

Small on Size - Big on Charm
By Councilman Mike Medea

As I ponder the many reasons why I have enjoyed living in Califon for the past 16 years two things top the list, a tight sense of “community” and small town “charm”. It is what drew me here in the first place and it is what will keep me here in the future. There are a multitude of attributes that help define Califon’s charm and community atmosphere. It is the parade of children walking the sidewalks to school each morning. It is the fact that the crossing guard knows each child by name. It is the annual fireman’s carnival and not one but two of the best firework displays around. It is the familiar greetings you receive as you walk along the Columbia Trail. It is the tree lined streets. It is the rich history of our citizens and our architecture. It is the Halloween parade and the cider and donuts that follow. I could go on and on but ultimately I would like to focus on a key piece of the puzzle, our local business community.

In addition to being the council liaison for CAMPA (Califon Area Merchants and Professionals Association) I am also a local business owner and CAMPA member. Here in Califon we are fortunate to have a long list of passionate and dedicated business owners that love what they do. Our local merchants are eager to open their doors & greet you with a smile. Our professionals are ready to meet with you and offer you quality service. If there is something you need or want it can be found within our local area. There is a wealth of service, expertise and products available right here. There is no need to jump in the car, burn extra fuel and head off to a big box store where you are a stranger and just another face in the crowd. It is proven that supporting local business boosts the local economy but I contend that it does much more. It strengthens the bond we have with each other as neighbors and it maintains the vitality of our small town. CAMPA has supported our school, our playground efforts, town wide celebrations such as Harvest Fest, the Bridge to Bridge 5K and so on. These business owners are our neighbors, our friends and a large part of our community. CAMPA has a short slogan that sums up everything in four words, “LOVE CALIFON, SHOP CALIFON”.

To find out more about our local businesses check out CAMPA’s revamped website www.califon.org. Also, if you are a local business consider getting involved. Attend a meeting and become an active participant. Getting to know each other better is imperative to helping each other succeed. CAMPA organized a mixer in the spring that was well attended. Everyone was excited and enthusiastic to learn about each other on a more personal level. There will be more opportunities like this in the future with the goal of increasing familiarity and interaction between businesses, residents and local government. Currently the borough is considering sponsoring a town street fair that will coincide with the Slusher Memorial 5K on October 7th. The details are being worked out but stay tuned for this and more to come.

A Message from Califon Fire Marshall, Alan Layton
Fall is right around the corner and this is a great time to take inventory both indoors and outdoors for all of the conditions that may affect the fire safety of your home. It is a good idea to start with your shed, garage and outdoor landscape and work your way into your home. Make sure your power equipment and tools are in good working condition. Gasoline should be stored in a safety approved gasoline container, out of direct sunlight. Complete an inventory of stored paint, oils and any solvents and take the ones you are not using anymore to the Hazardous Waste Clean Up Day at the Hunterdon County Complex, 314 State Rt. 12, Flemington on November 10, 2012. Go to (www.hunterdon.nj.us/solidwaste/cleanup) for further information.

Make sure your stacked wood for the fireplace / woodstove is at least 40 feet away from any of your buildings. Firewood should not be stacked against your house or an outer building.

In your home, take this time to check all of the electrical

cords, fixtures and appliances. If in doubt, replace. Eliminate unnecessary “stuff” that can become fuel for a fire and that may create a hazard.

Computer and Electronics Collection Day
Hunterdon County is pleased to offer recycling of computers and electronics on Saturday, October 13 at the Hunterdon County Library Complex, 314 State Rt. 12, Flemington from 9:00am until 1:00pm (rain or shine).

Up to Ten of the following will be accepted: computers, monitors and televisions.

Un-acceptable items include: air conditioners, dehumidifiers, refrigerators, propane tanks or hazardous wastes.

For larger quantities or commercial disposal of other items contact: Newtech Recycling, Inc. @ (732) 469-9774

Flyers are available on the website: www.califonboro.net and at the Borough Hall.



HALLOWEEN PARADE

The Califon Fire Company sponsored Halloween Parade will be held on Wednesday, October 31st at 7pm. The Parade will assemble at the Califon School on School St. and make its way down Main Street to the firehouse where there will be a contest with prizes for best costumes as well as cider and donuts. Come be a part of this fun annual tradition!

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:

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Deadline for November/December submissions: Wednesday, October 17.

**Police Report from
Police Commissioner Kathleen Andersen**

The Police have been extremely active in town over the past few months. In response to requests by residents, patrols have been increased, and speeders have been being ticketed on a regular basis. The department is currently gearing up for Back to School, providing banners and other reminders to people that school is in session.

One area of continuing concern is the issue of young people skateboarding in the roadways. Chief Bailey would like to remind parents to speak with their children about safety issues surrounding skateboarding. There are several statutes that require children that bike, skate, or skateboard to wear helmets. 39:4-1.5. The fines vary from \$25 to \$100 to be assessed to the parents of the child. 39:4-10.11 is the statute that specifies how you can operate a skateboard or roller skates on a roadway.

