

# WEST CALDWELL REPORT



YOUR OFFICIAL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER  
April 2007 [www.westcaldwell.com](http://www.westcaldwell.com)

## 2007 MUNICIPAL BUDGET HEARING

“Our 2007 budget appropriations have increased by \$767,000 over the 2006 spending plan,” stated Mayor Joseph Tempesta, Jr. Over 80% of the increased spending is for nondiscretionary expenses covering State pension bills, disposal fees, debt service, contractual obligations for PBA salaries, employee medical benefits, worker’s compensation assessments and social security benefits.

“We also have to raise an additional \$89,000 for the Reserve for Uncollected Taxes to cover any increase in the school, county or municipal tax levies in 2007,” Mayor Tempesta added.

“The Township will use \$133,000 in additional revenues from interest on investments, construction code fees, interlocal service agreements, recreation fees and user fees to offset appropriation increases and non-recurring budget revenues,” reported Finance Chairman Richard Otterbein. “Ninety-two percent of available cash surplus will also be utilized to stabilize the tax rate with the balance of surplus reserved for 40 tax appeals that are now before the State Tax Court.”

HEADLINE NEWS	
FARRINGTON AREA RECONSTRUCTION ..	2
HEALTH PROGRAMS .....	2
RECREATION HIGHLIGHTS .....	3
MEMORIAL DAY PARADE .....	4

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

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT**  
**Rosemarie M. Sutherlin**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

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

“The Mayor & Council have submitted an application to the State requesting Extraordinary Aid to eliminate any municipal tax increases,” said Councilman Otterbein.

The public hearing on the 2007 Municipal Budget is scheduled for Tuesday, May 15, 2007 at 7:30 PM in the Council Chambers.

## POOL MEMBERSHIPS SUBJECT TO STATE SALES TAX

Pool memberships are now available at the West Caldwell Municipal Building, according to Council President Rosemarie M. Sutherlin, Chairman of the Pool Committee. Residents can sign up between 9:00 AM and 4:30 PM Monday through Friday and on Monday evening from 4:30 PM to 7:00 PM. A membership entitles an individual 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 online at [www.westcaldwell.com](http://www.westcaldwell.com). Remember the deadline for a discounted rate is May 7, 2007.

In addition to the regular full season membership, the Township of West Caldwell now has two additional types of plans. 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 use of the pools on Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays.

The Township of West Caldwell has not increased the swimming pool membership fees for the 2007 season. However, this year the membership fee includes the new 7% New Jersey State Sales Tax (P.L. 2006, C.44) that now applies to all municipal swimming pool memberships in New Jersey.

Pool season begins on Saturday, May 26, 2007 with weekend only opening until schools close. The pools will then be open every day starting on Saturday, June 23, 2007.



## FARRINGTON AREA RECONSTRUCTION

Councilman Bill Payne, Chairman of the Public Works Committee has announced that the Township has received a \$250,000 NJDOT Grant for roadway and curb improvements in the Farrington area. The extent of Phase One of this project will depend on bids received and may include portions of Farrington Avenue, Thrumont Road and/or Francis Place. The Township will be submitting a grant application later this year for the balance of the project, which will also include Hillcrest Road.

When preliminary plans are complete residents in the project area will receive a letter explaining the details of the project, which is expected to be ready for construction this Summer.

## GET OUT – STAY OUT!!!

Councilman Dominick Aiello, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee has announced that the West Caldwell Fire Prevention Bureau would like to emphasize that your first priority in the event of a structure fire, is to immediately get out of the building. Equally as

important, you must fight the urge to go back in. **STAY OUT!!!** You may realize that you forgot your wallet, shoes, coat, purse, or cell phone. Do not go back in for any reason. None of these items are worth risking your life.

National Fire Protection Association research indicates that most Americans mistakenly believe that once a fire is detected, they have approximately 20 minutes to escape. In reality, you might have two minutes. **GET OUT - STAY OUT!!!** For additional information, contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at 973-226-2302.

