

WEST CALDWELL REPORT



YOUR OFFICIAL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
April 2006 www.westcaldwell.com

2006 MUNICIPAL BUDGET INTRODUCED

The Mayor and Council introduced the 2006 Municipal Budget on Tuesday, March 21, 2006.

“The \$16.4 million budget represents additional appropriations highlighted by significant increases in State pension bills, insurance and medical benefits, contractual obligations for the PBA, the Library and utility bills,” Mayor Tempesta stated.

“An additional \$78,000 is required for the Reserve for Uncollected Taxes to cover any increase in the school, county or municipal tax levies,” the Mayor added.

“We are fortunate to have collected additional revenues that can be anticipated to help offset some of our appropriation increases,” stated Finance Chairman Richard Norgard. “Additional income from interest on investments, sewer user and recreation fees, building permits and land sale proceeds have not only offset over \$240,000 in nonrecurring revenues from 2005, but also increased this year’s revenues by \$195,000.

MAYOR

Joseph Tempesta, Jr.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

William E. Payne

COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

The Mayor and Council will submit an application to the State requesting Extraordinary Aid to cover any municipal tax increase,” Councilman Norgard concluded.

The public hearing on the 2006 Municipal Budget is scheduled for Tuesday, May 16, 2006 at 8:00 PM in the Council Chambers.

NEW POOL MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

Applications are now available at the West Caldwell Municipal Building, according to Councilman Joseph Fischer, Chairman of the Pool Committee. Memberships can be purchased between the hours of 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM Mondays and between the hours of 9:00 AM and 4:30 PM other weekdays. A membership entitles individuals to use either the Westville Avenue or Cedar Street Pool facilities throughout the summer. Call 973-226-2300 for further information or get your application

BREAKING NEWS !!!

WEST CALDWELL RATED “7TH BEST” IN THE STATE BY “NEW JERSEY MONTHLY” IN THE APRIL EDITION OF THEIR 100 BEST PLACES TO LIVE IN NEW JERSEY FEATURE

online at www.westcaldwell.com. Remember the deadline for discounted rates is April 30, 2006.

The Township of West Caldwell is now offering two new types of memberships for the 2006 Pool Season. A Twilight Membership entitles an individual to pool privileges Monday through Friday from 5:00 PM to closing. An Adult Weekend Membership allows an adult 18 years or older to enter the pools on Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays.

The pools will be open on weekends beginning Saturday, May 28, 2006 until schools close, and then the pools will be open every day starting on Saturday, June 24, 2006.

JOHNSON AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION - SECTION II

Council President Bill Payne, Public Works Chairman, reported that the Township has received a \$250,000 NJDOT Grant for the reconstruction of Johnson Avenue - Section II. This work will continue where Section I ended with drainage improvements, new granite block curbing, and a new 30' wide roadway pavement. We anticipate advertising for bids in the Spring, with construction planned for the Summer of 2006.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The West Caldwell Volunteer Fire Department has undertaken a recruitment campaign. Any individual 18 or older and in possession of a high school diploma, or will soon meet these criteria and/or possess the educational equivalent, may contact the Department at 973-226-2300 ext. 2381, or by e-mail to chief@wcvfd.org, to discuss the application process as well as the requirements.

SPRING HYDRANT FLUSHING

Councilman Joseph Fischer, Water Committee Chairman, announced that Spring Hydrant Flushing is underway. Work began on Monday, March 27, on Mountain Avenue (at the northern end of the Township) and will conclude at Beechtree Road (the southern end of the Township). The program, which requires approximately eight weeks to complete, 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.

DECAMP COURT

The Township has completed construction of a new 6 inch water main in DeCamp Court. The new ductile iron pipe water main has replaced approximately 600 feet of aging cast iron pipe and has been reconnected to the 12 inch water main that runs along Runnymede Road. All homes on DeCamp Court are now connected to the new water main.

HUD GRANT

The Township has received bids for improvements to the toddler play areas at both Cedar Street and Westville Avenue 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, and will provide barrier-free handicapped accessible recreation opportunities. Work on these improvements is expected to be completed before the opening of the 2006 pool season.

