

Califon Crier
The Borough of Califon
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Califon Crier

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Califon Island Park - Update

By Councilman Mike Medea

As I write this article I am encouraged by the fact that Spring is a mere 32 days away. When warmer temperatures prevail, Califon will once again experience increased activity throughout town, on the Columbia Trail and of course in our beloved Island Park. I am currently the council liaison for the Parks Committee but before I was a councilman I was a member of the committee for numerous years.

Over the past several years the parks committee has worked to not only maintain the park but to offer enhancements as well. Some necessary major improvements on the punch list are installation of a new parking lot guardrail as well as the main entrance bridge. The guardrail has reached its lifespan and is slated to be replaced in March or April. The original entrance bridge has been effective but eventual replacement is unavoidable. Our borough engineer is working closely with borough officials and the county to design and coordinate construction of a new bridge. Stay tuned for updates.

With Spring comes baseball and softball. Our shared service agreement with Washington Township DPW for ballfield maintenance has proven to be one of the best decisions the parks committee has made. We constantly receive compliments regarding the condition of the fields and are experiencing an uptick in area league requests to use the fields for practices and games.

A few other ideas the committee is mulling over are resurfacing of the basketball court, improved lighting, tree maintenance and potential additions to the playground. The parks committee is a small but dedicated group of residents. We could always use help and new members. Our meetings take place on the second Thursday of each month at 8:00 in the municipal building. If you would like to get involved feel free to attend a meeting or to reach out to me.

2017 DOG LICENSES ARE NOW DUE- AVOID LATE FEES!

If you haven't yet licensed your dog, there is still time. 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. Just drop the check off at the Municipal Offices (we have a drop box by the back door) or mail them to Karen Mastro's attention. Licenses are \$11.00 for spayed/neutered \$14.00 for non-spayed/neutered.

If your dog's rabies vaccination expired since your last licensing, I will need a copy of the new rabies certificate.

Applications are available on our website; www.califonboro.net. At the very bottom, click on documents and there will be an application for dog license. Or you can stop by the Municipal Offices and pick one up. Any questions please email Karen at kmastro@califonboro.net or call me Mon-Thurs 908-832-7850 ext. 204.

Get it now to avoid accumulating late fees! (\$5.00 a month, per dog, starting in March)

FREE TREES!!!

Do you have any trees that were lost due to Superstorm Sandy? The Califon Environmental Commission has applied for free seedlings through the Tree Recovery Campaign. If our application is accepted, Califon Borough Residents will be able to pick up some free seedlings to help replace damage or destroyed trees on their properties. We will be supplied with a variety of species and they will be delivered sometime between March 31st and May 7th.

So, take a look around and see where you can plant a tree! Stay tuned .

SUBSTITUTE CROSSING GUARDS NEEDED

Califon Borough is currently accepting applications for part time/ substitute crossing guards. If you are interested in working as a substitute please contact Municipal Clerk Laura Eidsvaag at 908-832-7850 ext 201 or email her at leidsvaag@califonboro.net.

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

The Califon Recreation Committee is proud to sponsor our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday April 9 at 1 PM in Califon Island Park. The event will feature Easter egg hunting for all children in age groups Pre-K through 6th grade, a jelly bean counting contest, and visits by the Easter Bunny. Come out and enjoy a great Califon tradition with your neighbors!

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 kmastro@califonboro.net or leidsvaag@califonboro.net; phone (908) 832-7850; or fax (908) 832-6085.

Contributors:

Sue Dyer, Laura Eidsvaag, Mike Medea, Karen Mastro & Mara Tippet.

Deadline for May/June submissions: Friday, April 14.

CALIFON PUBLIC SCHOOL'S FAMILY SCIENCE NIGHT ON JANUARY 27TH

The night started off with an assembly called "Let's Get Energized!" - The force was with the audience as they explored energy and its various forms. They learned the secret of the golden lever, watched as energy was transferred to help make things fly with the giant slingshot, and every child had the chance to be a part of a human extension cord to make a light glow. It was electrifying! Children had a chance to ride a homemade hovercraft that demonstrated various forms of energy. After their ride, they all were hoping mom and dad could make them one!

After that, families got together to make "Art with a Spin" - Everybody learned what they could do with a battery, motor, wires and some paint. Families created their own spin-art machine and made some awesome artwork! It was a fun, learning night as families were able to take their spin-art machine home!

CALIFON'S RABIES CLINIC A BIG SUCCESS

On Saturday January 14th, the Califon Board of Health sponsored their annual rabies clinic. With the help of volunteers from our community we were able to provide FREE rabies vaccinations to over 200 dogs and cats! Dr. Salatiello and assistant Robin Dietz from the Califon Animal Hospital provided their services to administer the vaccination. I would like to thank the following Community residents and students for showing up to help make this important service happen:

Janice Genetti, Mary Phillips, Emma Natale, Sara Andersen, also Grace Andersen

The Califon Board of Health would also like to thank Jeff Burke for arranging the Califon Fire Police and Fireman for once again doing a fantastic job in managing the flow of traffic and making sure the area was safe.