Mischief Night Safety

In the past several years, significant damage to both public and private property within the Borough has occurred in "Mischief Night", the night before Halloween. This year, as has been done in the past, the Mayor and Council will enact a strict curfew for the week prior to Halloween. They ask all Califon residents to honor this curfew and to please have their children, under the age of 18, home and off the streets by 9pm on October 30th. This town curfew and local ordinances will be strictly enforced by the Police Dept.; additional police officers will be on duty patrolling the Borough throughout the night. Residents are being asked to do a "neighborhood watch" and to report and unusual and suspicious activity to the police by calling (908) 876-3232. Let's hope that by working together, we can put a stop to the vandalism and damage that has occurred the last few years. We thank you all for your cooperation in keeping the community safe during the Halloween festivities.

First Aid Squad Annual Town-Wide Tag Sale

The 27th Annual Town-Wide Tag Sale to benefit Califon's First Aid Squad will be held Saturday, September 15th (a rain date is set for September 16th). Tag sale at your home or at the flea market area provided at the Califon Station Museum parking lot on Academy Street. To reserve your space or get your house on the map, the cost for registration will be \$25.00. Sign up forms have been mailed to residents so sign up now and get your home on the map. A sign will be posted in your yard by the Squad prior to the start of the tag sale. Registration forms will also be available at Borough Hall. All forms to be returned by September 10th. Please make checks payable to Califon First Aid Squad, Inc., PO Box 253, Califon, NJ 07830. Last year over 80 homes participated. The squad thanks you and all those who participated and/or donated to help support the Squad. With questions or to volunteer on the day of the sale, please call Jay Klein at (908) 832-5942.

Meals On Wheels

"Meals on Wheels desperately needs volunteer drivers in your area. Serve your homebound senior neighbors a hot noontime meal. The commitment to drive is only **once** a month. It will take only an hour or two once a month to get that good feeling of giving. **Call (908) 284-0735** to offer your time or for more information. Help us, help others. Many Thanks."

**Hunterdon County Senior Center
40th Anniversary Open House**

The Hunterdon County Senior Center would like to invite you to help them celebrate their 40th Anniversary on Friday, September 7th - 12:30 to 3:30pm at 4 Gauntt Place, Building 1, Flemington, NJ. The Open House will kick off with a performance by the PayDay Barbershop Quartet along with the following activities - Fitness/Dance, Wood Carvers, Computer Help Desk, Arts, Crafts and Games.

Happy Face Highlights

Happy Face Nursery School holds Open Enrollment Year Round. Here is a list of the programs that are offered: 2 1/2 Year old Programs, 3 Year old Programs, 4 Year old Programs, Fabulous 5s Program, Lunch Bunch, PREPPy, Healthy 3's and extended play options. There is also a 4 Year old Scholarship available.

Please call the school at 908-832-7510 to arrange a visit, or feel free to email us at info@happyfacenurseryschool.com or visit our website at www.happyfacenurseryschool.com for more information! Come home to Happy Face!

**Califon School News
Junk in the Trunk**

Gather up items that didn't sell during the tag sale! Clean out your closets! Donate to the Califon School PTA Clothing Drive to help raise funds for our school. We will accept and clothing *and* accessories such as hand bags, belts and shoes plus any soft household items like bedding, curtains and towels. We'll take bikes, hard toys (must fit in a 24 x 24 x 1" box) and stuffed animals too! We'll turn your items into money for Califon School. Thank you for your support.

Drop off items between September 7th and September 27th at the Califon Municipal Building, 39 Academy Street, Califon, NJ. *Please place clothing bags neatly in front of the garage bays.* Contact Shannon Ayers (908) 832-7580 with questions.

A Race to Remember

JONATHAN SLUSHER MEMORIAL 5K RUN/WALK
OCTOBER 7TH IN CALIFON

Get ready to lace up your running shoes.

Preparations are currently under way for the inaugural Jonathan Slusher Memorial 5K Run/Walk in Califon as part of the borough's annual Harvest Festival coming up on Sunday, October 7.

The date will mark the day Slusher, a former editor at the Hunterdon Review and a graduate of Voorhees High School, succumbed to brain cancer in 2010 after a year long battle with the disease. Organized by Slusher's parents, Richart and Shirley Slusher of Tewksbury, the event will raise funds for the newly-formed *Jonathan Slusher Memorial Scholarship foundation*.

This year, using funds donated in Slusher's name, the foundation awarded two journalism/communications scholarships of \$1000 each to Voorhees High School students Amanda Ocello and Sarah Martineau. In the future, proceeds from the run/walk and kids race will go toward funding scholarships for area high school students.

A talented runner, Slusher was a member of the Voorhees High School championship cross-country team in the early 1980s and was also co-captain of the same championship team. He continued to compete in races throughout his life up to one month before the brain cancer diagnosis.