HEALTH PROGRAMS

Councilman Richard Otterbein encourages resident to "Spring" into action and attend one of the Health Department's free or discounted screenings this season! Residents are invited to attend a free Diabetes Screening on Thursday, April 13, from 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM at the West Caldwell Public Library, 30 Clinton Road.

The Health Department will hold its Male Cancer Screening from 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM on May 4. The screening will be offered at the West Caldwell Public Library, 30 Clinton Road. Included are a blood pressure check, hemocult test kit, PSA blood test, digital rectal exam and health education materials. Pre-registration and \$20 fee required.

Come out for a free Skin Cancer Screening on Wednesday, August 3, from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM! This important health screening will be held at the Westville Avenue Pool and will include a full body examination by a Chilton Memorial Hospital dermatologist.

Finally, the Health Department continues to offer its free monthly Blood Pressure Screening on the second Thursday of each month, from 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM, at

the West Caldwell Public Library, 30 Clinton Road. Residents are invited to meet with nurses for a blood pressure check and educational information about hypertension, heart disease and risk factors. No blood pressure checks will be held in July or August.

For information on any of these programs, please call 973-226-2303.

LIBRARY NEWS

Downloadable Audiobooks are one of the newest offerings at the West Caldwell Public Library. Provided by the Bergen County Cooperative Library System (BCCLS), library cardholders can choose from more than 1100 fiction and non-fiction titles to download to their computers or MP3 players, with approximately 30 more added each month. The audiobook remains available for 21 days, after which it can be renewed for an additional 21 days.

In the Children's Room. . . .

The Youth Services staff is very excited about this year's Summer Reading Club, the theme of which is *Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales*. We are again joining forces with our friends at the Caldwell Public Library to present Full Effect Productions "Paws, Claws, Scales and Magical Tales" on June 15 at 6:30 PM in the gymnasium at Washington Elementary School.

Young people of all ages are invited to the Library beginning on Monday, June 26 to join the summer reading club and to register for our fun reading and craft activities. Please remember to visit, call or check the Library's newly redesigned website www.bccls.org/westcaldwell for the latest summer reading details!

Starting on Monday, June 26 students entering grade 6 and up can join The Creature Feature Summer Reading Program for the chance to win prizes by reading, writing book reviews and answering trivia questions. This program will also feature the return of the Talk It Up book discussion group as well as the opportunity to join the new Youth Advisory Board.

REVERSE 911

West Caldwell has provided a "Reverse 911" emergency call system for several years. This allows us to provide telephone notifications to some or all of our residents for emergencies, prior to paving or other construction, etc. If you have an unlisted or cell phone number that you would like added to our database, call 973-226-2301.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Councilman Dominick Aiello, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, announced that the Department has hired two new Police Officers. They are Leonard Santiago of Irvington and Patrick Cooper of Parsippany. Both Officers began employment on February 13, 2006.

Councilman Aiello also reported that after 25 years of dedicated service to the Township of West Caldwell, Lieutenant James Veneziano retired from the West Caldwell Police Department on April 1, 2006.

Any resident interested in having a home security inspection can contact Corporal Donald Hayes at Police Headquarters, 973-226-4114, for an appointment. Securing doors and windows, having adequate lighting and other crime prevention tips are offered during this inspection.

Residents can contact Officer Paul Vanikiotis at Police Headquarters, 973-226-4114, for an inspection of their child safety seats. This is a thorough inspection of the installation and use of infant and booster seats. Officer Vanikiotis also has the latest information on manufacturer recalls on these products. A child safety seat may not protect your child in a crash if it is not used correctly and installed properly in your vehicle.

OPEN SPACE GRANT

West Caldwell, along with Caldwell, in a joint application, have each been awarded \$150,000 Essex County Open Space Grants for "Field Turf" improvements to Kiwanis Oval. The communities are continuing to work together to seek additional sources of funding for this project.

