

WEST CALDWELL REPORT



YOUR OFFICIAL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
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2006 PROPERTY TAX INCREASES HELD TO 2.34%

Final property tax bills for 2006 were mailed out in September after the Township received certification from the Essex County Board of Taxation for the 2006 Final Tax Rate.

“After receiving notification from the Division of Local Government Services, the agency which awarded the Township \$125,000 in Extraordinary Aid, the Governing Body utilized additional surplus of over \$200,000 to reduce the municipal tax rate by three tax points,” stated Mayor Tempesta.

“The total property tax increase for municipal, county and school purposes represents a 2.34% increase over a resident’s 2005 tax bill. The tax increase is required to cover the rising cost of utility bills, insurance costs, state pension bills and the police contract,” added Mayor Tempesta.

“West Caldwell, as highlighted in a recent Star Ledger story, has long been a leader in sharing municipal services to reduce taxes,” Finance Chairman Richard

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**

Norgard said. “Police Dispatch Service was added last year to West Caldwell’s list of shared services that includes the Tax Assessor, Public Assistance Director, Animal Control Services, Health Officer, Recreation Programs, Swimming Pools, wastewater treatment and many others,” added Councilman Norgard.

“The average home (assessed at \$218,700 with an estimated market value of \$385,000) would pay about \$14.58 more per month than the amount paid for property taxes in 2005 for county, school, and municipal services,” concluded Council President William Payne.

STREETSCAPE COMPLETE!

Funded by a \$275,000 Federal Transportation Improvement Grant, one of the most striking and dramatic improvements to our community is now complete. At the intersection of Bloomfield Avenue and

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Passaic Avenue you will see new “traffic calming” improvements that include distinctive “imprinted” crosswalks, extensive new decorative lighting in a style reminiscent of old gas lamps, new Welcome to West Caldwell signs, as well as the improvements to the center islands and crosswalks constructed in conjunction with Essex County. Additional island landscaping has also been added at the western end of Bloomfield Avenue and over 50 new trees will be planted in all other islands in the next several weeks.

This work compliments our all new bus shelter on Bloomfield Avenue which was constructed with a HUD Community Development grant.

JOHNSON AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION - SECTION II

Council President Bill Payne, Public Works Chairman, reported that the Township has completed the work on the reconstruction of Johnson Avenue. This was accomplished with a \$250,000 NJDOT Grant. This work continued where Section I ended with drainage improvements, new granite block curbing, and a new 30' wide roadway pavement.

FALL HYDRANT FLUSHING

Councilman Joseph Fischer, Water Committee Chairman, announced that Fall Hydrant Flushing is underway. Check TV-36 for up-to-the-minute details. 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.

HUD GRANT

The Township has constructed all new toddler play areas at both the Cedar Street and Westville Avenue pool facilities. There was a complete redesign of the designated play areas, as well as replacement of all existing play equipment. The new improvements were funded by a \$95,000 HUD Community Development Grant, and will provide barrier-free handicapped accessible recreation opportunities.

HEALTH PROGRAMS

As we go to press, West Caldwell, along with ShopRite of West Caldwell, will host the 11th Annual West Essex Family Health Day. Councilman Richard Otterbein announced that this year's event will be held October 21 at James Caldwell High School, Westville Ave.

Residents of the entire West Essex area were invited for many free health services, as well as discounted blood chemistry screenings! Please call 973-226-2303 or visit ShopRite for more details.

The West Caldwell Health Department will be holding its flu and pneumonia clinic on November 8 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. The vaccinations will be offered at the West Caldwell Fire Department, 5 Fairfield Ave., West Caldwell. The shots are free to residents with non-HMO Medicare. The cost to all others will be \$25.00 for a flu shot and \$40.00 for a pneumonia shot. Some restrictions apply. Please call the Health Department at 226-2303 for more details. Additional flu and pneumonia clinics will be held at the North Caldwell Firehouse, Gould Ave., on November 1 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., and at the Fairfield Community Center, 376 Hollywood Ave., on November 9 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. These clinics are available to West Caldwell residents.