RACE DETAILS:

Pre-registration for the 5K Race will cost \$20 per person prior to Sept. 15th and \$25 following Sept. 15th. Registration for children 10 and under will be \$5 while registration for a family of 4 will cost \$40. Registration forms can be found at www.johnslusher.org.

The 5K Run/Walk will start promptly at 1pm on Oct. 7th, rain or shine. The course has been sanctioned by USA Track and Field and will begin at the Califon Bridge, continues down River Road, to Hoffman's Crossing where it goes along the Columbia Trail and will end at the Califon Train Station. Because no former race times have been recorded in the past, this 2012 race winner will establish the time record. The kids Fund Run will then follow at 2pm at Califon Island Park. The event will conclude with an awards ceremony at 2:30pm with awards in the following age categories: Overall first place for a man, woman & walker. First and second place awards for age 14 and under; 15 to 19; 20 to 29; 30 to 39; 40 to 49 and 50 plus. All participating children receive ribbons.

Checks can be made payable to *The Jonathan Slusher Memorial Scholarship Foundation*, 79 Guinea Hollow Road, Lebanon, NJ 08833. The foundation is a 501-c-3 charity and all contributions are tax-deductible.

Election News

Tuesday, October 16th is the last day to register to vote in the November General Election (Presidential). Forms are available at Borough Hall, 39 Academy St. and at the Hunterdon County Board of Elections, which will be open until 9pm on the 16th. Forms are also available online at www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/countyclerk.htm.

Tuesday, October 30th is the last day to apply **by mail** for a **Mail-In Ballot** for the General Election. The Hunterdon County Clerks Office at 71 Main St. in Flemington is open on the following dates at the following times to apply **in person by Mail-In-Ballot** for the General Election:

Tuesday, November 1st - 9am to **7pm**
Saturday, November 3rd - 9am to 1pm
Monday, November 5th - 3pm deadline

Tuesday, November 6th - Presidential/General Election Day - Polls will open at 6am and close at 8pm at the Califon Municipal Building at 39 Academy St., Califon, NJ 07830. To obtain a mail-in ballot or change party declaration form, or with any questions, call (908) 832-7850 ext. 201 or 204 or e-mail leidsvaag@califonboro.net or kmastro@califonboro.net.

Local Area Churches

St. John Neumanns Catholic Church - Father J. William Mickiewicz is retiring from the Catholic Community of St. John Neumann, the parish he founded in Califon in 1982, at the end of August. "Father Bill", as he is locally known, is also marking his golden jubilee in the priesthood, having been ordained on May 26, 1962. More than 600 parishioners,

former parishioners and friends gathered Saturday, June 23rd, at the church center on Rt. 513 in Lebanon Township for a gala celebrating both milestones. Mass was followed by dinner and presentations under tents on the grounds. When the new pastor arrives in September, Father Bill, with the title St. John Neumann "Pastor Emeritus", will move to a retired priests' home: Maria Regina Residence, 5 Dellwood Lane, Somerset.

Area residents are invited to join the Catholic Community of St. John Neumann in welcoming their new pastor, the Rev. Abraham Orapankal, at the parish's annual picnic the afternoon of Sunday, September 30th, on church grounds off Rt. 513 in Lebanon Township. There will be food and fun for all ages.

Fairmount Presbyterian Church - A free concert will be held in the sanctuary of the Fairmount Presbyterian Church on Sunday, September 9th at 5pm. Address: 253 Old Turnpike Rd., Tewksbury Township.

Rich Ortiz, lead singer for the "Captains of Leisure" will perform his own acoustic interpretations of familiar and eclectic songs.

A clothing drive will be held at the Fairmount Presbyterian Church Community House located at 247 Old Turnpike Rd. (Rt. 517) in neighboring Tewksbury Township on Saturday, September 15th from 10am to 4pm.

Items accepted include all clothing, shoes, belts, purses, linens and soft toys. Please bring donations in well tied plastic bags. For further information relating to the clothing drive, please contact Roberta Brassard at (908) 251-2939.

Pedals for Progress will also be at the drive to collect bikes from Noon to 3pm.

Califon United Methodist Church -

Fall Dinners: 15 River Rd., Califon, NJ 07830
5pm to 7:30pm
Saturday, September 22nd - Spaghetti Dinner
Saturday, October 20th - Pork Dinner
Saturday, November 17th - Ham Dinner

Sunday School Classes: Sunday School Classes will begin on Sunday, September 23, 2012. Classes are available for all children ages 3years of age and up. For registration information, please contact Janine at (908) 832-8944 or jnrascenzo@comcast.net.

Annual Household/Metal Goods Collection Day

Curbside collection of household/metal/whitegoods will take place on Monday, September 17th. Please have all items placed at the curb for pickup by 6am. Please note: Freon does not need to be removed from refrigerators, freezers or air conditioners. The following items will not be picked up if left at the curb: construction debris, hazardous waste, dirt/rock/concrete, tree limbs, vegetation, or brush. (Stay tuned to the next issue of the Crier for dates regarding leaf pickup in November!)