

# WEST CALDWELL REPORT

YOUR OFFICIAL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER  
October 2005 [www.westcaldwell.com](http://www.westcaldwell.com)



## GOVERNING BODY REDUCES MUNICIPAL TAX INCREASE

Final property tax bills for 2005 were mailed out in September after the Township received certification from the Essex County Board of Taxation for the 2005 Final Tax Rate.

“The municipal tax rate increase was reduced by two tax points by using \$30,000 in additional revenues from property sales and with the receipt of \$125,000 in Extraordinary Aid from the Division of Local Government Services” stated Mayor Tempesta. “West Caldwell applied for \$850,000 in Extraordinary Aid to eliminate any municipal tax increase.”

“The tax increase for municipal, county and school purposes represents a 3% increase over resident’s 2004 tax bill. This 2005 tax bill must cover the rising cost of state pension bills, gasoline and utility bills, garbage collection and disposal fees and insurance premiums for the Township,” added Mayor Tempesta.

West Caldwell is constantly striving to contain municipal expenditures by sharing services with other

**MAYOR**  
**Joseph Tempesta, Jr.**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT**  
**Dominick J. Aiello**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**William E. Payne . . . . . Public Works**  
**Richard C. Norgard . . . . . Finance & Welfare**  
**Dominick J. Aiello . . . . . Public Safety**  
**Joseph A. Fischer . . . . . Water/Pools**  
**Rosemarie Sutherlin . . . . . Recreation**  
**Richard C. Otterbein . . . . . Legal & Personnel**

communities,” stated Finance Chairman Richard Norgard. “We now share services for Health Officer, Tax Assessor, Public Assistance Director, Animal Control, Sewerage Treatment, Recreation Programs and Swimming Pools. We have added Police Dispatch Services this year and are looking into Court Administration in the future,” added Councilman Norgard.

## HOURS OF OPERATION

The Municipal Building has extended hours every Monday evening. Township offices are available from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM each Monday and will remain open until 8:00 PM on the following Mondays to facilitate Tax, Water, and Sewer payments: November 7, 2005,

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February 6, 2006, May 1, 2006 (Final day to pay discounted Pool Membership), and May 8, 2006.

## **JOHNSON AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION**

Councilman Bill Payne, Public Works Chairman, reported that the Johnson Avenue Reconstruction - Section 1 is substantially complete. West Caldwell was able to do this work thanks to a \$275,000 grant from the NJDOT. This work included drainage improvements, new granite block curbing, and an all new 30' wide roadway pavement. The Township has also submitted a Grant Application to the NJDOT for funding the balance of this project.

## **AUTOMATIC DEBIT NEWS**

Our Automatic Debit (ACH) program now has over 240 members. Each quarter more residents are taking advantage of this stress free method of bill payment for Tax, Water and Sewer bills.

If you sign up, you will still receive your regular bills with a range of dates that the debit will take place pre-printed on your bill.

If you are interested in joining the program, applications for payment of Tax, Water and Sewer bills, as well as Pool Memberships, are available on the Township website, [www.westcaldwell.com](http://www.westcaldwell.com), or in the Tax Collector's Office, 973-226-2304.

## **LEAF BAG SALES**

Leaf bags are currently available at the Municipal Building during regular operating hours. Free bags are once again available. Each household will receive 10 free bags this season and senior households (those 62 older), as always, will receive 20 free bags.

Leaf bags will also be available for purchase at the West Caldwell Public Library on Saturdays beginning October 1, 2005 through November 19, 2005 from 9 AM to 2 PM. Free leaf bags will not be available for pick up at the Library.

## **FALL HYDRANT FLUSHING**

Councilman Joseph Fischer, Water Committee Chairman, announced that Fall Hydrant Flushing is underway. Work began on Monday, September 26, on Mountain Avenue (at the northern end of the Township) and will conclude at Beechtree Road (the southern end of the Township). Flushing will take approximately four weeks to complete and will be performed week nights between

the hours of 9:00 PM and 1:00 AM. This work is necessary for proper maintenance of our water distribution system. It provides an opportunity to test the Township's fire hydrants and also removes accumulated sediment from water mains.

Please check to be sure water is running clear before starting any laundry during this time. Tune in to TV Channel 36 for updates and progress reports.

## **NEWCOMER'S NIGHT**

Councilman Richard Otterbein announced that the Mayor and Council invite all new residents who have moved into the Township within the past year to attend West Caldwell's annual Newcomer's Night. The evening will take place at the Municipal Building, 30 Clinton Road on Tuesday, October 25 at 7:30 PM.

