

# CALIFON CRIER

39 ACADEMY STREET | 908-832-7850 | CALIFONBORO.ORG

ISSUE | JUNE/JULY 2026

## Pancake Breakfast

The Califon Fire Company's final pancake breakfast until the fall will be held on June 7th, from 7:00AM-11:00AM in Creamery Hall.

## Tag Sale

Registration is now open for the first Aid Squads Annual Tag Sale.

[Click here](#) for more info

## Car Show

The 10th Annual All MOPAR Car Show will be held on Saturday, June 6th, from 9:00AM - 2:00PM at Califon Island Park.

[Click here](#) for more info

## E-Bike Law

The NJ E-Bike law goes into affect July 19th.

[Click here](#) for more info on how to register to be compliant before the deadline.

As residents of the Califon Borough community, we are all fortunate to witness and participate in the collaborative efforts to preserve and enhance Califon Island Park. Our park stands as a premier example of community-driven environmental stewardship and a vibrant public open space for everyone to enjoy.

Most residents are familiar with the well maintained ballfields, basketball court, playground, pavilion and other familiar features of the park. The park is also home to meaningful community events.

There have also been a number of community based environmental activities occurring to ensure the long term health of the parkland as well as the South Branch of the Raritan River which flows downstream along the Northwest border of the park. Unfortunately, the invasive Emerald Ash Borer has essentially destroyed the white ash trees in our area resulting in eyesores, hazards to landowners, as well as challenges to JCPL and local power distribution. The Borough and Hunterdon County have been actively removing the diseased trees through the park area to ensure public safety. The stands of beech trees are threatened by the beech leaf disease as well and most will be lost. Another battle occurring in the park is the fight against invasive plant species such as Autumn Olive, Multiflora Rose, Knotweed and Common Mugwort. Left unchecked as they had been until recent years, these aggressive non native plants will choke out the beneficial native vegetation and affect local and migratory bird populations as well as beneficial insects such as honey bees.

There is also a wonderful sensory garden as well as a pollinator garden at the park. These are excellent examples of things we can do on our own properties as well.

As I write this article, the Borough is very close to acquiring the 10 acre Hunterdon County Park and parcel that surrounds the Califon Island Park. The upstream section that includes the Weis Mill dam remnant will be subject to a Stewardship partnership with Raritan Headwaters resulting in the dam remnant removal, a riparian enhancement project and in-stream habitat improvements. The result will be improved water quality and habitat benefiting the native brook trout that occur in the park as well as the downstream NJ residents who rely on the River for clean drinking water supply.

While many area anglers focus on the well known Ken Lockwood Gorge located a few miles downstream, we are very fortunate to have our own gem right here in town. Over the next few years it's anticipated that the local river will benefit from a number of changes resulting in significant cold water habit improvements benefiting the trout, the anglers and our entire community.

## Headstone Cleaning

The Hunterdon County Board of Commissioners are holding a Veteran's Headstone Cleaning on June 16th

[Click here](#) for more info

## Electronic Waste

Hunterdon County is holding an Electronic Waste Recycling event on June 27th.

[Click here](#) for more info

## Summer Fun Days

Califon Summer fun days are back this year from July 13th - 17th at 9:30AM - 11:00AM for children ages 3-6.

[Click here](#) for more info and to sign up

## Dog Reminders

Per the Borough Ordinance all dogs must be leashed while walking. This is not only to keep your dog safe but other as well. Also, please make sure you curb your dog.

Fines between \$100 - \$1,000 can be issued for violating both the leash and pet waste requirements.

## June 2026 Meeting Dates

### *Borough Council*

June 1<sup>st</sup> & June 16<sup>th</sup>

### *Board of Health*

June 3<sup>rd</sup>

### *Environmental Commission*

June 7<sup>th</sup>

### *PARC*

June 23<sup>rd</sup>

### *Historical Society*

June 16<sup>th</sup>

### *Planning and Zoning Board*

June 17<sup>th</sup>

## July 2026 Meeting Dates

### *Borough Council*

July 14<sup>th</sup>

### *PARC*

July 28<sup>th</sup>

### *Environmental Commission*

No Meeting

### *Historical Society*

July 21<sup>th</sup>

### *Planning and Zoning Board*

July 29<sup>th</sup>

## Historical Society

Did you miss the Historical Society's Spring Open House? No worries -- The Hoffman House and Cabin will be open on the following Sundays from 2:00 - 4:00 pm (June 1 & 15 and July 6 & 20). There are some wonderful photos & artifacts on the Califon Peach Basket Factory and the history of baseball in Califon. Our next member meeting will be June 17th at 7:30 pm on the Cabin porch. All are welcome!

## Crier Submission

Have important information that Califon Residents should be aware of?

If you want to submit something for the next issue of The Crier please email your announcement to Jay Ruggiero at [jruggiero@califonboro.net](mailto:jruggiero@califonboro.net) no later than July 30th for the August/September issue.

## Town Subscription

Califon Borough will no longer be sending out notifications in the mail. All residents should subscribe to the borough website to receive future related notifications as well as important alerts of events happening in Califon.

[Click here](#) to sign up



## A Season of Change at Califon Public School

Califon Public School is entering a new chapter. As the school year draws to a close, the community is preparing for several significant transitions — including the retirement of its long-serving Chief School Administrator and a series of staffing changes that will shape the school’s next chapter.

Dr. Michele Cone, The Chief School Administrator, whose retirement was announced earlier this year, penned a heartfelt final message to the Califon community in May — one filled with gratitude, reflection, and a warm sense of optimism for what lies ahead.



“Serving this community has been one of the greatest privileges of my professional life,” the administrator wrote. “I have been inspired every day by our students, our dedicated staff, and the support of our families.” The administrator also extended special thanks to the Board of Education for their leadership and the trust they placed in the administration throughout the years.

*“From spring concerts and talent shows to drama productions and wax museums — through it all, the needs of our children have always been at the heart of everything we do.”*

Looking back over the years, the administrator recalled the many milestones shared with the Califon community — spring concerts, talent shows, drama productions, and wax museums among them. “Through it all, the needs of our children have always been at the heart of everything we do,” the letter read.



## **A Farewell to Students, Families, and Staff**

The administrator’s farewell offered a personal message to each pillar of the school community. To the students: “You are the reason we come to work each day. Keep asking questions, keep creating, and never stop learning.”

Families received a warm acknowledgment of the partnership they have offered the school over the years. “Thank you for your trust and partnership,” the letter said. “Califon School is what it is because of the community that surrounds it.”

And to the staff, the administrator offered perhaps the most personal tribute: “It has been a joy to work alongside such talented and dedicated professionals. Your commitment to our students inspires me every day.”

The administrator’s departure is among several retirements across the Califon staff this year — a moment that marks the close of a significant era for the school. Yet the tone of the farewell was anything but somber. “Califon School holds a very special place in my heart,” the administrator wrote, “and I will carry the memories of my time here with me always.”

For the Califon community, these retirements represent both an ending and a beginning. The outgoing administrator offered a confident final word: the school’s best days, they said, are still to come.

Warmly,

Dr. Michele Cone  
Chief School Administrator