Free diabetes screenings will be held during the month of November. The diabetes screening will be held at the West Caldwell Public Library from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. on November 9. The diabetes screening will also be held at the Fairfield Municipal Building from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. on November 16, and from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. on November 1 at the North Caldwell Firehouse.

Finally, the Health Department will be holding its free rabies clinic on November 4 from 10:00 – 12:00 p.m. 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 rabies clinic will be held at the Fairfield Public Works Garage, 230 Fairfield Ave., Fairfield, from 10:00 – 12:00 on November 18.

LIBRARY NEWS

The West Caldwell Public Library is presently implementing an innovative readers' advisory service. Called NextReads, patrons who sign up for the service simply specify the type of book they enjoy, and then receive a list of similar books by email. The list provides a direct link to the Library's catalog, so patrons can immediately check the availability of the item and even place a request for it without leaving home.

An increasing number of patrons are making use of the Library's new Wireless Internet, available throughout the Library, and are accessing downloadable audio books to their computers or MP3 players through the BCCLS

website.

The popular English conversation group for non-native English speakers meets every Monday night at 6:30 PM in the Library's Community Meeting Room. Call the Library's Reference Desk at 973-226-5441 to register.

A seven-week Genealogy workshop, given by a Certified Professional Genealogist, is currently meeting every Wednesday night at 7:00 PM in the Meeting Room through November 1. Topics include Finding Immigrant Origins, Searching Church Records and Discovering Your Ancestor's Life Events.

A "Single Again" support group facilitated by Fay Susskind, PsyD, LCSW meets on October 28 and November 4 at 10:00 AM. Call the Reference Desk to register.

The Veterans Oral History Project meets every second and fourth Thursday at 2 PM in the Meeting Room. Veterans of all wars and those who were on the home front are invited to come and share their stories.

The Read It! Book Discussion Group will meet on November 14 at 7:30 PM to discuss this year's One Book New Jersey choice, The Ditchdigger's Daughters by Yvonne S. Thornton. Copies of the book are available at the Reference Desk.

The Beyond the Pages series will present "The New Jersey Cranberry," a lecture by food historian Judith Krall-Russo on November 21 at 2:00 PM in the Community Meeting Room. Refreshments and recipes will be provided. Please register with the Reference Department.

There will be no movie on Friday, November 24 and the Library will be closed for Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 23.

In the Children's Room. . . .

Besides the ongoing weekly storytime programs there are these upcoming special events in the Youth Services Department at the West Caldwell Public Library:

Our **Talk it Up! Book Discussion Group** for middle and high school students will meet on Tuesday October 17 at 7:00 PM. The kids will be discussing Peter Abrahams *Behind the Curtain*, An Echo Falls Mystery. The books are available at the Public Service Desk in the Children's Room for anyone interested in joining the discussion.

There will be a **Halloween Storytime and Craft Program** at 2:00 PM on Saturday October 28 for all ages and a caregiver and on Tuesday November 14 we will present a **Thanksgiving Storytime and Craft Program** at 6:30 PM for all ages and a caregiver.

Grade school students are invited to attend a special program entitled **Marvelous Magnets** at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, November 7. Registration is limited to 23 children.

We will be decorating the library for the holiday season on Saturday afternoon, December 2 at 3:30 PM. We will be making crafts and decorating the library to the sounds of seasonal music. You can also sample some pre-season holiday goodies!

NEWCOMER'S NIGHT

West Caldwell's annual Newcomer's Night will be held in the Municipal Building, 30 Clinton Road, on Monday, October 23 at 7:30 PM. The Mayor and Council have extended invitations to attend the evening's activities to all new residents who have moved into the Township within the past year. A video presentation highlighting the various activities and services available to residents will be shown.

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.

