

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

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Don't Let Winter Blues Get You Down

By Councilman Gill Smith

The luminaries might be extinguished, the lights taken off the town tree, and the wreaths on the Califon bridge are no longer there—all signs that another successful holiday season has come and gone. But that doesn't mean the fun is over. Don't let post-Christmas winter blues get you down!

January is perhaps the best time to take advantage of all Califon has to offer. Spend a chilly Saturday ice skating, either on the river or at the pond down at Califon Island Park. The firemen's breakfasts held on the first Sunday of each month will continue giving friends and neighbors a chance to visit, especially during a time of year when winter weather tends to keep people inside. The first-ever winter bonfire (read details in the article that follows), sponsored by the Califon Volunteer Fire Company, plans to be another one of Califon's annual traditions that we residents can look forward to each year. And, even though the holiday shopping season has officially ended, that doesn't mean our local merchants aren't still open and ready for business! Take a break from skating to buy a juicy Rambo's hamburger or munch on a wrap from Califon Fine Foods. Valentine's Day is right around the corner, so if you need recipe ideas for a romantic dinner, stop by the Califon Book Shop and pick up a new cookbook. And don't forget to make a pit stop at Flowers by the River to complement dinner for that special someone. And if you aren't the cooking type, then maybe take-out from Oscars or the Califon General Store is more your speed.

Our quaint borough might be a small town, but it definitely doesn't lack in quality merchants or events, activities, and outdoor resources for all to enjoy—especially during these cold winter months.

First Annual Winter Bonfire

The Califon Volunteer Fire Company is excited to announce the first annual winter bonfire on Saturday, Jan. 22 (with a snow date of Saturday, Jan. 29) at the Califon Carnival Grounds. The bonfire will take place from 4-8pm and will include a fireworks show and ice skating (weather permitting) as well as food and refreshments—including a beer tent. Donations will be accepted at the bonfire to cover the cost of fireworks.

All Califon residents, please note—your Christmas trees will be the fuel for the fire at this year's bonfire. The fire company will be picking up your trees curbside and then transporting them to the carnival grounds for the bonfire. Curbside tree pick-up will take place Saturday, Jan. 15, so have your tree ready and waiting to be hauled away. There's really no

better way to recycle your tree this year and have some fun with your neighbors at the same time!

Free Annual Rabies Clinic

The Califon Board of Health will be sponsoring its annual Rabies Clinic for dogs and cats Saturday, Jan. 15, from noon until 3pm at the Borough of Califon's Municipal Building, 39 Academy Street, in Califon. The clinic will take place in the old Police Bays. As in years past, the clinic will once again be provided for free to Califon residents. In the event of snow, the clinic will be rescheduled for the following Saturday, Jan. 22—same time, same place.

Please note the state of New Jersey requires you to provide proof of a rabies vaccination before a license will be issued. Contact Karen Mastro, Dog Registrar, (908) 832-7850 ext. 204, with any questions.

CALIFON CRIER

www.califonboro.net

The Califon Crier is published on a bimonthly basis. If you have news, comments, or feedback, please contact Editor Katie Vreeland at kvreeland@califonboro.net; phone (908) 832-7850; or fax (908) 832-6085.

Contributors:

Jessica Hickman-Beard, Charles Daniel, Karen Mastro, Carolyn Murin, Gill Smith, Beth Wolfmayer

Deadline for March/April 2011 submissions: Monday, Feb. 14.

When the Snow Falls This Winter...

The Califon First Aid Squad and Califon Volunteer Fire Company would like to send a reminder to all residents of our community, particularly when it snows. Be sure your houses are clearly marked and visible from the road with a house or mailbox number. Please help make it easier for responders to find you in the event of an emergency.

Please also note the following rules that will go into effect in the event of snow in the borough: Owner(s) and/or tenant(s) of any property abutting public roads of the borough shall remove all snow and ice from sidewalks and gutters of roads within 12 hours of daylight after snow has fallen and accumulated. A summons will be issued to violators. Placing snow and/or ice in the borough 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 have their cars towed at owner's expense.

New Year, New Fitness Routine?

If you're like everyone else this new year, you probably resolve for a healthier 2011. If you did, Hunterdon County YMCA has you covered! Did you know the Hunterdon County YMCA offers a free program to seniors? Programs include Zumba Gold, Bridge, and Investment Club, among others. The center is open on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. For more information, call (908) 638-6515.

It's Time To License Your Dog!



A reminder to all Califon residents—2011 dog licenses are due by Monday, Jan. 31, 2011. Licenses may be obtained at Borough Hall, 39 Academy Street, during the hours of 9am until 3pm, Monday through Thursday.

Applications for dog licenses also are available on the Borough's website, www.califonboro.net under Forms. Print out and complete the application and mail it with along with a proof of rabies vaccination

certificate and a veterinarian's certificate or notarized affidavit stating the dog has been altered. Please include a check payable to Califon Dog Account. The fee is \$11 for a dog that has been altered and \$14 for an unaltered dog.

Please note there is a delinquent fine of \$5 per dog, per month, after January 31.

