



Califon Crier

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Thoughts About the Centennial

By Councilman Leo Janas

On March 4, 1918, Governor Walter E. Edge signed into law legislation that created Califon. As most of you already know, that means that next year will be the 100th anniversary of our Borough.

In reading *The Califon Story*, which chronicles some of the early history of the Borough and is the source for most of the information in this article, it is possible to find some themes that appear throughout the history of Califon. One is the how individuals and local organizations worked to build a sense of community. For example, the Califon Improvement Association, founded in 1916, provided a number of services and was the catalyst for the formation of the fire department in 1921. The local churches and various organizations provided social opportunities and services to the community. Some institutions like the public school have helped bind the town together. Community has always been an important part of Califon. Movies in the Borough Hall, shows and other entertainment have been replaced by the fall Street Fair, recreational activities like the Fun Days and the car show, parades and many other events. The organizations have changed both in form and function, but still are important today.

Changes in technology have also been important. According to *The Califon Story*, news of the end of World War I was announced by church bells and whistles; people learned about Pearl Harbor via the radio. The book reports that the telephone came to Califon in 1903. Perhaps someday someone will chronicle the first uses of the internet or the appearance of cell phones in town. In January 1948 an ice storm knocked out electrical service to part of the Califon for nine days. Those of us who experienced Sandy can relate to what the absence of that technology can do to a community.

Like most places in the 20th century United States, Califon was also shaped by changes in transportation. Walking to high school was replaced by the train until busses and cars made getting to classes easier. Products manufactured in town were initially transported by train, but eventually trucks became the method of shipment. In some ways cars may have weakened community as people could travel to parks and other recreational facilities themselves instead of waiting for a church or other group to sponsor a trip. Stores that were within walking distance (so much so that Califon was a "Saturday night" town where people mixed and mingled) were replaced with regional stores that now could be reached by automobile. But cars and the suburbanization that it brought may have also helped to increase the population of the borough, as houses were built and Califon came within commuting distance of areas of employment. More people could visit to shop, sightsee or attend an event, especially when the weather was bad and they were not dependent on passenger trains that only ran a few times a day.

In 1960 the population of Califon was 777. The most recent Census Bureau estimate (2016) puts it at 1,060. What have been the major changes in the Borough since *The Califon Story* was first published in 1964? How did major events like the 1960s, the Reagan Era and 9/11 have an impact on the town? How have community, transportation and technology, among other things, both preserved and changed where we live? Aside from the topics mentioned above, there are many more things that could be learned about us.

Perhaps it is time for someone to chronicle how Califon has grown and developed in the 50 years or so since *The Califon Story* was written. Writing another book would be a large task; fortunately there are other ways to become involved. There will be plenty of opportunities to plan and participate in the events related to the centennial. And, if you're not sure about getting more involved in the community on a permanent basis, this commitment comes with an expiration date. But don't let it slip away.

**NEW JERSEY GOVERNMENT ENERGY
AGGREGATION PROGRAM
PROVIDING RESIDENTS AN OPPORTUNITY
FOR REDUCED ELECTRICITY RATES**

By: Mayor Charles Daniel

I recently attended a seminar concerning a New Jersey government program that allows for a municipality to aggregate energy usage of all its residents to obtain lower rates than they can get individually. My skepticism was high for two reasons (1) too many scams in the energy marketplace promising reduced rates, which typically last a short period, followed by a significant increase, and (2) if it is government sponsored, it's too good to be true.

During this seminar, I heard nothing but positive feedback from other mayors/ administrators whose municipalities are currently participating in the program. Programs executed to date have achieved 8% - 14% savings vs. the utility default rate or price to compare. The price will always be below or equal to the default rate, no higher. There is no cost to a participating municipality or the community to implement the program.

I was 'shocked' out of my skepticism and asked the Borough Council to pursue. Council agreed. At the August Borough Council Meeting, a first reading of an ordinance occurred to join the Community Energy Aggregation Program.