LEAF BAGS AVAILABLE

Once again, the Township will provide 10 free bags per household and 20 free bags for senior citizens. Free bags are only available at the Municipal Building, 30 Clinton Road, Monday through Friday 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM and Monday evenings until 7:00 PM. They are also for sale in the Library on Saturdays until November 18 from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM. The cost is 25¢ per bag.

Leaves are collected on your **FIRST** trash collection day of each week, that is Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday. Grass clippings and other vegetative waste are still considered trash, and should be put in **PLASTIC BAGS** with your regular trash collections. Please **DO NOT** mix grass clippings with leaves.

RECREATION HIGHLIGHTS

Cross Country is being offered to children in grades 6 -8. This program will meet at Grover Cleveland Park on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM and began on September 20. The fee is \$20.00.

Adult Open Basketball Program is held Wednesdays and Thursdays, 7:30 PM to 10:00 PM at James Caldwell High School. Also, Adult Open Volleyball started September 18TH. This is held Mondays and Wednesdays at Washington School gym from 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm.

Councilwoman Rosemarie Sutherland reported that the Adult Handicap Canteen evenings are underway at the West Caldwell Civic Center. The participants enjoy music, singing, dancing, crafts, special events and refreshments. Sue Falk and her staff are dedicated to providing an enthusiastic night of fun and games. The fee is \$15.00.

Yoga with Julia is held Saturday mornings 9:15 AM – 10:15 AM at Grover Cleveland Middle School and started September 2 and concludes on November 18th. The fee is \$65.00. Yoga with Penny is held Wednesday mornings 9:00 AM – 10:15 AM at the West Caldwell Civic Center from September 27th and concluding November 22nd. The fee is \$55.00.

Adult Aerobics with Dawn DiMasi is held Monday and Wednesday evenings 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Wilson School gym. This program started October 4 and runs through December 13th. The fee is \$80.00.

“Community Friendship Circle.” A program for middle and high school students with special needs to enjoy community monthly outings: sports outings, Montclair Art Museum, concerts, plays at JCHS, movies, cooking classes, bowling and much more. This program will be held in October and run through December. The fee is \$40.00.

“Fun & Fitness.” A program for special needs children Pre-K through 5th grade. It is held Wednesdays and Thursdays at Essex Valley School from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM. An opportunity for children to enjoy an assortment of fitness activities/sports while having fun. The fee is \$40.00.

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.

More information regarding the Recreation programs can be found on our website www.westcaldwell.com or you can call 973-226-3621. A few of the upcoming programs are Youth Basketball, Girls Twirling and Wrestling. Registration will be in November and these programs are scheduled to run from December through March of 2007.

HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING

The West Caldwell annual Tree Lighting , sponsored by Mayor Tempesta and the Township Council, will take place Sunday, December 3 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.

2 GRANTS FUND IMPROVEMENTS

The Township has received a \$50,000 Legislative Grant as well as preliminary approval of an \$85,000 HUD Community Development grant to perform interior and exterior improvements to our Civic Center, including improved barrier free facilities for the handicapped. Work is anticipated during the summer of 2007.

CRANE PARK GRANT ANNOUNCED

The Township has also been awarded an \$85,000 grant for improvements to Crane Park, the home of our Gazebo and the free Summer Concert Series sponsored by the Performing Arts Gazebo Committee.

The improvements will include a variety of lighting enhancements, additional benches and pathway improvements.

WEB QA - NEW HELP FOR RESIDENTS!

Councilman Dominick Aiello announced that we are very happy to introduce a new “Resident Support Center” on our website, www.westcaldwell.com. This system provides an extensive knowledge base of “FAQ’s” to help with resident’s questions. Most importantly, it provides a method for residents to submit questions to any department, 24 hours per day. You will get an immediate acknowledgment with a tracking number. You can then check back at any time to view the status of your inquiry. When a response is prepared you will receive an e-mail notification and the subject will be documented in the system for future reference.. Check out this new service on the homepage of West Caldwell’s website.