

# WEST CALDWELL REPORT



YOUR OFFICIAL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER  
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## TAX INCREASE HELD TO 3.7% AFTER RECEIVING NO EXTRAORDINARY AID

Final property tax bills for 2007 were mailed out in September after the Essex County Board of Taxation certified the Township's 2007 Final Tax Rate.

"West Caldwell's application to the Department of Community Affairs for Extraordinary Aid to reduce municipal property taxes, received no funding for the 2007 budget year," stated Mayor Tempesta.

"The total property tax increase for municipal, county and school purposes represents a 3.7% increase over a resident's 2006 tax bill. The average home (assessed at \$220,800 with an estimated market value of \$437,000) would pay about \$23.92 more per month than the amount paid for property taxes in 2006 for county, school and municipal services," added Mayor Tempesta.

"The increase in the municipal tax levy is required to cover the rising cost of garbage disposal fees, state pension bills, insurance costs, the police contract, and the reserve for uncollected taxes," Finance Chairman Richard

### 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**

Otterbein stated. "These non-discretionary expenses account for 81% of the municipal tax rate increase for 2007," added Councilman Otterbein.

"The West Caldwell Governing Body decided to utilize additional surplus funds to reduce the municipal tax rate in the introduced budget by an additional tax point. We have anticipated 93% of our operating surplus as a revenue to stabilize our municipal taxes in 2007," concluded Council President Rosemarie Sutherlin.

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### DONATION OF CLOCK

The West Caldwell Centennial Committee will close out its service to the community with the donation and presentation to the Mayor and Council of a 16 ½ foot high, four-faced clock. A prototype of the clock has been displayed in different locations during August and

September to help determine the most appropriate place for its permanent installation.

The clock prototype was initially located in front of the Julia Potwin Civic Center at the tri-corner of Bloomfield Avenue, Clinton Road and Fairfield Avenue. The second location was the grassy area in front of the Police Department on Clinton Road. It was then moved just across the street in front of the Municipal Building and Library. The final move was to the edge of Crane Park bordering on Bloomfield Avenue. The various locations were selected to give a visual idea of how the clock might be fit in to its surroundings.



### FALL HYDRANT FLUSHING

Councilman Joseph Fischer, Chairman of the West Caldwell Water Committee, announced that the Fall Hydrant Flushing is underway. Work began on Monday, September 24 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 four 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.

### STREET SIGN REPLACEMENT

West Caldwell will start replacing street name signs throughout the Township. The replacement program, according to Councilman Bill Payne, is part of a State and Federal regulation mandating the upgrade of street name signage with units that are more visible with regard to letter size and reflective quality.

The Township's Department of Public Works will begin the replacement in the western portion of town commonly known as "The Gardens." It is expected that the project, which will encompass 155 streets with the replacement of 250 signs, will be completed over a 24-month period. "We are exploring the possibility of selling or auctioning

off the old signs to those who might be interested to help defray some of the cost of the project," Councilman Payne said. "More details will be forthcoming," he added.

### REVERSE 911 SYSTEM

Councilman Dominick Aiello announced that the Township of West Caldwell has available a "reverse 911" system that allows us to place calls to all or any part of the Township in the event of an emergency or to provide specific information to our residents. If you have an unlisted telephone number or would like a cell phone number included in our data base, please send us a note through our "Resident Support Center" on our web site, [www.westcaldwell.com](http://www.westcaldwell.com), or give us a call at 973-226-2301.

### RESIDENT SUPPORT CENTER

If you haven't checked out our newest service on the West Caldwell web site ([www.westcaldwell.com](http://www.westcaldwell.com)) please take a look! Councilman Richard Norgard explained that the Resident Support Center can be accessed from the Home Page and provides an extensive knowledge base that can be searched to help answer many questions you may have. Most importantly, it provides a direct access for your questions to all Departments of the Township. When you submit a question, you receive an e-mail acknowledgment with a tracking number. You will also then receive an e-mail response from the staff. You can also check the status of your request 24/7 right through the Support Center.

### FARRINGTON AREA RECONSTRUCTION

The Phase One work of this project is substantially complete. This phase included roadway and curb improvements on Farrington Avenue, Thrumont Road and Francis Place. Councilman Bill Payne, Chairman of the Public Works Committee explained that this work was completed with a \$250,000 NJDOT Grant.

### IMPORTANT REMINDER TO RECYCLE

West Caldwell has had a long-standing reputation for recycling materials and keeping them out of the garbage waste stream. However trends in New Jersey show that recycling rates, in many places have been dropping.

Councilman Bill Payne, Chairman of the Public Works Committee, requests residents to continue their commitment to recycling. Recycling schedules, information and stickers were recently mailed to all residents as part of our annual reminder. Your cooperation is appreciated.



## HEALTH PROGRAMS

The West Caldwell Health Department, along with ShopRite of West Caldwell, will host the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual West Essex Family Health Day. This year's event will be held October 27 at James Caldwell High School on Westville Avenue. Residents of the entire West Essex area are invited for many free health services, flu and pneumonia vaccinations, and discounted blood chemistry screenings.

On the subject of flu shots, the West Caldwell Health Department will be holding its flu and pneumonia clinic on October 23 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. The vaccinations will be offered at the West Caldwell Fire Department, located at 5 Fairfield Avenue in West Caldwell. The shots are free to residents with non-HMO Medicare. The cost to all others will be \$30.00 for a flu shot and \$40.00 for a pneumonia shot. Some restrictions apply. Additional flu and pneumonia clinics will be held at the North Caldwell Firehouse on Gould Avenue on November 7 from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM, and at the Fairfield Community Center, located at 376 Hollywood Avenue, on November 20 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. 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 AM – 11:00 AM on November 8. The diabetes screening will also be held at the Fairfield Municipal Building from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM on November 15, and from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM on November 7 at the North Caldwell Firehouse. West Caldwell residents are welcome to attend these clinics.