We are pleased that we will be able to offer the electric energy savings to our residents. The program is very different than any other third-party supply contract and offers consumer protections that other third party suppliers do not offer. There will never be penalties or fees for opting out at any time and a flat, fixed rate (not variable) is paramount.

The community energy aggregation program is overseen by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) and the NJ Division of Rate Council. There is a law that allows municipalities to pool the energy usage from all residents within each municipality in an effort to find a lower rate on the electric supply portion of your bill.

This program is an opt-out program. This means that if you wish not to experience the fixed rate savings that is secured, you must opt-out. Group buying power as well as protections against fluctuating rates we see as a valuable service along with providing residents with the opportunity for energy savings.

We are expected to have a public hearing and second

reading of the ordinance on September 18, 2017, and, if needed, will schedule a town hall meeting on the topic. In the meantime, if you have questions beyond what is addressed here you can call 866-688-5197. Representatives from Concord Energy Services and the program manager will be on hand at the public hearing to answer questions as well.

"The worst thing that can happen is you can save a little money."

- Mayor Christopher P. Vergano, Wayne Township

CALIFON BOARD OF HEALTH NEWS

The Califon Board of Health has recently been contacted regarding what appears to be a growing feral cat population in town. We are working with our Animal Control Officer to try and figure out what we can do to control this population.

We are urging all residents to please not feed any stray cats. It is the Borough's position that if you feed the cats, you own them and should get them vaccinated and spayed. If you have a pet cat, please keep them inside or make sure that they have identification.

Both the state and county Health departments have been a proponent of local municipalities to require all residents to license their cats on a yearly basis. It is not required like it is for dogs, but they recommend cat licensing to make sure all cats are vaccinated against the rabies virus. With licensing, before you can license your pet, you must show that you have vaccinated your dog/cat against the rabies virus with a rabies vaccination certificate. Licensing of your pet is done solely to help protect the health and wellness of our residents which is why it is through the local health departments the licenses are issued. Califon's Board of Health will be discussing this topic at their next meeting on Wednesday September 6th at 7:30.

**3RD ANNUAL CALIFON
CLASSIC CAR SHOW**

Come on down to Califon Island Park to the Califon classic Car Show, on Saturday, September 9th, from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM (Rain date September 10th). The event is a fundraiser benefiting the Veterans Memorial (FOCIP). Proceeds from the annual event will be used to erect flag poles to represent each branch of the Armed Services at the Califon Island Park.

In addition to the beautiful cars, attractions include music by DJ Dug, food and refreshments. Also, Op-

eration Chill Out will be there, which is a volunteer organization that provides outreach for homeless veterans, men and women in NJ and parts of PA.

32ND ANNUAL TOWN WIDE TAG SALE- SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23RD 9 AM TO 4PM

Please support Califon's First Aid Squad by participating in the much anticipated Town wide Tag Sale. \$30 Donation to the squad gets you a TagSale Sign for your lawn & your location marked on the map - and many friends, neighbors and garage sale shoppers coming to your sale.

You can also choose to set up your wares at the Califon Train Station Flea Market Area - first come first serve for spots.

Look for sign up forms in the mail, at the town hall, or on the web at Califonems.org

Rain Date- Sunday September 24

Please also keep an eye out for our annual Coin Toss on that day! Your support helps us help you!

The Califon First Aid Squad hosted a Cadet & Squad Night on July 25th to celebrate our teamwork and newest recruits. We were proud to have Califon Mayor Charles Daniel join us in the celebration!

The Rescue Squad is always looking for new members. Any questions, or anyone who is interested in joining the squad please call Jay Klein, President, 908-500-0105. Cadets can join at age 14 & you can take the EMT class at age 16. Ambulance drivers need to be age 21+. We provide paid training, all uniforms, and a rewarding sense of community and helping others in times of need!