Comedy Night By Happy Face Nursery School

Come beat the mid-winter blues with Happy Face Nursery School's Comedy Night fundraiser Saturday, Feb. 26, at 7pm, at the Lower Valley Presbyterian Church here in Califon!

Tickets for the show are \$35 each, and there will be wine, beer, and light fare for sale as well. After the show, stay for the Silent Auction and bid on dozens of fabulous items and services generously donated by the community.

For more information or to purchase tickets or donate items or services for the Silent Auction, contact Jessica Hickman-Beard at (908) 520-0109 or e-mail info@happyfacenurseryschool.com.

School Budget News

The Califon School Board of Education (BOE) already has begun planning for the 2011-2012 school year. They are in the process of formulating a budget and, toward that end, they are soliciting input from you—the community taxpayers. The BOE will be hosting a "Have Your Say" day in mid- to late-January. (A firm date had not been set as of Crier deadline.)

Visit the school's website, www.califonschool.org, where you can find more information as it becomes available. You may also contact the school at (908) 832-2828 and press "4" to be connected with Melissa Fogg for up-to-date information. Take advantage of this opportunity to voice your thoughts and concerns!

**Wood-Burning Heat Sources are Beautiful—
But They Can Be Dangerous**

You might have read a Dec. 16 press release from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) outlining the dangers of wood-burning heat sources in our homes. We thought the press release was important enough to reiterate here. According to the

article, DEP Assistant Commissioner Nancy Wittenberg states, "If you are going to use a fireplace, wood stove, or even a wood boiler, there are some steps you can take to minimize your impact on the environment, your neighbors, and your own health."

A properly installed wood-burning appliance should be smoke-free, according to the federal Environmental Protection Agency. If you see or smell smoke, that might be a sign of a problem.

Keep in mind these safety precautions when burning wood in a stove or fireplace for a safer, cleaner fire:

- Allow wood to season for at least six months before burning it. Seasoned wood is darker, has cracks in the end grain and sounds hollow when smacked against another piece of wood.
- Wood burns most efficiently when its moisture content is below 20 percent; wood moisture meters can be purchased to test the moisture content.
- Store wood outdoors, stacked neatly off the ground with the top covered.
- Start fires with newspaper and dry kindling and keep them burning hot.
- Regularly remove ashes to ensure proper airflow.
- Never burn garbage, cardboard, plastics, wrapping materials, or painted materials.
- Remember to keep anything flammable including drapes, furniture, newspapers, and books far away from any wood-burning appliance.
- Keep a fire extinguisher close by.
- Check your local air quality online at www.njaqinow.net prior to burning wood. If the air quality in your area is poor, consider other heating alternatives.

State regulations and local ordinances in some municipalities prohibit the emission of visible smoke from outdoor wood boilers. These boilers heat a fluid that is circulated in homes and buildings for heating purposes. Under state regulations, these boilers may only emit visible smoke for three minutes every half-hour to allow for fire-starting.

When deciding how to heat your home this winter, consider upgrading to an EPA-certified wood stove or fireplace insert. The newer equipment will reduce air pollution and is much more energy efficient. To learn more, visit www.nj.gov/dep/baqp/woodburning.html or www.epa.gov/burnwise.

JANUARY 2011

2	Fire Department Pancake Breakfast	Fire Dept	7 am-noon
2 & 16	Historical Museum Open	MUS	2-4 pm
3 & 17	Borough Council mtg	MB	8 pm
4	Parks Committee mtg	MB	8 pm
5	Board of Health	MB	8 pm
10	Board of Education	CPS	7:30 pm
11	Environmental Commission	MB	8 pm
11	Recycling Committee	MB	8 pm
15	Annual Rabies Clinic	MB	Noon–3pm
18	Historical Society mtg	MB	8 pm
22	Winter Bonfire	Carnival Grounds	4-8 pm
25	Police and Finance	MB	8 pm
26	Planning Board mtg	MB	8 pm

FEBRUARY 2011

1	Parks Committee mtg	MB	8 pm
2	Board of Health mtg	MB	8 pm
6	Fire Department Pancake Breakfast	Fire Dept	7 am-noon
6 & 20	Historical Museum Open	MUS	2-4 pm
7 & 21	Borough Council mtg	MB	8 pm
8	Recreation Committee	MB	8 pm
8	Recycling Committee	MB	8 pm
8	Environmental Commission	MB	8 pm
14	Board of Education	CPS	7:30 pm
15	Historical Society	MB	8 pm
22	Police and Finance mtg	MB	8 pm
23	Planning Board mtg	MB	8 pm
26	Comedy Night and Silent Auction by Happy Face Nursery School	LVPC	7 pm

MB = Municipal Bldg, Academy St.
 MUS=Museum, Academy St.
 CPS = Califon School, School St.
 CIP = Califon Island Park, Bank St.
 UMC = United Methodist Church, 15 River Rd.
 LVPC = Lower Valley Presbyterian Church, Rt. 513

As a reminder, the firemen's pancake breakfast is held the first Sunday of the month from October through June. Come out and support your local volunteer fire department enjoy a delicious breakfast with neighbors!