



Califon Crier

Quarterly Newsletter

1994 Founded by Cathy McVicker & Jim Ball (1995)

Editor, Hunterdon County
Central Printing & Mail

2020 Is Over, so Let's Move On to 2021

By Mayor Charles J. Daniel

What can I say about 2020? The year of cancellations? No Memorial Day event, no Street Fair, no Fire Company breakfasts - the events that portray the spirit of our great community. We will get past this pandemic, perhaps sooner than later, now that vaccine distribution has started. Stay vigil, however. Practice social distancing. Wear a face mask. Wash your hands often. The message is the same and the end is now attainable, so best to stick to the precautions.

The business of Califon's local government kept running throughout 2020. Califon citizens and employees kept moving forward, despite the fears and turmoil. Our first responders – the Washington Police Department, the Califon Fire Company and the Califon First Aid/Rescue Squad – diligently handled their responsibilities despite the risks to themselves and their families. High praise for these heroes!

Califon's administrative office kept running smoothly, despite the communication hardships posed by social distancing. Laura Eidsvaag and Karen Mastro, along with our professional staff, provided an excellent level of service for our residents, as if 'just another working day'. The Borough Council kept pace with scheduled Council meetings, and the different committees – Planning Board, Environmental Commission, Recreation Committee, Board of Health – met as needed. Excellent work all and keep moving forward!

I am truly looking forward to 2021. Road paving and stormwater/flood mitigation projects are scheduled projects for the year. And, if possible, some of our significant scheduled events, such as the Street Fair, can once again take place. We will keep moving forward!

A huge THANK YOU goes out to all of the staff at our local school and all of the volunteers from our community who got us through 2020. I look forward to working with you in 2021.

Best wishes to you for a safe and happy 2021!
Mayor Charles J. Daniel

SNOW MAY SOON BE FALLING.....

According to Borough ordinance the following rules will go into effect in the event of snow:

Owner(s) and/or tenant(s) of any property abutting public roads of the Borough shall remove all snow and ice from the sidewalks within 12 hours of daylight after the snow has fallen and accumulated.

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 be subject to their cars being towed at the owner's expense.

Please make sure your house number and mailbox are clearly visible from the road to make it easier for first responders to find you in an emergency.

Thank you for your cooperation with these rules for the safety of all residents in the Borough.

Christmas Tree Pick Up

Curbside Christmas Tree Pick – **The Califon Fire Company** will be picking up discarded Christmas trees, curbside, on **SATURDAY JANUARY 09TH** and **SATURDAY JANUARY 16TH**. Please make sure all of your ornaments and lighting have been removed!

Trees can also be brought down to the Fireman's Field behind the municipal building by the red center stand.

TREES only! No wreaths, garland or other holiday decorations.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!



PARK WITH NO NAME
By Councilman Mike Medea

As some of you may know the borough acquired the empty lot behind the post office a few years ago. Longtime resident Sylva Burd donated the parcel to the borough. The lots awkward shape, size and proximity to the river preclude any use other than passive recreation or a simple open space park. However, its downtown location made it a perfect spot for our permanently planted Christmas tree that we are currently enjoying for the second year. Additionally, the Recreation Committee is purchasing a couple of picnic tables to further expand the use of the property and have been brainstorming ideas for future activities.

Since acquiring the property it has fondly been referred to as “the property behind the post office” or more recently “the park with no name”. As endearing as these names are Council feels it is about time the park had a proper name. As liaison to the Parks Committee, I was asked by Council to have the committee discuss naming options. That is what brings me to the crux of this article.

I decided it would be fun (and we need to cap off 2020 with a little fun) to solicit naming suggestions from Califon residents. Whoever would like to participate can email their suggestions to me at mmedea@califonboro.net. When pondering names participants can consider such things as:

- Does the property have historical significance? (Honestly, I don't know)
- How can we appropriately pay tribute to the donor? (Council will acknowledge Sylva Burd in some fashion if it is not directly with the park's name.)
- Future uses and activities that will take place there.

I look forward to reviewing the list of suggestions and I thank everyone in advance for your enthusiastic participation. Once a name is selected Council will discuss options for an unveiling. Perhaps a future dedication event can be planned. I for one look forward to the day when we can all congregate and enjoy a “socially non-distant” town wide event!