SPEAKING OF DOGS....!

The Municipal Office have received quite a few phone calls concerning dog poop being left on the sidewalks, along the sidewalks, in the strip of land alongside the streets. PLEASE, take a few moments to clean up after YOUR PET. Not only is it unsightly to walk by, but it is a pollutant to our groundwater.

2017 ANNUAL STREAM CLEAN UP

Come on Down to the Park for the Spring Stream Clean Up! Many hands make light work! Please mark your calendars and come on down to the park to help clean up the River banks of Califon. On Saturday April 22th Califon will once again be participating in this valuable yearly event sponsored by the Raritan Headwaters Association. This is a rain or shine event. If you only have one hour to spare between games, that is fine! Clean up starts at 9:00 am and ends at 12:00 pm.

This is a great event for Cub Scouts, Brownies, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Youth Groups, Families, Neighbors, everyone!

If you know you will be able to help out in any way, email or call Karen Mastro at kmastro@califonboro.net or 908-832-7850 ext. 204. All reserved volunteers will get a free t shirt if they register ahead of time.

KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP 2017-18

Califon Public School will be holding its annual Kindergarten "Round Up" on Friday, March 24, 2017 beginning at 2:00 p.m. Any child living in Califon Borough who will be five years old on or before October 1, 2017 is eligible for Kindergarten this September.

Please call the school as soon as possible to obtain the necessary registration and medical forms which are required to be completed for submission when you attend Kindergarten registration on the above date.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Dyer, Executive Secretary at 908- 832-2828 ext. 211 or Mrs. Patterson, School Nurse at 908-832-2828 ext. 212.

NEWS FROM THE CALIFON BOOK SHOP

March comes in like a lion at the Califon Book Shop with the authors of The Wild Life of Limericks from A to Z reading and signing copies of their book on March eleven from 11 to 1 pm. Jean Merrill and Douglas Munch are the creators of this picture book. Along with illustrator David Bygott they have "transformed the alphabet from the mundane to the memorable" with fun facts and a letter search included for each animal.

Local resident Jeff Turner will be at the shop April 15, 2017 also from 11 to 1 pm to present his brand-new release Who Broke the Vase? This visually pleasing picture book tells the story of a dog struggling with telling the truth about who broke the vase. The story honestly tells the truth about lying. Please join us in welcoming Jeff, a veteran of the advertising world who has also designed fabric and art-directed magazines.

Lisa Papp of Quakertown PA will read from her book Madeline Flynn and the Library Dog on April 29 from 1 to 3 pm. This is a tale any young reader can relate to but is especially encouraging for the reluctant reader. Children will have the opportunity to read to one of several special dogs participating in this event. Please call the shop or email us with any questions. 908-832-6686 or califonbookshop282@gmail.com

ST. PATRICK'S DAY FAMILY BUFFET DINNER

On Saturday March 18th, there will be a St Patrick's Day Family Buffet Dinner between 5:00 - 8:00 at the Califon Fire House Banquet Hall.

Adults \$15.00 children 10 and under \$10.00 age 5 and under free. Come join us for the BEST home cooked Corned Beef Dinner in the area. Includes all you can eat buffet (there will be alternative children's food), soft beverages, dessert or BYOB.

Benefits the Dan Handy Memorial Foundation of Califon

Contact Info Wendy 908-832-9240 Please join us and be a part of making a difference in the lives of others at a time of need. All donations at this time are greatly appreciated Via FB Dan Handy Memorial Inc, Donate button or Dan Handy Memorial Inc. PO Box 202 Califon NJ 07830.

LOWER VALLEY COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Lower Valley Presbyterian Church will be opening up their community garden to residents for the fifth year this spring! If you are interested in renting a plot to grow organic vegetables and assist in the gardens designated for the Open Cupboard Food Pantry, please contact Claudia at the LVPC at Lowervalleyipc@embarqmail.com or 908-832-2933. Rental is \$25.00 for one 4'X8' bed.

CALIFON HISTORICAL SOCIETY OPEN HOUSE

SAVE THE DATE! The Califon Historical Society's Spring Open House is scheduled for Sunday, May 7th from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. The Open House will feature a new display of Califon artifacts plus two walking tours of Califon's Historic District leaving the train station at 12:00 and 2:00 pm. As part of the open-

ing day celebration, the Society will offer reprints of "The Califon Story" for purchase. The book, written by Helen Haggerty Geist, includes information and stories about Califon's early history and what life in town was like. Questions, call Don at 832-2012.

