

New Island Park Playground – Coming Spring 2013!

By Mike Medea

Installation of a new playground at Califon Island Park is planned to take place in early spring. The equipment has been purchased and is ready to go. The existing playground has provided years of enjoyment but age, wear and tear, along with new mandated safety guidelines make replacement a necessity. It will be sad to see the existing playground go but, rest assured the Parks Committee has worked diligently to ensure that the new structure is equally as fun. When all is said and done we will have many people to thank. Local vendors and residents have graciously stepped up to help with planning, demolition, disposal, site work and layout. We are currently building a team of volunteers and organizing a community build. A date has not yet been set but, weather permitting we are hoping to have it complete in the month of March. It is a large undertaking and we can use your help! If you are interested in donating your time please contact Mike Medea (mmedea@califonboro.net) or speak to any Parks Committee member. Just think, for years to come you can say, "I helped build that!" Stay tuned for details!

The playground will be the first improvement made in the park this year but, we are not looking to stop there. The Parks Committee has been putting together a wish list of enhancements and maintenance tasks. We will strive to accomplish these goals as time and funds permit. Island Park is a valuable asset for Califon and we need to treat it that way. Unfortunately, we have been forced to contend with occasional vandalism and misuse at the park. If you see something please say something. If we work together we can revitalize the park into a destination for Califon area residents of all ages to enjoy!

REMEMBER TO LICENSE YOUR DOG

If you have not yet licensed your dog there is still time! Do it now to avoid further delinquent late fees! If you do not have an application, simply print one from our website: www.califonboro.net; found under documents at the bottom of the page or simply write down on a piece of paper, Your name, address, phone number, your dog's name, age, breed, color and whether or not your dog is spayed or neutered. I also need a copy of the rabies certification if the expiration date is new from last year's licensing information. Spayed or Neutered dogs are \$11.00 and \$14.00 for an unaltered dog. There is a \$5.00 per month late fee after Jan 31st.

CALIFON COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE MARCH 18TH 2:00 PM TO 7:00 PM

The Califon Board of Health is hosting a blood drive through the American Red Cross on Monday March 18th from 2pm to 7pm at the Lower Valley Presbyterian Church Parish Hall. Please consider being a supporter of this vital program that supplies our family, friends and neighbors with life saving blood.

You can sign up for a specific donation time by contacting Karen Mastro at 908-832-7850 ext. 204 or email Karen at kmastro@califonboro.net.

Volunteers from the Lower Valley Presbyterian Youth Group will be helping out throughout the blood drive. Please come and show your support!

CALIFON SCHOOL NEWS

Califon School proudly announces their honor roll students who all received straight A's:
Sixth grade: Matthew Brandner, Gwendolyn King, Rebecca Nitti, Kara Riley, Lauren Wagner and Collin Warren. **Seventh grade:** Kristian Jolly, Gwyneth Medea, Caroline Pereira, Paige Peterson and Will Rodenberger. **Eighth grade:** Stevielynn Ader, Benjamin Brandner, Kayla Breikopf, Meredith Folsom, Eleanor Gensch, Grace Gilbert, Taylor Hubiak, Kelly McLaughlin, Cassandra Oeckinghaus, Emma Riley, Sydney Stoter and Elizabeth Turello.

TRICKY TRAY FUNDRAISER

Come out for a fun evening and win prizes at the Happy Face Nursery School Tricky Tray! This years event will be on Friday March 15, 2013 in the Parish Hall of the Lower Valley Presbyterian Church (445 County Road 513). Doors will open at 6:00 pm and the drawing begins at 7:00 pm. We are still accepting donations of prizes. NEW this year! Looking for an inexpensive advertising opportunity? For just \$5.00 you can advertise to 150 people! Supply Happy Face Nursery School with 150 flyers, business cards or advertising material and they will be handed out at the admission for the Happy Face Tricky Tray on Friday March 15, 2013. The event is handicapped accessible and limited to adults only.

For more information contact Brande at happyfacefundraising@comcast.net

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:

Jessica Hickman-Beard, Laura Eidsvaag, Melissa Fogg, Claudia Gilbert, Mike Medea, Karen Mastro, Alison Ramarge and Wendy Tiger

Deadline for May/June submissions: Wednesday, April 17.