Members of the Governing Body and Township Administration will be on hand to discuss the responsibilities and services of the different Township Committees. The evening will conclude with informal discussion over coffee, cider and cookies.

## **DECAMP COURT**

The Township is completing design plans for the construction of a new 6 inch water main in DeCamp Court. The new ductile iron pipe water main will replace approximately 600 feet of aging cast iron pipe and will reconnect to the 12 inch water main that runs along Runnymede Road. We anticipate advertising for bids this Fall, with construction anticipated for late Fall / early Winter.

## **HUD GRANT**

Plans are nearing completion for improvements to the toddler play areas at both Cedar Street and Westville Pool facilities. These plans include a complete redesign of the designated play areas, as well as replacement of all existing play equipment. The new IPEMA (International Play Equipment Manufacturers Association) approved equipment and improvements are being funded by a \$95,000 HUD Community Development Grant. Work on these improvements is expected to be completed before the opening of the 2006 pool season.

## **HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

The West Caldwell Health Department anticipates a busy, healthy fall season! The Township flu and pneumonia clinic will be held on October 20 from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. The vaccinations will be offered at the

West Caldwell Fire Department, 6 Fairfield Avenue, West Caldwell. The shots are free to residents with Medicare Part B. The cost to all others will be \$25.00 for the flu vaccine and \$35.00 for the pneumonia shot. *Some restrictions apply.* Please call the Health Department at 973-226-2303 for more details. Additional flu/pneumonia clinics will be held at the Fairfield Community Center, 376 Hollywood Avenue, on October 19 from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, and at the North Caldwell Firehouse, Gould Avenue, on November 2 from 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM. Flu shots will also be available at the West Essex Family Health Day (details below). All clinics are available to West Caldwell residents.

West Caldwell, along with ShopRite of West Caldwell, is proud to host its 10<sup>th</sup> Annual West Essex Family Health Day. This year's event will be held October 29 at James Caldwell High School, Westville Avenue. Residents of the entire West Essex area are invited for many free health services, as well as discounted blood chemistry screenings! Please call 973-226-2303 or visit ShopRite for more details.

Residents are reminded that the Health Department's free monthly blood pressure screenings are held at the West Caldwell Public Library, 30 Clinton Road. The blood pressure screening is held on the second Thursday of each month from 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM. The remaining 2005 dates are October 13, November 10 and December 8. Residents are also encouraged to attend our free blood glucose screening, which will be offered at the library on November 10 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. In addition, the Health Department will be holding a stroke risk assessment at the West Caldwell Public Library from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM on November 16.

Finally, the Health Department will be holding its free rabies clinic on November 5 from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM at the West Caldwell Public Works Garage, 21 Clinton Road (behind the Police Department). Residents are reminded to bring their dogs on leashes and their cats in carriers. An additional free rabies clinic will be held at the Fairfield Public Works Garage, 230 Fairfield Avenue, Fairfield, from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM on November 12. As always, West Caldwell residents are invited to attend either event.

## **LIBRARY NEWS**

The West Caldwell Public Library continues into the Fall its programming series for adults. "Meet the Author", a lecture and book signing event, will feature writer Pamela Redmond Satron (*Younger*) on October 27 at 7:30 PM. The Friday afternoon Movie at the Library continues to feature great films and great snacks -

provided by the Friends of the West Caldwell Public Library, every Friday at 2 PM.

## **In the Children's Room. . . .**

Fall programming is in full swing.

For Halloween, we will be having a puppet show entitled "Hi-Ho It's Halloween" on Tuesday, October 25 at 6:30 PM aimed at the 3 - 7 age group. Also, we will be offering up "Boo to You!: Halloween Crafts & Stories for All!" on Saturday, October 29 at 2:00 PM with stories, snacks and a craft.

In November we will be celebrating National Children's Book Week starting out with a "Super Sing Along!" with singing, a craft and refreshments on Tuesday, November 15 at 6:30 PM. On Wednesday, November 16 we will have an afternoon of games for children ages 6 - 10 in a program entitled "Out of the Pages! An Afternoon of Games". Patrons will be bringing picnic dinners to the library on Thursday evening, November 17 and listening to stories and poems about different foods in a program entitled "Eat a Story; Eat a Poem!: Dinner and Story Hour". And to finish off this special week of programming, the Library will be hosting "A Teddy Bear's Picnic" at 11:30 AM on Friday, November 18.