CALIFON BOOK SHOP'S "THE MARKET" IS OPENING IN SEPTEMBER!

The Market in the upstairs of Califon Book Shop will soon be offering a large array of local handmade items for everyone to enjoy. Stay tuned for the grand opening!

Storytime at the book shop will continue into the fall. The second Tuesday of every month from 11:00 am to 12:00.

Book Lovers will also continue into the fall and will continue to meet the last Thursday of every month from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm.

Book Signings- The Califon Book Shop will be hosting three book signings this fall.

- September 23rd from 1-3pm join Larry Pearlman

author of "Journaling the Journey".

- October 8th from 1-3pm at the Califon Street Fair, Charles Levin the author of "Not So Dead".
- October 21st from 1-3pm join Karen Rogers author of "Racing with My Shadow"

CALIFON FIRE COMPANY PANCAKE BREAKFAST TO RESUME OCTOBER 1, 2017

Beginning the 1st Sunday of October, October 1, 2017, the Califon Fire Co. will resume serving their famous Pancake Breakfast at the Califon Fire House, 41 Main St., Califon beginning at 7:00 a.m. and ending this year at 11:00 a.m. Come and enjoy pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, coffee and tea.

CALIFON FIRE COMPANY GOLF OUTING

Califon Fire Company to host a Golf Outing on Friday, October 6, 2017. For more information please call (908) 256-5717.

CALIFON'S 5TH ANNUAL STREET FAIR

On Sunday October 8 from 1-5 PM, the Borough of Califon will host its 5th annual Street Fair! Please mark your calendars now for this free event celebrating the community of Califon! Sections of Main Street will be closed to automobile traffic and the historic downtown area will be transformed into a communal scene of fall fun, food, and entertainment.

The Califon Street Fair has been growing in leaps and bounds each year. Features include a beer garden hosted by the Califon Fire Company, delicious food from area restaurants, many arts and crafts vendors, and community organizations. Musical highlights include main stage bands The Voodudes and Ghost Head, and an Open Mic stage will present a variety of artists and styles. Free games and entertainment will be offered by the Califon Recreation Committee, including pumpkin painting, face painting, a bounce house and more.

We are also pleased to welcome and thank our community business sponsors: Staiano's Furniture, Groendyke Insurance, Peapack & Gladstone bank, and Recorder Publications.

In addition to the Street fair festivities, the Jon Slusher Memorial Bridge to Bridge 5K (www.jonslusher.org) will be held on the same day, kicking off at 1 PM.

The Street Fair event is sponsored by The Borough of Califon. Street parking is available around town, except in the closed areas. Information and updates

on the event and applications for vendors are at www.facebook.com/groups/CalifonStreetFair/ or by emailing califonstreetfair@gmail.com.

A FEW SAFETY REMINDERS FROM OUR FIRE MARSHAL

This year the Street Fair is Sunday, October 8. Many things will be happening during the 4 hours its held on Main Street. To make it as enjoyable and safe as possible for all, we the committee members and town officials work hard behind the scenes, prior to and during the event, to reduce the chances of having any problems. A few tips for those who will be attending: If you have little ones keep them by your side and in view so you don't lose them in the crowd. The hay bales are for decoration purpose, not to play on or sit on. They will be sprayed a fire retardant to minimize the possibility of catching fire. You can sit on the curb, a porch, a bench or available chairs if you want to listen to the music being played or just need to rest.

The food venders who will be on site will be inspected for fire safety compliance for everyone's safety. These are just a few tips for your benefit and others, so have a great time, enjoy yourself along with your family and friends, and continue to be safe.