Stay healthy and be safe!

CALIFON SCOUTS

Do you enjoy camping in the mountains? Kayaking on the river? Learning new skills? 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.

We have a full program of exciting activities planned for Spring 2021, including camping trips, backpacking, a canoe trip to the Mullica river, a visits to West Point and the US Coast Guard base in Cape May (all dependent on evolving COVID health and

safety guidance). We also participate in local food drives and community service projects and strive to “do a good turn daily” – the Scout slogan.

Our meetings are twice per month and are usually in-person, but we also are doing fun activities via Zoom as needed. Scouts know how to adapt!

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 FIRST AID SQUAD

Califon First Aid Squad would like to wish everyone a safe & healthy 2021!

The Califon First Aid Squad is looking for local volunteers to help with general maintenance of the squad building on Bank Street. If you have experience in power washing, masonry, electrical (licensed), tree cutting, floor polishing, painting and driveway sealcoating please call Jay Klein, President, 908-500-0105. Help us Help You!

If you are interested in possibly joining the squad, please also contact Jay.

Happy Holy Days to all & please remember that your local First Responders are always here for you!

JOHN SLUSHER SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The following students will each receive a \$1,000 award : From Hunterdon Central High School, Logan VanDine; Annalise Kelly from North Hunterdon High School; No applicant from Voorhees High School; Julianna Morgan from Mendham High School; Meghan Kowaluski from West Morris Central High School; and from Mt. Olive High School, Casey Stutz.

Date for the ninth annual Jon Slusher Memorial 5K Run/Walk and Kids' Fun Run To Be Announced.

Donations can be made to the Jonathan Slusher Memorial Scholarship Foundation and mailed to 79 Guinea Hollow Road, Lebanon, NJ 08833.

To date, the Jon Slusher Scholarship Foundation has awarded 43 \$1,000 scholarships to area seniors at Voorhees, North Hunterdon, Hunterdon Central, Mendham, West Morris and Mt. Olive. The Foundation is a 501-c-3 charitable organization and all contributions are tax exempt. All monies are applied to the scholarship foundation whose awards serve to honor an intelligent, dedicated and wonderful young man who was taken from us much too soon.

CALIFON PUBLIC SCHOOL



When I joined Califon School in July, I was immediately drawn to the traditions of this wonderful school. Thanks to our terrific and engaged community, we were able to con-

tinue with these traditions by making a few adjustments along the way.

The first tradition was the opening day of the school year. Opening day was marked by our students and parents gathering in the courtyard to welcome our students back and set off on a terrific school year. Balloons and signs painted by parents & students marked locations for each grade level as they met their teachers. With all of our new precautions in place, we masked up, practiced social distancing and cheered the students in.

Sometimes with traditions, new ones are introduced. This year, students enjoyed their first “picnic” lunches outside on warm weather days, students sat on beach towels and enjoyed their lunches with their classmates. The month continued with our picnics, PTA bagel lunches, outdoor lessons and a visit from the Califon Fire Department. Halloween, although our parade was literally washed out by heavy rain, remained a success in that students went home to get costumes on and returned for classroom celebrations. Guess the Pumpkin weight and the annual Halloween poster contest winners were announced during our classroom celebrations. We found ourselves very resourceful during this time of “new beginnings” and able to adjust our sails.

On Election Day, we had our first “remote” school day which gave us an opportunity to reflect and adjust our practices. We even successfully held our parent-teacher conferences virtually this year. And Board of Education meetings remained virtual as well. Students continue to participate in classroom activities, STEM, Music Enrichment, instrumental lessons, student council, just to name a few of the exciting things going on in Califon School.

Although we relish in the idea that our students will remember the lessons taught everyday by our wonderful teachers, there are lessons our students learn that go beyond the classroom walls. These lessons help set a path for our students with long-lasting effects. Our students are real troopers each and every day. They have learned how to adjust to new conditions, be patient, speak up when they need a break, and many more. We thank the parents for their continued support for our school community. This brings me to the last tradition I would like to mention, which is the tradition of a strong community of individuals who truly care for each other. This is reflected each and every day in your children. We are Califon Strong!