We look forward to the new season with "A Winter Wonderland of Puppet Plays" on Tuesday, November 29 at 6:30 PM and on Tuesday, December 6 at 6:30 PM we will be presenting "Welcome Winter! Story Time and Craft" for children ages 5 - 8.

Also, our teen book discussion group "Talk It Up: Fall 2005" will be meeting once a month from October - December.

For information on any of these programs or to register, call the Library at 973-226-5441.

## **ROAD PAVING**

The contract for our annual paving program has been awarded and construction is scheduled to begin in October. Streets included in the years project are Dawson Drive, Sunnie Terrace, Fairfield Avenue (Passaic to Fairfield Boundary and near Cedar Street to Firehouse), Beechtree Road, Cedar Lane and Kramer Avenue.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Council President Dominick Aiello announced the promotions of four Police Officers. They are Sergeant

Michael P. Moran to the position of Lieutenant, Sergeant Lawrence G. Peter to the position of Lieutenant, Corporal Thomas A. Bryant, Jr. to the position of Sergeant and Corporal John H. Kopf to the position of Sergeant.

The Police Department would also like to remind residents to check TV-36 for school closings or delayed openings as a result of snow or other inclement weather.

## **RECREATION HIGHLIGHTS**

Councilwoman Rosemarie Sutherlin announced that Recreation is sponsoring an Adult Aerobics Class. The classes will be held on Monday and Wednesday nights from 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM at Essex Valley School on Henderson Drive in West Caldwell. The class will start on October 17 and end on December 7. The fee is \$40.

Adult Open Basketball Program is held Wednesdays and Thursdays, 7:30 PM to 10:00 PM at James Caldwell High School.

An array of upcoming youth programs will be announced through the school systems, TV-36, the West Caldwell website, [www.westcaldwell.com](http://www.westcaldwell.com), and The Progress. On the horizon are Youth Basketball, Girls Twirling, Wrestling and Indoor Soccer.

The Adult Special Needs Canteen evenings are underway at the West Caldwell Civic Center. The participants enjoy music, singing, dancing, crafts, special events and refreshments.

The Halloween Parade sponsored by West Caldwell-Caldwell Recreation will be held Sunday, October 30, 2005 at James Caldwell High School auditorium. The parade is for children in preschool through Grade 3. Registration will start at 2:00 PM at the High School with the parade starting at 2:30 PM. Registration forms are distributed through the schools or at the West Caldwell-Caldwell Recreation office at 5 Fairfield Avenue, West Caldwell.

To register for any of the programs above, visit the West Caldwell-Caldwell Recreation office at 5 Fairfield Avenue, West Caldwell or call 973-226-3621 for further information.

Recreation is seeking a Holiday Tree for use at the West Caldwell Civic Center. Residents interested in donating a tree may call 973-226-3621 to give the description and location.

## **HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

The West Caldwell annual Tree Lighting, sponsored by Mayor Tempesta and the Township Council, will take place Sunday, December 4 at 4:30 PM at the Gazebo in Crane Park. Santa and his buddies will be visiting with help from the West Caldwell Fire Department.

## **WEST CALDWELL HISTORY BOOK UPDATE**

Councilman Bill Payne, Chairman of the West Caldwell Centennial Committee, announced recently that the Centennial History Book Committee has completed its work and will publish a 200+ page hard bound book "Celebrating A Centennial - A History of West Caldwell, New Jersey." The publication is expected to be available in early November. The book will be available for sale at the Municipal Building and in the West Caldwell Public Library, 30 Clinton Road. The Committee, consisting of Chairman James Gardner, Bill Payne, Ronald Day, Beverly Crifasi, and Roxanne Douglas, has been working on the research, writing and editing of the book for the past year.

## **BLOOMFIELD AVENUE STREETScape / BUS SHELTER**

To continue our work to enhance the appearance of Bloomfield Avenue (an Essex County Roadway) and to continue working on the concept of "traffic calming", work will soon begin on a new barrier-free, ADA compliant bus shelter, fully funded by a HUD Grant. This will complement the work already completed by Essex County, including new center islands, landscaping, "retro" style signal and sign poles, stone "look" intersection ramps, etc. The final phase of our Streetscape Plan, including reproduction style "gas lamps" and brick style crosswalks is anticipated for the Spring of 2006, and will be funded by a \$275,000 Federal Transportation Enhancement Grant.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Mayor and Council is broadcast on TV-36 the Thursday and Monday following the meeting.

West Caldwell has long had a pooper scooper law and we urge all pet owners to be considerate to their neighbors and pick up after their pets.