Allan Layton

Califon Fire Marshall

JONATHAN SLUSHER 5K WALK/RUN

The Jonathan Slusher 5K Run/Walk will take place on Oct. 8 at 1PM at the Califon Bridge on Main Street. Race course is from start at the Bridge down River Road, loops slightly to left to connect with Columbia Trail, continues down Columbia Trail and finishes at the Train Station. Same day registration will be at the Califon Train Station beginning at 9AM or on-line registration at:

[https://runsignup.com/Race/NJ/Califon/
JonSlusher5K](https://runsignup.com/Race/NJ/Califon/JonSlusher5K)

Fees are \$25 before Oct. 1, after \$30; families of 4 people \$40; Kids 10 and under \$5. T-shirts for 1st 100 applicants.

Parking in municipal lots and behind the municipal building. Great post-Race food. Trophies for first place overall in male, female and walker categories. Medals for first finishers in all age groups. Trophy and medal presentations at Rambo's Store at 2:30PM.

Kids Race--last 100 yds of Columbia Trail begins at 2PM. Ribbons for all participants.

The Race is an entity within the Califon Fall Festival and if you have family members who are non-runners, there are many exciting opportunities for fun at the festival.

Donations of any amount are gladly accepted. Make check to Jonathan Slusher Memorial Scholarship Foundation and mail to 79 Guinea Hollow Road, Lebanon, NJ 08833. We are a 501-c-3 charity and all donations are tax-exempt.

For more information, contact: Shirley Slusher at 908-832-7383 or email slushersm@comcast.net

FARMERS MARKET AT CALIFON UMC

The Califon United Methodist Church and the Califon Area Merchants and Professionals Association (CAMPA) continue their excitement co-sponsoring the Califon Farmers Market serving the Califon region for the remaining dates of its 2nd market season. The market will continue for 4 more Saturdays into the fall of 2017, operating for 2 Saturdays per month: August 26, September 9, September 23, and ending Saturday, October 14. The market runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., on the lawn of the Califon United Methodist Church located at 15 River Road in Califon, and will feature fresh fruits and vegetables, spices, flowers, plants and other sundries such as organic beauty products. Local music is acoustic and presented by the Califon Entertainment Committee, performed by local female and male performers, such as Paul Elwood, Izzy Tarran, Chelsea Carlson, and the instrumental ensemble, Dirtgroove, from 11am – 12noon, respectively. It is rain or shine and will be held indoors of the United Methodist Church complex, if rain occurs. For further information on the market, or to participate as a vendor in future markets, please contact Steven Mitchell at 917-275-8145 or email califonfarmmarket@gmail.com. Our Facebook page, at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CalifonFarmersMarket> also provides timely updates on that week's upcoming market.

JONATHAN SLUSHER SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION HAS NAMED THEIR 2017 RECIPIENTS:

Elizabeth Tarallo (Mt. Olive); Alison Bridge (West Morris Central); Patrick Mulligan (Hunterdon Central); and Dana Seavey (Mendham). Because Voorhees and North Hunterdon had no applicants, the following students already in Journalism/ Communications were granted awards: C B Garrett

IV, Luke Ervin, and Kelsey Cronin. The annual \$1,000 Journalism/Communications scholarships honor Jonathan Slusher, former editor of the Hunterdon Review. Jon fought courageously to overcome brain cancer but passed away in 2010. The Slusher Family, then, formed the Scholarship Foundation to encourage young students to consider Journalism/Communications as a career. Enabled by generous donations and the annual Jon Slusher 5K Run/Walk, the Foundation has been able to award 32 scholarships over the past 6 years. On October 8, the annual 5K Memorial Race (a USATF event) will once again take place in Califon as an event within the Califon Street Festival. Contact Shirley Slusher (908-832-7383) for details or visit:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/NJ/Califon/JonSlusher5K> to find out more and to pre-register. The Scholarship Foundation is a 501-c-3 charitable organization and all donations are tax deductible. Checks can be made out to: The Jonathan Slusher Scholarship Foundation, 79 Guinea Hollow Road, Lebanon, NJ 08833.