Thank you,
Dr. Michele Cone

HUNTERDON COUNTY HEALTH TEAM
PREPARING TO ADMINISTER COVID-19 VACCINES
WHEN AVAILABLE

Hunterdon County Health Team Preparing To Administer COVID-19 Vaccines When Available Thanks to years of preparation and training, Hunterdon County’s Health Department and Office of Emergency Management (OEM) are ready to establish a Point of Dispensing (POD) site for the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, once the immunizations are made available, Freeholder Board Deputy Director Susan J. Soloway reported at the December 1st Freeholder meeting. Soloway, the Board’s liaison for the Health Department, reported, “When a vaccine becomes available, the state plan calls for the County Health Department to be one of the primary sources of vaccinations. And the good news is that Hunterdon County’s Health Department and OEM

have worked together successfully over the years in training exercises, preparing for just the situation in which we now find ourselves. Years of preparation have created the strong foundation critical to the COVID-19 response, and the County is prepared for the phases of emergency response that lie ahead.” Soloway said, “The state Health Department advises that when the vaccines are first available, perhaps before the end of the year, they will be in significantly limited supply and, according to the state’s planning documents, the priority for earliest vaccinations will be healthcare personnel who are likely to be exposed to or treat people with COVID-19.” The state Health Department has indicated that pharmacies like CVS and Walgreens, in addition to medical providers, may also be used to distribute vaccinations. Soloway added, “Health officials are advising that this effort is one of the most complex vaccine distribution initiatives ever. We are told this is due in large part to the ultra-cold temperature requirements of some of the vaccine candidates, a two-dose requirement, a limited vaccine supply, and target population groups. The record of the County’s Health Department in handling the COVID-19 health emergency in the county since last March, should give us all great confidence in the County Department’s ability to ensure safe delivery of vaccinations, when the time comes.”

CALIFON FIRE COMPANY

“We would like to thank everyone who supported us during 2020. It would have been even more difficult without this great community. For information on upcoming events please check our website CalifonFire.org or email us at : califonfire44@gmail.com.

FAREWELL AND BEST OF LUCK TO
AMANDA ALTAVILLA!

After serving as the Chairperson for the Califon Recreation Committee for the past two years, Amanda Altavilla will be stepping down at the end of 2020. Amanda became involved with the Recreation Committee in 2016 when she moved back to her hometown of Califon after earning her bachelor’s degree in Recreation and Leisure Administration. Amanda brought to the committee fresh ideas and enthusiasm to execute the many wonderful events the Recreation Committee provides for Califon residents.

Shortly after joining the Committee, the position for Chairperson became available and Amanda stepped up and into this role without hesitation. With Amanda’s amazing organizational skills, and desire to serve her community that she loves, Amanda has helped plan and direct all of the events over the last two years. When Amanda became engaged last year and moved out of Califon, she could have easily stepped down since she no longer resided here but it was important to her to complete her commitment. The Mayor, Califon Council members, Recreation Committee members and Karen and Laura would like to thank Amanda for all she has done! It has been a pleasure working with you and we all wish you the best luck and congratulations on your upcoming wedding!

You will be Missed.

**COUNTY OFFERS TWO RECYCLING DAYS IN
MARCH**

March 6th - Hazardous Waste Recycling &

March 20th Electronics Recycling.

9 am to 1 pm at the Route 12 County Complex in Flemington.
Contact the Hunterdon County Health Department at 908-788-1351 for questions.

CONGRATULATIONS

The Mayor, Council and Municipal staff would like to congratulate Bill Skene on his retirement.

Bill became Califon's Zoning Officer 19 years ago and he has been a pleasure working with over the years. Bill was dedicated on serving the residents of Califon with guidance, fairness and understanding. He will be missed by all!

Tom Silva will be taking over as our Zoning Officer beginning January 1st. Tom served as an interim Zoning Officer last year and comes to us with extensive zoning experience. We are excited to have join us again and welcome him to our staff and town!

You can leave a message for Tom at 908-832-7850 ext. 208 or email him at tsilva@califonboro.net. Tom can be reached at 908-832-7850 ext. 208.

