



Califon Crier

Quarterly Newsletter

1994 Founded by Cathy McVicker & Jim Ball (1995)

Editor, Hunterdon County
Central Printing & Mail

CHANGE IS IN THE AIR

By Councilwoman Cathy Smith

I've been feeling something lately. Are you feeling it too? Steps seem springier, smiles seem bigger and spirits a bit brighter. People are getting vaccinated. Covid numbers are on the way down and I am feeling hopeful - hopeful that a return to "normal" may be coming soon!

I remember vividly March 13, 2020. It was a Friday, Friday the 13th. That's when schools in New Jersey closed, businesses were asked to shut down. New Jersey was one of the earliest and hardest hit victims of the Covid pandemic. I like to think that because we were on the front lines, we learned our lessons well. We have masked up, followed the health guidelines, and tried to protect one another as best we could.

Here in Califon, there were changes, of course, but our small community has felt safe to me. Friends and neighbors passing each other on the sidewalk make sure to step aside to allow some safe distance for one another. We are fortunate to have yards, patios, decks and nearby open spaces that we can retreat to. Our small school was able to reopen in September on a full time basis. I don't know about you, but when I saw our children and their parents walking to school on that first day, our crossing guards standing in place once again, I literally almost burst into tears. And that feeling hasn't subsided. If I happen to be in town when school has dismissed and I get to see the children walking down main street, laughing together, happy to be heading home after a full day of learning, I feel lucky to live here knowing that many communities are not as fortunate as ours.

But, there is one defining moment that I am waiting for; one thing that will let me know that we have truly arrived on the other side. For a full year now at council meetings, Councilman Haversang, liaison to the Recreation Committee, has had to tell us what is not going to happen. No Easter egg hunt, no fishing derby, no Memorial Day parade, etc. etc. We commiserate, offer up ideas, but we can't help. However, at some point this year, Ed Haversang is going to drop the bombshell that an event is not cancelled – instead IT IS HAPPENING! I don't know what event it will be but when it happens, it's going to be epic. And at that event, with everyone in our small town gathered together, we will smile as we look around and realize how far we have come and how important the little things in life are and how grateful we are for all of it.

2021 DOG LICENSES ARE NOW OVER DUE!

Please get your dog license applications in now to avoid further late fees. An application must be completed for all new dogs along with a copy of the rabies certificate and spay/neuter certificate if applicable. If your dog was licensed last year, you do not need to fill out another application as their information is already on the licensing program. If your dog's rabies vaccination expired since your last licensing, please submit a copy of the new rabies certificate. Licenses are \$15.00 for spayed/neutered \$20.00 for non -spayed/neutered. ** A \$5.00 per month late fee PER DOG will be assessed. The Dog Registrar's office is open Monday – Wednesday 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. Just drop the check off at the Municipal Offices (we have a drop box by the back door) or mail to Califon Municipal Offices, P.O. Box 368, Califon, NJ 07830.

Any questions please contact Karen @ 908-832-7850 ext. 204 or kmastro@califonboro

CALIFON SCHOOL NEWS

Califon School was among the few Districts that were able to return to full time instruction during the continued pandemic. We are grateful to our amazing students, staff and community for their support and flexibility. We encountered many changes and some difficulties. However, our Cougars rose to meet these challenges proving we are Califon Strong!

In March, we held our annual Kindergarten Roundup to welcome our 2021-2022 class of Kindergarten students. Our newly registered Kindergarten class enjoyed the virtual Round Up Mrs. Mitzak prepared. We enjoyed a successful Read Across America Week where we focused on reading and students and staff participated in our five themed days.

Arbor Day was celebrated in the courtyard with tree and flower planting by our 8th grade students and teachers.

We welcomed new friends to Califon School this year and hope the bonds of friendships formed will continue on. As we wind down the 2020-2021 school year, we would like to congratulate our eighth-grade graduates on their accomplishments. We wish you well as you move on to High School. Looking back to the unusual year we have all experienced, we hope you will remember the fun times you have enjoyed here at Califon School.

Califon ...still going strong!

WHITTEMORE - COMMUNITY, CULTURE & CONSERVATION IS CELEBRATING OUR 5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY!

For the last 5 years, we have been providing our Community with programs in the Arts, Nature & Wellness and The Gardens - we say we have something for everybody. Our season has kicked off, we have much to offer, sign-up for our newsletter at www.WhittemoreCCC.org to be kept abreast of all programs and events available for you to enjoy.