A BIG SUCCESS FOR THE CALIFON RABIES CLINIC

On Saturday January 12th 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 160 dogs and cats! Dr. Mary Beth Hamorski and assistant Robin Dietz from the Califon Animal Hospital provided their services to administer the vaccinations. Many thanks to the Califon School 8th Grade students who bundled up and made this clinic efficient and enjoyable! Also thanks to the Califon Fire Company volunteers and junior volunteers for directing traffic and keeping the area safe and the line flowing!

UPCOMING FAMILY EVENTS

The Califon Recreation Committee will once again be sponsoring the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday March 24th, 1:00 pm at the Califon Island Park. Egg hunters will be grouped by age and prizes will be awarded for finding the golden egg. Please arrive a few minutes early, bring a bag or basket for your eggs, and be ready to hunt at promptly 1pm. For more information contact Alison at a.ramarge@hotmail.com or look us up on Facebook!

The Just Dance event was postponed due to weather but will be scheduled for some time this spring. Date will be announced.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY EXTRAVAGANZA MARCH 16TH

The annual St. Patrick's Day Extravaganza benefiting the Dan T. Handy Memorial Inc. will be March 16th at the Califon Fire Co. Banquet Hall. Tickets are \$32.50 per person and must be reserved; this is a sell out event. Doors open 6:00. There will be a Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner, Dance Band and St. Annes Bag Pipers. Danny's Memorial provides support to those whose lives may be impacted by a hardship in and around our communities. Scholarships are also awarded at VHS. In addition the new benches and garden in the area of Main St. & the Columbia Trail in Califon are the work of the Memorial Funds efforts for all to enjoy.

This year in coordination with our event there will be a Community Food Drive. All non perishable food items may be placed in a container outside the Fire Co. Banquet Hall Door on Friday March 15th and also Saturday March 16th between the hours of 1:00pm - 5:00pm

All ticket holders for the St. Patrick's Day Event are also asked to bring a food item to help with our efforts. Information: Please call Wendy Tiger 832-9240

"Every Life Counts"

Thank you for your kind support, "you make a difference". Donations can be sent to the Dan Handy Memorial Fund Inc. P.O. Box 202 Califon, NJ 07830.

JONATHAN SLUSHER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Jonathan Slusher Memorial Scholarship Foundation Committee will double the number of scholarships offered this year, awarding four \$1,000 scholarships to area seniors in 2013. Students planning a career in journalism/communications are eligible.

Applicants are required to submit a written essay detailing reasons why he or she is interested in journalism/communications. Also a GPA of 3.0 or above is desirable. Interested students should speak with their guidance counselor for submission dates and other details.

All proceeds garnered from *The Race to Remember* on October 7, 2012, in Califon were applied to the scholarship fund. The Race and Foundation were established by the Slusher Family as a memorial to their son and brother, Jonathan. He succumbed to brain cancer in October, 2010, and at the time of his passing was editor of *The Hunterdon Review*. Journalism and running were his passions.

The Foundation is hoping to sponsor the second annual *Race to Remember* at Califon in October of 2013.

COME SEE WHAT IS GROWING AT THE LOWER VALLEY COMMUNITY GARDEN

This will be the second year the Lower Valley Presbyterian Church will open their garden gate to the community. Opening early this spring the community garden will once again be open to the area residents who can rent a 4' X 8' raised bed to grow organic vegetables while also helping plant, maintain and harvest several garden beds dedicated to provide fresh, organic vegetables to the *Open Cupboard Food Pantry*.

If you and or your family members would like to get their hands in the earth and help out with the harvesting and or delivering of vegetables to the food pantry please contact Claudia Gilbert at the Lower Valley Presbyterian Church at : lowervalleyipc@embarqmail.com Or Karen Mastro of the Califon Green Team at : kmastro@califonboro.net.

SOUTH BRANCH RIVER CLEAN UP

The Raritan Headwaters Association and the Califon Sustainable NJ Team will be hosting the annual Stream Clean Up on Saturday April 20th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Califon Island Park. Help keep our river and banks beautiful by coming down and helping to pick up litter and debris. We provide the bags and gloves. It is a great way to spend some time outdoors with your family while giving back to our beautiful river. This is a great service project for Scouts, schools, and athletic teams. Any questions please call the Borough Hall at 908-832-7850 ext. 204. We hope to see you down at the park!