## SPRING HYDRANT FLUSHING

Councilman Joseph Fischer, Water Committee Chairman, announced that Spring Hydrant Flushing is underway. Work began on Monday, March 26, 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.

## MUNICIPAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

To enhance our barrier-free entranceway, the Township has been awarded \$85,000 HUD Community Development Grant to provide for improved lighting and walkways. This project is now out to bid. If a satisfactory bid is received, we expect construction to begin this Summer.

## HEALTH PROGRAMS

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 12, from 9:00 – 11:00 AM. The screening will be held at the West Caldwell Public Library, 30 Clinton Road. Please call 973-226-2303 for more information.

The Health Department will hold its Male Cancer Screening from 5:30 – 7:00 PM on Thursday, May 3. 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. Please call the Health Department at 973-226-2303 for more details.

Come out for a free Skin Cancer Screening on Wednesday, August 1, from 1:00 – 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 – 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 education about hypertension, heart disease and risk factors. No blood pressure checks will be held in July or August.

## LIBRARY NEWS

Members of the Board of Trustees, along with Library Director April Judge, attended the annual Mayor's Charity Ball in March to accept the generous and most gracious donation of \$15,000 from Mayor Joseph Tempesta. The money will be used to offer programs for children and young adults, especially those with special needs. The Library and the Board of Trustees wish to thank everyone who made this donation possible.

During April, which is National Autism Awareness Month, the Library will display a collection of books on autism that were received as a donation from the Karma Foundation. In addition to these books, other informational materials will also be available for patrons.

The Library's annual and very popular Poetry Festival will be held on Sunday, May 20. Twenty-four poets will be reading their works. For further details on the Festival, go to [www.dianelockward.com/festival.html](http://www.dianelockward.com/festival.html).

New at the Library - a Mystery Book Club! Come on Wednesday, May 16 at 1 PM to discuss Covenant by Naomi Ragen. Copies of the book are available at the Library's Reference Desk.

The Veterans Oral History Project meets on the second and fourth Thursday of every month at 2 PM. Veterans from all conflicts are welcome to attend and share in the camaraderie of this group.

Coming this summer! A Library Wide Summer Reading Program for children, teens and adults. The theme of the program is "Get A Clue @ Your Library" and will feature a wide variety of "mysterious" opportunities for patrons of all ages. The summer activities begin on Monday, June 25. Look for more detailed information and schedules of events later this spring.

## RECREATION HIGHLIGHTS

Preparation for Baseball, Softball and Youth Track are underway for children in grades 2 through 8. Anticipated start dates are early April. Coming in the summer, Recreation is offering Summer Playgrounds, Tot Lot and Teen Camp.

The Summer Playgrounds Program is for children who have completed Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade and will run from Tuesday, June 26<sup>th</sup> through Friday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. There are three programs available: The "Sunshine Only" is held 8:30 AM to Noon, the fee is \$90 and is held at Francisco Park, Memorial Park and Westville Pool. Should it be raining, these sites will be canceled.

The "All Weather" is held 8:30 AM to Noon, the fee is \$125.00 and is held at Jefferson School. The "All Weather Extended" is held from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, the fee is \$275 and is held at Grover Cleveland Middle School. The "All Weather" sites will be accommodated inside the school in the event of 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" have limited space available. To assure inclusion in these programs you must register before the deadline of May 14. "Sunshine Only" registration deadline is Friday, June 1.

The Tot Lot Program will run from Tuesday, June 26 through Friday, August 3. The program to be held at Washington School is for 4 and 5 year olds. Children must be 4 years of age by September 1, 2007. 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 \$40 registration fee. Registration is limited to 75 children in each of the

two sessions. The program consists of special days, free play, games and arts and crafts. Recreation is sponsoring a 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 from June 26, 2007 through August 3, 2007, Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM, rain or shine. The fee is \$100.

## MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

The annual West Essex Memorial Day Parade will be held Monday, May 28.