WELL WATER TESTING AVAILABLE TO CALIFON RESIDENTS

What's in your water? This spring, in an effort to protect community health, Califon Borough will partner with nonprofit clean water advocate Raritan Headwaters to offer well water testing to residents at below-market cost. Those drinking municipal water can test for lead contamination that may stem from older pipes.

Residents can purchase water sample collection kits at the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission, Hoffman's Crossing Campus, at 37 Hoffmans Crossing Rd., Califon on March 8 from 6:00pm to 8pm. Water samples must be dropped off at the Califon Borough Municipal Building on Monday, March 13 from 7:00 to 10:00 am. Test results will be available about two weeks later.

"We're pleased to partner with Califon, and we strongly encourage everyone with a private well to have their water tested," said Cindy Ehrenclou, executive director of the Bedminster-based Raritan Headwaters. "It's better to know what's in your drinking water than not know. If a contaminant is detected, measures can be taken to remove it."

Raritan Headwaters is the "watershed watchdog" for a 470-square-mile area in Hunterdon, Somerset and Morris counties, comprising the drainage area for the North and South Branches of the Raritan River. Eighty percent of the residents of this region - about 320,000 people - obtain their drinking water through wells.

Well water pollutants found in the region are coliform bacteria, nitrate, arsenic, lead, iron, radon and volatile organic compounds. Sources of contamination include failing septic systems; chemicals like fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides; and naturally-occurring contaminants.

Raritan Headwaters is offering a "basic kit" for coliform bacteria and nitrate for just \$40 during this special event to celebrate Groundwater Awareness Week. Califon Residents can also test for other potential contaminants at an additional cost including lead for \$25. A free presentation on groundwater will be given by Mara Tippett, Raritan Headwaters' Well Testing Program Manager at 6:30pm.

Raritan Headwaters recently completed a 30-year analysis of well water tests in the region, which showed an increase in arsenic levels in several towns. Concentrations of nitrate also increased, and the percentage of wells that failed for coliform bacteria showed a slight increase.

Residents who aren't able to take advantage of Califon's community well test program can contact Mara Tippett, Raritan Headwaters' well test manager, anytime throughout the year to arrange to pick up a test kit in Bedminster or Flemington. She can be contacted at 908-234-1852, ext. 401 or welltesting@raritanheadwaters.org.

THE THREAT AND REALITY OF THE EMERALD ASH BORER

Concerning the EAB we have sad news, bad news, and glad news.

The sad news: EAB are already here in Hunterdon County and not going to leave in a hurry. All ash trees should be considered at high risk.

The bad news: This is a fatal disease to the ash trees and it is considerably hard to identify infestation until it is too late.

The glad news: There are treatments out there, which have been effectively killing EAB since 2002.

The Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus Planipennis*) is a non-native insect that infests and kills all species of ash trees in North America. It was first discovered in southeastern Michigan in 2002. It has since spread to 27 additional states, including New Jersey, specifically Hunterdon, Somerset, Mercer, Middlesex and Burlington counties.

The lifespan of an infected tree is 3-4 years. Infestation is first revealed in the top canopy of the tree with advanced thinning of foliage. This makes detection very difficult. Another "be wary" sign is woodpecker activity. Seems they enjoy eating the little bug.

There is an avalanche of information about this insect on the Department of Agriculture website: <http://www.emeraldashborer.nj.gov/> so I won't go into too much depth here.

There is hope and we do have a fighting chance of overcoming and saving some of our ash trees. If you have an ash on your property you can work with a certified tree expert or an approved consulting forester to help find a viable treatment program. It is recommended to get three quotes for treatment. There are a few things to consider first: Is more than 50% of the canopy gone? This tree may not be able to recover or be saved.

Do you want a systemic treatment or a basal trunk spray? This can be determined with your tree expert.

When is the best time for treatment? Usually early spring just as the tree starts taking up nutrients again after the winter.

The Califon Environmental Commission will be working with Keith Decker, arborist and certified tree expert to assist in the inventory of the ash trees in the Borough's public lands.

Keith Decker will also be giving a presentation to interested residents on March 22, 2017 at 7:00 pm at the Municipal Building. Please consider attending this informative session.

In the meantime, there is a lot of good, vital information out there to help equip us for the fight ahead. The websites "neighbors against bad bug" and as mentioned before "emeraldashborer.nj.gov" "has a wealth of information." Time to fight the good fight!

EMERALD ASH BORER- PRESENTATION - WHAT YOU CAN DO

WHEN- WEDNESDAY MARCH 22ND

TIME: 7:00 PM

WHERE: CALIFON MUNICIPAL BUILDING

Please RSVP to: kmastro@califonboro.net or 908-832-7850 ext. 204 if you plan on attending.

Brought to you by the Califon Environmental Commission

For more information about Raritan Headwaters and its programs and preserves, go to www.raritanheadwaters.org.