The ARTS

Friends of Whittemore is thrilled to announce our continued partnership with **THAT - The Hunterdon Art Tour, May 1st & 2nd** at WhittemoreCCC. Three exhibitions will be showing works by Photographer Sandy Ross, Group Exhibition by TAPA (Tri-County Plein-Air Painters) and Sculptor David Horowitz's latest works.

Saturday, May 1st, Friends of Whittemore will unveil their latest addition to the Sculpture Garden by artist Jeff Mase - "Skyhook", bringing a new added dimension to the Gardens.

WELLNESS & NATURE

Wellness & Nature Classes kick-off outdoors - we host weekly Pilates, Yoga, Meditation, TaiChi and QiGong classes - REGISTRATION REQUIRED, Monthly Passes are Available.

Starting in June - every Saturday morning at 9:30am David Tompkins, Whittemore's Naturalist, will host a **Children Walk exploring Nature** - each week's theme will be chosen based on the conditions of that day; learn everything from tracking animals, making shelter to learning about the environment. These walks are scheduled for 50 min but always go over! We welcome children 8-14 years of age, parents too!

GARDEN CONCERT Series

April 10th Spring Concert - **Metropolitan Sax Quartet**, 2pm on Saturday

April 18th Spring Concert - **Joe Grillo, sounds of New Orleans**, 2pm on Saturday

April 24th Spring Concert - **Mama D & the Vexations**, 2pm on Saturday

May 6th Spring Concert - **Kevin & Kristen on Flute & Clarinet**, 6pm on Thursday

May 20th Spring Concert - **Dan & Shane Acoustic Duo**, 6pm on Thursday

June 3rd Summer Concert - Dario Chiazzolino - Jazz

June 17th Summer Concert - **Jason O'Brien - Percussion**, 6pm on Thursday

THE GARDENS

We are a Volunteer based organization always in need of Volunteers & students who need community service hours - we meet in the Gardens of Whittemore every Saturday from 8-12noon. Come for as long as you can - bring your gardening gloves and water bottle and be part of Whittemore's beautification.

POP-UP FORAGED DINNER June 3rd - Fundraiser, Chef'd by Dan Lipow of The Foraged Feast and Ben Walmer of Highlands Dinner Club - exclusive 5-course dinner, private concert by Europe's Artist of the Year, Jazz great - **Dario Chiazolino**, private tour of WhittemoreCCC latest art works and sculptures, held in our Cottage Gardens, LIMITED Seating only 20 tickets! On Sale April 15th.

Registration Required for all events and programs. Visit our website www.WhittemoreCCC.org for details and registration, check out our updated website and our new online shop.

We look forward to seeing you at WhittemoreCCC.

Fondly,
Friends of Whittemore

CALIFON SCOUTING IS ACTIVE AND GOING STRONG!

Do your kids enjoy camping and boating? Learning new skills? Helping your community? Having fun and making new friends?

All of this and more is available for boys and girls ages 11-17 in the Scouts BSA, a co-ed program (formerly known as Boy Scouts) dedicated to helping young people grow in their leadership, citizenship, and personal fitness in a safe and supportive environment.

Troop 192 in Califon, chartered at the Lower Valley Presbyterian Church, is the only co-ed Scouts BSA program in the Voorhees sending district, with a current roster of 16 scouts – a great size for youth involvement and program agility.

Despite COVID restrictions, the Califon scouts have kept busy this Spring! In the week leading up to Valentine's Day on Feb 14, Troop 192 conducted a local food drive by dropping empty shopping bags at homes around town and returning to pick them up a week later. In the final tally, Troop 192 collected over 900 pounds of food from the generous residents of Califon and delivered these to the Open Cupboard Food Pantry in Clinton, NJ.

On Mar 14, Troop 192 conducted a "Scouting for Litter" event, which involved Scouts canvassing through town with 5-gallon buckets to pick up litter from our streets and yards. We collected over 12 full buckets of litter, leaving Califon a little cleaner than we found it. A special thank you to Califon Lumber for the donation of safety gloves for the Scouts.

Beyond these events, we have a full program of exciting activities planned for the rest of Spring 2021, including camping trips, backpacking, a canoe trip to the Mullica river, a Pinewood Derby, and more community service projects. We strive to "do a good turn daily" – the Scout slogan.