15TH ANNUAL GIVING FAIR

The Lower Valley Presbyterian Church is celebrating 15 years of giving! We have raised over \$160,000 thus far and want the giving to continue. The Giving Fair will be held on Saturday, November 11th from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. in the church's Parish Hall, 445 County Road 513, Califon. Get an early start on your holiday shopping and find unique gifts that make a real difference in the lives of people in need. At the Giving Fair you make donations to non-profit organizations in honor of someone. With each donation, you receive a free custom gift card to present to the person you are honoring. Honor gifts are wonderful for teachers, relatives, business associates or people who "have everything." These "alternative" gifts are tax deductible, too. Twenty different local, national and international aid organizations are featured, with at least one representative from each who can tell you amazing stories about how donations are used. Displays will include interactive exhibits that are fun for kids! If you prefer to give tangible gifts, there will be beautiful beaded jewelry from Bead for Life, aiding the Ugandan women who make the items. There will also be raffle baskets with all proceeds benefiting the Open Cupboard Food Pantry in Clinton. Visit all the organizations and get your passport stamped and receive free raffle basket tickets! Food available for purchase. If you are unable to attend,

visit www.lowervalley.org for an order form or contact the church at 908-832-2933.

CALIFON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A special thank you to all who donated funds during the estate sale at the Philhower General Store. Because of their generosity, we were able to purchase several pieces that will remain part of Califon's history, notably an antique coffee grinder, a child's sleigh, several display cases, a desk and a few smaller pieces. The current display, focusing on the reprint of "The Califon Story", will be on display through October. The Califon Story is available for purchase at The Station, Rambo's and The Califon Book Shop. Future open dates include: September 3 & 17 and October 1, 8 and 15. Our opening on Oct. 8th is in conjunction with the Califon Street Fair and will include two walking tours of downtown Califon. Questions, call 832-2012 or visit www.califonhistoricsociety.org.

HALLOWEEN FESTIVITIES AND CURFEW NEWS

Once again this year, the Mayor and Council will be enacting a strict Halloween curfew. Please view the website: www.califonboro.net and watch for notices throughout town as to the exact dates and duration of the curfew prior to Halloween; which this year is Tuesday, October 31st. Mayor and Council respectfully request that all Califon residents honor this curfew and please have their children, under the age of 18, home and off the streets by 9:00 pm on Mischief Night, Monday, October 30th. The town curfew and local ordinance will be strictly enforced by the Police Dept.; additional police officers will be on duty patrolling the Borough throughout the night. Residents are asked, once again, to do a "neighborhood watch" and to report any unusual and suspicious activity to the police by calling (908) 876-3232 PRESS "0" for Dipatch. Mayor and Council thank you all for your cooperation in keeping the community safe during the Halloween festivities.

HALLOWEEN: Tuesday, October 31, 2017

Trick or Treat: Tuesday, October 31, 2017,
3:00 PM TO 7:00 PM

The Fire Company will host its annual Halloween Parade on Tuesday, October 31st at 7:00 PM.

Parade will line up on School Street at 6:45 PM.

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

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ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD/METAL GOODS COLLECTION

Curbside collection of household/metal/white goods will take place on Monday, September 25, 2017, following the annual First Aid Squad sponsored "Tag Sale" on Saturday, September 23rd.

Please have all items placed at the curb for pick-up by 6:00 am on the 25th. The following items will not be picked up if left at the curb: construction debris, hazardous waste, dirt/rock/concrete, tree limbs, leaves, vegetation, or brush.

Please note: **TELEVISIONS WILL NOT BE PICKED UP.**

Also, Freon does not need to be removed from refrigerators, freezers or air conditioners.

PLEASE PLACE A TARP OVER ALL SOFT GOODS (MATTRESSES, SOFAS, AND RUGS)

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.

Jason Beard, Charles Daniel, Laura Eidsvaag, Leo Janas, Allan Layton,
Karen Mastro, Steven Mitchell & Shirley Slusher

Deadline for November/December submissions: Friday, October 13.