The parade will step off 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.



## CRANE PARK IMPROVEMENTS

The Township of West Caldwell has been awarded an \$85,000 grant to improve lighting and safe egress from Crane Park, especially important during our summer concert series. The lighting will continue in the style of our very successful streetscape project on Bloomfield Avenue and will include both perimeter and interior lighting on the classic "gas lamp" replica style of our streetscape. If funding allows, we will also include enhanced park benches and seating areas as well.

## CIVIC CENTER IMPROVEMENTS

The Township of West Caldwell has been awarded two grants totaling \$135,000 for improvements to the West Caldwell Civic Center. This work would include refurbishing of the second floor meeting areas, HVAC improvements, entranceway barrier-free improvements and the refurbishing of the barrier-free lift. Work is now in the final design stages, with bidding expected in the Spring of 2007.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

This year the Police Department will take part in the "Police Unity Tour" in May. Four of our officers will

ride their bikes from New Jersey to Washington DC along with police officers from all over the country. The "tour" stretches 300 plus miles and each officer must raise \$1,700. In order to participate. At the end of the "tour" a vigil is held at the Police Memorial. This "tour" is a tribute to fallen police officers and the monies raised will assist their families.

As a public safety reminder, residents should keep their car doors locked while parked in their driveways or in front of their homes.

## HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Councilman Richard Norgard, Chairman of the Legal Committee, explained that the New Jersey Division of Community Affairs (DCA) receives thousands of complaints each year from consumers who hire contractors to do costly repair projects and who are less than satisfied with the results. Consumers complain about shoddy workmanship, missed deadlines and also about the contractor's failure to complete the work or to start the project at all. The following state and local initiatives have been implemented:

ALL home improvement contractors, unless specifically exempted, are now required to register with the DCA. Effective December 31, 2006, the local building department is prohibited from issuing any construction permits to contractors who are not registered. Information about the program, and about registered contractors, is available at [www.njconsumeraffairs.gov](http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov). In addition, a DCA Rule states that final payment to a contractor is not required to be made before final inspections have been performed.

The West Caldwell Building Department has initiated a program to close out all open building permits. The New Jersey Uniform Construction Code (UCC) requires that final inspections be performed before a certificate of approval or a certificate of occupancy can be issued. Therefore, we are sending advisory letters to property owners who, sometimes unknowingly, have open permits. The vast majority of our closeout inspections have resulted in the issuance of a certificate. However, because the UCC mandates that the building department issue a penalty of up to \$2,000 for occupying a structure without a valid certificate, we will first issue a penalty to any contractor who fails to be responsive to a homeowner when corrections are required.

Please call us at 973-226-2302 with any questions.

# Township of West Caldwell



Department of Police  
21 CLINTON ROAD  
WEST CALDWELL, NEW JERSEY 07006  
(973) 226-4114

Charles B. Tubbs  
Chief of Police

FAX (973) 403-0836

## *This message is from the West Caldwell Police Department.*

There have been a number of cars burglarized in recent weeks in West Caldwell, during the early morning hours (1 AM through 5 AM). All cars had been left unlocked. We ask that you to stay alert for anything out of the ordinary or suspicious in your neighborhood. The suspect(s) so far, have only targeted cars that are left unlocked in residential neighborhoods. If you see anything out of the ordinary, please call 9-1-1 immediately. If you have any other questions, please call our main number at 973-226-4114.

### **Homeowner Tips:**

- Call the West Caldwell Police - 973-226-4114 if you observe anything out of the ordinary in your neighborhood
- Lock ALL doors of your car and home
- Use exterior lighting on the outside of your home during the evening hours (Motion detector lights are ideal for this)
- Use timers on interior lights when you are not at home
- Cancel delivery of newspapers and mail when out of town
- Complete a "Vacant House" form at police headquarters when out of town for extended periods
- Notify your neighbor's when you are on vacation
- Maintain a list and detailed description of all property in your home and car, including serial number's