We'd love to have your interested boy or girl join us at a meeting to check it out, and you can also reach out to one of the following leaders for more information:

- Harry Firko – Troop 192 Scoutmaster – 908-447-8020
- Jessica Firko – Troop 192g Scoutmaster – 908-447-7020
- Jason Beard – Troop 192 Committee Chair – 201-725-7362

CALIFON'S ELECTRONIC RECYCLING DAY A BIG SUCCESS!

The Califon Environmental Commission sponsored Califon's first electronic recycling on Saturday March 13th that proved to be a huge success. We had no idea how much to expect and were pleasantly surprised to have collected 10 pallets full of old tv's, computers, printers and other miscellaneous electronics. With the County's recycling events held so far away in Flemington, we wanted to give Califon residents and our neighbors an opportunity to participate in this great event, right here in Califon. New Tech Recycling, LLC offered their services free of charge and was great to work with from the planning stages to when they pulled out. We are thinking of offering a Shred day in the fall along with a hazardous waste collection. Before we set a date, please let us know if this is something you would participate in. email Karen Mastro at kmastro@califonboro.net or leave a message at 908-832-7850 ext. 204.

ST. JOHN NEUMANN CHURCH ANNUAL AUCTION AND DINNER DANCE

June 5th (rain date June 12th)

The Catholic Community of St. John Neumann will host its 34th Annual Auction and Dinner Dance on Saturday, June 5th at the Church located at 398 County Road 513, Califon mailing.

The theme is "The Roaring 20's" and the festivities will have a new twist this year. The silent auction will be presented inside the church but the gathering, dinner and dance will be held outside on the grounds of manicured landscape under party tents. The view outside shows the rolling landscape of the property, backdropped by the serene custom-made Meditation Labyrinth and the beautiful Project Earth Garden, which provides produce to local soup kitchens and food banks.

Festivities will begin with a wine, beer and cheese tasting from 5:00pm to 6:30pm and continue with dinner and dancing, with music by Kahwaty Joe DJ Entertainers.

The silent auction with fabulous items will run from 5:00pm to 8:30pm and will finish up with the drawing of the 50/50 cash Raffle. This year's Auction is being chaired by Susanne Erz of Lebanon Township. Up for bid will be golf outings, tickets, restaurant gift certificates, outdoor and garden items and many more. All items are generously donated by our parishioners and local businesses.

The Annual Auction is the main fundraising effort of the church. Funds raised by this event will continue to enable St. John's to provide spiritual, emotional and financial assistance to the greater community. This auction requires months of planning and hard work by many volunteers and staff, from advertising to soliciting items, creating decorations, coordination of food and beverages, organizing and cleaning.

Best to purchase tickets in advance online or at the office. Check the webpage at www.ccsjn.org for more information .

Please call the parish office at (908)-832-2513

LIKE TO GARDEN? COME JOIN THE LOWER VALLEY COMMUNITY GARDEN



Located right off of Sliker Road, behind the Lower Valley Presbyterian Church, the Lower Valley Community Garden offers local residents the opportunity to grow their own organ-

ic vegetables in a beautiful setting. We have a deer proof garden with over 40 beds for community residents to rent with all of the tools, soil and compost you will need to grow fresh vegetables for your family. All you need is your inspiration, seeds and a few hours one or two weeks a season to help out with our 10 Food Pantry Beds. All produce grown in these beds is donated to the Open Cupboard Food Pantry in Clinton. Over 300 lbs of produce is donated from our garden each year!

We offer a 4' X 8' garden bed complete with garden soil and compost for \$25.00 a season.

We have a couple of extra high raised beds available. Please get your registration in as soon as possible as they are assigned on first come first serve basis.

For a registration form please contact Claudia Gilbert at lowervalleyipc@embarqmail.com or 908-832-2933.

STREAM CLEAN UP IN CALIFON

**Saturday April 17th
9 am to 12pm
At Califon Island Park**

Brought to you by: Raritan Headwaters Association and site managed by members of the Califon Environmental Commission.

**PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER ON LINE
AT: www.raritanheadwaters.org
COVID safe compliant**

CALIFON FIRE COMPANY

For upcoming events please visit the following sites:

www.califonfire.org

Facebook- Califon Fire Company

Instagram- califonfire44

Or email us at califonfire44@gmail.com

2021 CURBSIDE BRUSH-PICKUP- MONDAY MAY 17TH
PLEASE READ THE GUIDELINES BELOW

- The DPW will be conducting the annual curbside brush pick-up this year. For the past few years, this eagerly anticipated annual event has led to an excess of what the Mayor and Council have always advertised as a “reasonable” amount of brush that residents put out curbside. This excess has resulted in an inefficient and lengthy amount of time to complete the project and therefore, extreme budget cost over-runs.
- Mayor and Council wish to remind residents that this is a “brush” pick-up; small brush, twigs, branches; not intended for tree removal or land clearing.
- In an effort to get this annual project back on track as was originally intended, Mayor and Council are implementing strict **guidelines** that they are asking all participating residents to abide by. Thank you for working with us to keep this project economically feasible so that we can continue to offer this service to our residents.

- **GUIDELINES FOR BRUSH-PICK-UP**
- *Branches must be 4 inches in diameter or smaller
- *The maximum amount of brush that can be placed at the curb is (1) one pile of branches, brush, **not to exceed 4 feet high by 4 feet wide by 10’long**
- *No brush/branches in roadway
- *No brush/branches on sidewalks
- *Brush piles should not be beside shrubbery, posts, hydrants, electrical or cable boxes, mailboxes, and/or any other objects
- *The brush removal service provided by the Borough is restricted to residential pruning only
- *Brush will not be collected from any commercial businesses
- *Brush mixed with stumps, roots, leaves, grass, dimensional lumber, firewood or oversized material are not acceptable and will be refused
- *Brush must be stacked perpendicular to the curb, in front of your property, not exceeding the length, height, and diameter listed.
- *Brush must not be stacked at the curb any earlier than 1 week prior to collection week (May 10th). Brush should be placed at the curb by 6:00 am on May 17TH.
- ***There will only be one pick up at your residence during the scheduled week.**
- ***If the guideline for height, width and length of brush pile is exceeded, excess brush will be refused**
- *All guidelines will be strictly enforced

- If residents are in need of tree removal or other land clearing, please hire local contractors for the work. For referrals, please call the Municipal offices at (908) 832-7850 ext. 201.

- If any residents would like a load of chips, please call the Municipal offices to make arrangements with the DPW for delivery to your residence.

- Mayor and Council wish to thank all residents in advance for their cooperation this year. If past trends were to continue, affordability and continuation of this program would be in serious jeopardy

CALIFON CAR SHOWS COMING UP!

To Benefit the Califon Veterans Memorial



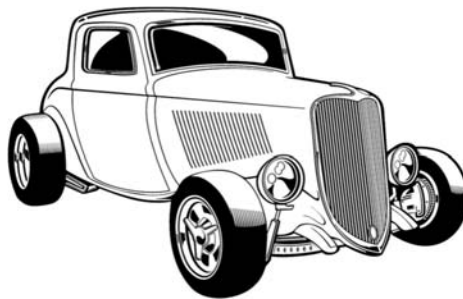
ANNUAL ALL MOPAR SHOW

Saturday, June 19, 2021 ♦ 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Rain Date Sunday, June 20, 2021

Califon Island Park, Bank Street, Califon, NJ

Music by DJ DUG ♦ T-Shirts \$15.00



CALIFON CRUISERS

Wednesday Cruise Night

May 5th to September 29th, 2021 - 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM

Victorian Square Mall Parking Lot (438 Rt 513)

Music by D.J. Dug - \$10.00 Annual Registration Fee

Contact: Bruce Morrow - 47 Academy St., Califon NJ, 07830 or

Call 862-219-2911 or 908-832-0418

www.califoncarshow.org

califoncarshow@gmail.com

ELECTIONS – PRIMARY - IMPORTANT DATES

Party Affiliation:

Wednesday, April 14, 2021 – Last day to file Party Declaration Form change

Voter Registration Deadline:

Primary Election – May 18, 2021

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY: Tuesday, June 8, 2021

Please note that the Primary Election voting will be held IN-PERSON:

Where: Califon Municipal Building – 39 Academy St.

Time: 6:00 am to 8:00 pm

QUESTIONS?? Please call the Municipal Offices at (908) 832-7850 ext. 201 or 204 or
leidsvaag@califonboro.net or kmastro@califonboro.net or Office of the County Clerk at
(908) 788-1221 or countyclerk@co.hunterdon.nj.us

CALIFON CRIER
www.califonboro.net

The Califon Crier is published on a quarterly 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.

***Deadline for the Summer Quarterly Newsletter -
July/August/September 2021 submissions: Wednesday, June 9.***