusher Memorial 5k for a great day of community. The 2016 event will include the addition of a beer garden provided by the Califon Fire Company!
Sat, Dec 3	3-5 PM	Christmas in Califon	Train Station and Main Street	Our annual kickoff to the Christmas holiday features a down- town tree lighting, visit with Santa, caroling on Main Street, and plenty of good cheer

#### 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GIVING FAIR

The Lower Valley Presbyterian Church is celebrating 14 years of giving! The Giving Fair (previously know as Alternative Gift Fair) will be held on Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. in the church's Parish Hall, 445 Country Road 513, Califon. Get an early start on your holiday shopping and find unique gifts that make a real difference in the lives of people in need. At the Giving Fair you make donations to non-profit organizations in honor of someone. With each donation, you receive a free custom gift card to present to the person you are honoring. Honor gifts are wonderful for teachers, relatives, business associates or people who "have everything." These "alternative" gifts are tax deductible, too. Twenty different local, national and international aid organizations are featured, with at least one representative from each who can tell you amazing stories about how donations are used. Displays will include interactive exhibits. RAFFLE BASKETS to benefit Open Cupboard Food Pantry. Bring a canned good and get a free raffle ticket! If you prefer to give tangible gifts, there will be beautiful beaded jewelry from Bead for Life, aiding the Ugandan women who make the items. Food available. If you are unable to attend, visit www.lowervalley.org for an order form or contact the church at 908-832-2933.

### $\frac{\text{YES, THERE'S BEEN RAIN ... BUT NOT ENOUGH TO END}}{\text{DROUGHT}}$

Drought, what drought?

That's what you may be wondering if you've heard the news that the northern half of New Jersey – including all of the North and South Branch Raritan River Watershed in Hunterdon, Somerset and Morris counties – is currently under drought watch.

On July 25, as a result of prolonged dry weather, the state Department of Environmental Protection declared a water supply drought watch for northern New Jersey and asked residents to voluntarily restrict water use.

A few days later, the state got a weekend of soaking rain. Subsequent hot and humid weather brought regular thunderstorms.

With all that rain coming down, can there still be a drought?

The simple answer is that droughts don't happen overnight, and they don't end overnight. According to National Weather Service, most of northern New Jersey is several inches below average rainfall for the past year. That results in less "recharge" of the underground aquifers that supply most of the drinking water to residents of the 470-square-mile watershed.

About 80 percent of the North and South Branch Raritan watershed region – about 320,000 people - obtain their drinking water from the ground through wells.

The water level in aquifers supplying these wells fluctuates with droughts, seasonal variations in rainfall, and the amount of water pumped from wells. If water is pumped out of wells faster than aquifers are recharged, groundwater levels can drop.

To make matters worse, much of the rain hitting houses and paved areas quickly leaves the surface as runoff and enters storm sewers instead of recharging the groundwater. This results in a large volume of water carrying pollutants entering our streams and waterways and results in flooding, erosion, and poor water quality.

So even though enough rain has fallen in the past few weeks to keep lawns green and farm fields productive, it hasn't been sufficient to recharge aquifers. It could take months of average or above-average rainfall for groundwater levels to return to normal.

To avoid placing stress on our aquifers, residents should continue to conserve water. Some tips:

Plant a rain garden and install other forms of green infrastructure to control stormwater runoff and help recharge the groundwater.

Use a rain barrel to capture rainfall from the roof that can be used to water the garden.

Plant large canopy trees and protect existing forests.

Don't over-water lawns and landscaping. Two times a week for 30 minutes usually is sufficient. Use a hose with a hand-held nozzle to water flowers and shrubs.

Avoid watering lawns and plants during the heat of the day, since much of this water will evaporate without helping the lawn. Early morning or evening watering is best.

Use a broom to sweep the sidewalk, rather than a hose.

To save water at home, fix leaky faucets and pipes.

Turn off the faucet while brushing teeth and shaving.

Run washing machines and dishwashers only when full.