NEWS FROM CALIFON BOOK SHOP!

We are thrilled to formally announce that Califon Book Shop has new owners! Alison Ramarge and Mary Turkus of Clothesline are having a fantastic time in their new endeavor. We look forward to seeing you! Here are some upcoming events at the shop. Please check the website, Facebook, or call the store for more information:

March 23 Book Signing and Discussion
"Laughter Salad for Little Ones" with author Kimberly Borin

April 20 Earth Day
Activities throughout the day

April 23 World Book Night Celebration
Join us for an evening celebrating the love of books in honor of World Book Night. Refreshments will be served and select books will be on sale.

May 18 Book Signing and Reading
Doris Ettliger, illustrator of G is for Garden State and other books for children.

Every Wednesday at 10:30
Join us for an informal storytime and playdate. Parents can relax with a cup of coffee or tea and the kids can play and socialize in our wonderful upstairs room.

Anytime
Our upstairs children's room is always open to spend time, play with some toys, or read a book. Complimentary coffee and tea always available upstairs in the back room.

Our hours are Tues, Wed, Fri 10-5, Thurs 10-6, and Sat 10-3. Phone 832-6686

Find us online at www.califonbookshop.com or www.facebook.com/califonbookshop

WORLD BOOK NIGHT

On April 23 bookshops around the world will celebrate World Book Night. Community members will share their love of reading with others by giving away half a million books that have been specially produced for the event. The event is meant to encourage non-readers or light readers to explore new books that their peers have enjoyed and recommended. Sign ups to be a book giver have closed, but if you are interested in participating you can contact Califon Book Shop. There are a limited number of book sets still available. Even if you are not a book giver this year, please join Califon Book Shop on April 23 in celebrating this worthwhile cause with an evening of refreshments, mingling, and of course BOOKS! For more information please visit us on the web at www.califonbookshop.com or www.facebook.com/califonbookshop or call (908) 832-6686

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEAN UP DAY

Saturday March 9th, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, 314 State Route 12 East, Flemington. Call 908-788-1110 for details.

COMPUTER & ELECTRONICS COLLECTION DAY

Saturday April 13th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm (rain or shine) at the Hunterdon County Library Complex, 314 State Route 12, Flemington, NJ. Accepting up to 10 items containing electric circuit boards including: computers, monitors and televisions.

NO air conditioners, dehumidifiers, refrigerators, propane tanks or hazardous waste will be accepted.

DESTINATION IMAGINATION

Three Califon School teams, comprised of 18 students in grades 3-7, will be competing once again this year in the **Destination Imagination** competition at Robbinsville High School in Robbinsville, N.J. This state-wide competition, held on Saturday, March 23, involves creative problem solving in a team format. Califon students are no strangers to success in this challenging, one-of-a-kind forum. Twice in the past Califon has sent teams to the national competition in Knoxville, Tennessee!

TREPS MARKETPLACE

TREPS, a trendy term for young entrepreneurs, is the award-winning, entrepreneurship education program that provides the right situation for Califon students to become *extraordinary*. TREPS gets kids excited to come to school and helps children to think big.

Come join the students of Califon on Friday, March 8, 2013 at 7pm as they present the 3rd annual TREPS Marketplace. Items for sale, Whoppie Pies, Kettle Corn, Candles, Key Chains, Body Care Products, Carnival Games, and don't worry about where to put your coat, we have a coat check and much more will be among the 25+ tables.

Snow Date: March 9th at 7pm

LOCAL BOYS "SCOUTING FOR FOOD"

Boys in Califon Cub Scout Pack 192 and Califon Boy Scout Troop 192 will once again be "Scouting for Food". Here's how it works. On Saturday, April 27 a scout will leave an empty shopping bag with instructions at your front door. During the week, you will fill the bag with groceries. At the end of the week, leave it out on your porch or by your door. The scout will come back to your house on Saturday, May 4, to pick up the filled bag.

All the items collected will go to the Open Cupboard Food Pantry in High Bridge, which serves families in need in Northern Hunterdon County.

Please support our young people as they do their bit to combat hunger in our communities. For more information, contact Jessica Hickman-Beard at 520-0109 or Lynne Parente at 832-6381.