RECREATION HIGHLIGHTS

Preparation for Baseball, Softball and Youth Track are underway for children in grades 2 through 8. Anticipated start dates are early April.

Councilwoman Rosemarie Sutherlin, who Chairs our Recreation Committee, announced that our Summer Playgrounds and Tot Lot programs will be running once again.

The Summer Playgrounds Program is for children who have completed Kindergarten through 5th grade and will run from Thursday, June 29 through Thursday, August 3. There are three programs available: The "Sunshine Only"

is held 8:30 AM to Noon, the fee is \$85.00 and is held at Francisco Park, Memorial Park and Westville Avenue Pool. Should it be raining these sites will be canceled. The "All Weather" is held 8:30 AM - Noon, the fee is \$100.00 and is held at Jefferson School. The "All Weather Extended" is held from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM, the fee is \$235.00 and is held at Washington School. The "All Weather" sites will be accommodated inside the school should there be inclement weather. Additional fees are charged for off site special events on a participation basis. A calendar of events will be distributed on opening day. The "All Weather" and the "All Weather Extended" has limited space available. To assure inclusion in these programs you must register before the deadline of May 9. "Sunshine Only" registration deadline is Tuesday, May 23.

The Tot Lot Program will run from Thursday, June 29 through Thursday, August 3. The program held at Harrison School is for 4 and 5 year olds. Children must be 4 years of age by June 29, 2006. Children who have attended Kindergarten are not eligible. Proof of age must be shown at time of registration. The first session is from 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM and the second session is 10:30 AM to Noon. There is a \$35.00 registration fee. It is limited to 75 children in each of the two sessions. The program consists of special days, free play, games and arts and crafts.

Adult Aerobics Class, under the instruction of Dawn DiMasi, is now being held on Monday and Wednesday nights from 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM at Wilson School Gym. The class started on April 3, 2006 and ends on June 14, 2006. The fee is \$75.00.

NEW RECREATION PROGRAM

Councilwoman Sutherlin also wants residents to know that Recreation is sponsoring a new program for children who have completed grade 6 through 8. The goal is to offer teens a fun site of their own during the summer vacation. Teens will be able to participate in sports, games, arts and crafts and attend special trips. The program will be held at Essex Valley School, starting June 29 and ending on August 3, Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM, rain or shine. The fee is \$100.00.

For further information, please contact the Recreation office at 973-226-3621 or visit our website at www.westcaldwell.com.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

The annual West Essex Memorial Day Parade will be held Monday, May 29. The parade will commence at 9:30 AM from Forest Avenue in Caldwell, journey the length of Bloomfield Avenue, and conclude at Crane Park in West Caldwell. Groups or organizations wishing to march in the parade are asked to call Recreation, 973-226-3621, to obtain a registration form. Convertible automobiles are needed. Any volunteers wishing to drive their convertible in the parade can call 973-226-3621.

WEST CALDWELL HISTORY BOOK - SALES STILL GOING STRONG

Council President Bill Payne announced that an additional 250 copies of "Celebrating A Centennial - A History of West Caldwell, New Jersey" have been received from the printer and are now available at the Municipal Building and in the West Caldwell Public Library. They are priced at \$28.00 per copy.

Payne, Chairman of the Centennial Committee, said that the 220 page hard-bound books were delivered a few weeks ago. "Of those, more than 120 copies have already been sold and to date a total of 725 copies have been purchased," he added.

STREETSCAPE / BUS SHELTER

A new ADA compliant bus shelter, fully funded by a HUD Grant, has been installed on Bloomfield Avenue to continue working on the concept of "traffic calming."

Bids have been received and a contract has been awarded for the final phase of our Streetscape Plan, including reproduction style "gas lamps" and brick style crosswalks. This work is being funded by a \$275,000 Federal Transportation Enhancement Grant, with construction anticipated for the Summer of 2006.

CIVIC CENTER IMPROVEMENTS

The Township has been awarded one grant, and has been recommended for a second grant, with total funding of \$135,000 for exterior and interior improvements at our Civic Center. Work on this project is anticipated during the Winter of 2006-2007.