Cindy Ehrenclou, Executive Director Raritan Headwaters Association

## ADDITIONAL COLLECTION EVENT FOR PAINT, USED MOTOR OIL, PROPANE TANKS & SMOKE DETECTORS

When- Saturday September 10th Where- Hunterdon County Complex Hours- 9:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.

- They will accept- up to 10 gallons of:
- Latex Paint Oil Paint- Varnish/Stains

Quantities in excess will be charged \$1.59 per pound. For more details please contact Hunterdon County Division of Public Health Services at (908)788-1110.

#### **CALIFON SHRED DATE OFFERED TO RESIDENTS!**

The Califon Environmental Commission will be hosting a FREE SHRED DAY for Califon Borough Residents on SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22ND from 9:00 am to 11:00 am at the Califon Municipal Building. So start gathering those old boxes of documents and bring them down to be securely destroyed.

This will be a First Come, First Serve basis with a starting limit of two boxes per household. (1 cubic ft each). Depending on community response, additional boxes may be shredded.

All Shredded paper will be recycled.

#### COMPUTER AND ELECTRONICS COLLECTION DAY

When - Saturday October 8th Where- Hunterdon County Route 12 (library) Complex. 314 State Route 12 East, Flemington

Hours- 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Rain or Shine) They will accept up to 10 Computers, monitors & TV's per Vehicle

No Air Conditioners, Dehumidifiers, Refrigerators, Propane Tanks, Hazardous Waste will be accepted.

#### **CALIFON FUN DAYS ANOTHER BIG SUCCESS!**

"Once again Califon Fun Days was lots of FUN!!!! Each day we had between 30-36 children from Califon Borough and surrounding towns. We had a young and energetic group of helpers who played with the children, helped with crafts, helped set up and clean up each day. A big thank you to: Ryan Firko, Kate Firko, Grace Andersen, Sarah Andersen, Rebecca Riccio, Rose Weber and Nora Cubberly. Also to many moms who pitched in and helped out. Nicole Dahl for bringing water everyday to all the children, Lauren Cerniglia for making the scavenger hunt and Natalie Gast for bringing cool hula-hoops!

Thank you to Grace Gilbert who came and sang many songs to the children. She was a great singer and did an awesome job entertaining all. Sue Clausen, the author of "Jerome the Gnome" book came out and read her book and explained the history behind the Gnome Trail. Another huge thank you to Shannon's Fly & Tackle Shop for bringing baits and fishing polls so the children could fish, also for sending over Chris to help out during our Friday Fishing Day. Chris taught children how to fish safely. Also thanks to Califon Lumber for donating paint so children could paint their own bird houses and Matt & Elisa Rispolli from "Hike It Baby" for donating heathy snacks.

#### And the Winner IS.....



We had some great photos submitted by Claudia Gangemi from the successful Califon Fun Days!

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

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Once again this year, the Mayor and Council will be enacting a strict Halloween curfew. Please view the website: www.califonboro.net; and watch for notices throughout town, as to the exact dates and duration of the curfew prior to Halloween. Mayor and Council respectfully request that all Califon residents honor this curfew and to please have their children, under the age of 18, home and off the streets by 9:00 p.m. on Mischief Night, October 30th. The town curfew and local ordinances will be strictly enforced by the Police Dept.; additional police officers will be on duty patrolling the Borough throughout the night. Residents are asked, once again, to do a "neighborhood watch" and to report any unusual and suspicious activity to the police by calling (908) 876-3232 PRESS -0- for Dispatch. Mayor and Council thank you all for your cooperation in keeping the community safe during the Halloween festivities.

Please note: The Califon Fire Co. will host its annual Halloween Parade on Monday, October 31st at 7:00 pm.

#### **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 <a href="mailto:kmastro@califonboro.net">kmastro@califonboro.net</a> or <a href="mailto:leidsvaag@califonboro.net">leidsvaag@califonboro.net</a>; phone (908) 832-7850; or fax (908) 832-6085.

#### **Contributors:**

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Deadline for November/December submissions: Friday, October 14.