ELECTRONIC RECYCLING DAY IN CALIFON

The Califon Environmental Commission is sponsoring an electronics recycling day on Saturday March 13th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the lower municipal parking lot.

Now is a good time to get rid of your old TV's, Computers, Keyboards, Cellphones, Laptops, Gaming Consoles, & Gaming Controllers.

Any questions, please contact Karen Mastro at kmas-tro@califonboro.net or 908-832-7850 ext. 204.

**CALIFON RECREATION COMMITTEE &
COMMUNITY EVENTS – 2021**

Unfortunately, 2020 was been a tough year for the Califon Recreation Committee, as we could not put on our normal events due to COVID-19. However, we were still able accomplish honoring our town's veterans for Memorial Day by placing a banner downtown with flags around it, holding a pumpkin decorating contest and a virtual tree lighting! The committee made an effort to buy new decorations to put around the Christmas tree and even added lights to the wreaths that hang on the bridge.

With many uncertainties still ahead of us as this year we still hope to hold our classic events such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Memorial Day Parade, Summer Fun Days, Street Fair and Christmas Tree Lighting. The committee will be monitoring the status of COVID-19 and will announce event status as the event approaches. **Information for each specific event will published on the Califon Borough Facebook Page, Califon Borough Website, and Califon Crier before the event takes place.**

In addition, the Recreation Committee is always looking for volunteers to help plan and run our events. We are also still looking for a chair for the committee. If you want less of a commitment, we are always in need of volunteers to help on the day of the event. This could be perfect if anyone needs to complete service hours! Interested parties should contact Laura Eidsvaag at leidsvaag@califonboro.net or call at (908) 832-7850 ext. 201.



THE VIETNAM TRAVELING MEMORIAL WALL ®

Coming to Califon, New Jersey

October 15 through October 17, 2021

Donations Appreciated

Volunteers needed for setup & take down

Califon Island Park – 130 Bank Street

Presented by The Califon Car Show Committee

Contact: Bruce Morrow 862-219-2911

califoncarshow@gmail.com

CALIFON'S ANNUAL RABIES CLINIC
HAS BEEN CANCELLED



After careful consideration, the Califon Board of Health has decided to cancel the January 9, 2021 Rabies Clinic due to the risk of Covid-19 transmission. For a listing of the Free Rabies Clinics in Hunterdon County, go to <https://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/health/rabiesclinics.html> Please make sure to contact the town to confirm they are still hosting the clinic as this listing may not have cancellations.

NOTICE TO ALL DOG OWNERS

Dog Licenses must be obtained by January 31, 2021. If your dog was licensed last year, you do not need to complete a new application, just mail in or drop off your check for the applicable fee listed below along with a copy of the Rabies Certificate if your dog has received a vaccine since last year's licensing.

Mail to: Borough of Califon, P.O. Box 368, Califon, NJ 07830
OR
Drop off in our Drop Box by our back door.

Municipal Dog licensing clerks are required to annually collect the following fees from the owner of each dog in the municipality:

- N.J. Pilot Clinic Fund Surcharge of \$0.20
- N.J. Animal Control Population Fund Surcharge-\$3.00
- \$1.00 Registration Fee

***Rabies Vaccine Must Be Good Through Oct. 31st of 2021 in Order to Receive a 2021 License.**

DELINQUENT FINE: \$5.00 PER Month After February 28th.

Fee: Spayed or Neutered Dogs \$15.00
Unaltered Dogs \$20.00

Makes checks payable to "Borough of Califon"

FOR DOG OWNERS

Name: _____

Road: _____

Phone: _____

Dogs Name: _____ **Male () Female ()**

Date of Birth: _____ **Breed:** _____

Is Dog Neutered or Spayed? () Yes () No

Hair: Short () Medium () Long ()

Colors or Markings: _____

RABIES INOCULATION INFORMATION

Date Rabies Expires _____

Fee Enclosed \$ _____

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

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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.

Michele Cone, Charles J. Daniel, Laura Eidsvaag, Jay Klein, Karen Mastro & Mike Medea

***Deadline for the Spring Quarterly Newsletter -
April/May/June 2021 submissions: Thursday, March 11.***