Finally, the Health Department will be holding its free rabies clinic on November 3 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM at the West Caldwell Public Works Garage, located at 21 Clinton Road (behind the Police Department). Residents are reminded



to bring their dogs on leashes and their cats in carriers. Additional rabies clinics will be held at the North Caldwell Police Headquarters from 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM on November 5 (dogs from 7:00 PM – 7:30 PM, cats from 7:30 PM – 8:00 PM), and at the Fairfield Public Works Garage, located at 230 Fairfield Avenue in Fairfield, from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM on November 10.

For more information on any of these events, or to register, please contact the Health Department at 973-226-2303.

## MUNICIPAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

If you stop at the Municipal Building you will see all new exterior lighting and walkways. This project, which was fully funded by a HUD Community Development Grant, makes our building much more accessible during evening hours when many of the Township's Boards, Commissions and the Court meet. The lighting style follows the designs used in our very successful streetscape project on Bloomfield Avenue, which was funded by a \$275,000 Federal Transportation Enhancement Grant, and speaking of lighting . . .

## CRANE PARK TO SEE NEW LIGHTS

Council President Rosemarie Sutherlin announced that new lighting will soon be installed along the perimeter and pathway at Crane Park near the Gazebo continuing the style established at our streetscape and Municipal Building. This project, fully funded by a New Jersey State Grant, will further improve the park which has become the home of our very successful free summer concert series.

## KEEP THAT SUMP PUMP IN SHAPE!

Many homeowners who have never had any water in their basement often wonder why they need a sump pump. We encourage everyone to have one in their home since we often hear that the most common cause of damage in a basement results from a burst hot water heater or a sanitary sewer backup. In both cases your sump pump can help prevent a buildup of water. If your home is prone to sanitary sewer backups you should also consider having a plumber install a check valve or backflow preventor to protect your basement. In addition, you should also check your homeowner's insurance policy to see if you have protection against a

sump pump failure. Most policies do not include this unless you specifically add that coverage as a rider.

## LIBRARY NEWS

Councilwoman Rosemarie Sutherlin announced that the West Caldwell Public Library recently compiled an informational brochure focusing on our online research databases, which provide access to full-text magazines and newspapers, as well as several other business, health and educational reference sources. These online databases can be accessed either from the library or from home. The Reference Department at 973-226-5441 can provide more information about our online research capabilities.

John Pascal, a teacher at Seton Hall Preparatory School and a 2006 recipient of the Holocaust Council of Metro West's *Martha Rich Scholarship*, will present his slide-lecture entitled "**A Commitment to Touch the Holocaust**" on Thursday, October 18 at 7:00 PM in the Community Meeting Room. Mr. Pascal will share personal photographs and recollections of his tour of seven concentration camps in Germany, the Czech Republic, Poland, and the Netherlands, in an effort to better understand this difficult chapter in human history.

Singer and guitarist Richard Roden will perform a concert entitled "**Songs from the British Isles**" on Sunday, November 18 at 2:00 PM in the Community Room. This entertaining concert with historical commentary will include such popular songs as "*Greensleeves*," "*The Rose of Tralee*," and "*When Irish Eyes Are Smiling*." The New Jersey Council for the Humanities will sponsor this program and a reception will follow the concert.



The Friends of the West Caldwell Public Library, along with the Grover Cleveland Birthplace Association, the Historical Society of West Caldwell and the Roseland Historical Society, are sponsoring a "**Victorian Holiday Concert**" on Sunday, December 2 at 2:00 PM in the First Presbyterian Church, located at 326 Bloomfield Avenue in Caldwell. The program will feature singer and musician Linda Russell and will include such beloved 19<sup>th</sup> century carols as "*What Child is This?*" "*Silent Night*," "*I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*," and "*Up on the Housetop*," performed on the hammered dulcimer, penny whistle, guitar and the limberjack.

To register for any of the programs listed, or for more information, please call the Reference Department at 973-226-5441.

## In the Children's Room . . .

With fall underway, the Library's Youth Service Department is offering a wide variety of programs for youngsters of all ages. Children in grades 2 through 4 are invited to **Dinner Delights at the Chow Down Café** to be held on Tuesday, November 6, and Thursday, December 6 from 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM. Just bring along a brown bag dinner to each program and the library will supply juice and dessert.

Get in the Halloween spirit with two special events. **Hauntingly Halloween: A Trick or Treat Bag of Puppet Plays** will be held on Tuesday, October 23 at 6:30 PM for children ages 4 and up and a caregiver. **Trick or Treat? A Halloween Story Time** with spooky tales and tasty treats will be held on Saturday, October 27 at 2:00 PM for children ages 3 and up.

Be on the lookout for program flyers detailing other special events taking place in November, including **A Cornucopia of Thanksgiving Tales** for children in grades K through 2 on Tuesday, November 20 at 4:00 PM.



Registration is required for all programs by contacting the Reference Department at 973-226-5441.

## NEWCOMER'S NIGHT

Councilman Richard Norgard announced that West Caldwell's annual Newcomer's Night will be held in the Municipal Building, 30 Clinton Road, on Tuesday, October 23 at 7:15 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.

## PAVING PROJECT SET TO START

The annual road resurfacing program was set to start as we go to press. This year's program includes the resurfacing of Smull Avenue, Oakland Avenue, Hickory Drive and Washington Avenue, from Smull Avenue to Park Avenue.

## HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING

The West Caldwell annual Tree Lighting, sponsored by Mayor Tempesta and the Township Council, will take place Sunday, December 2 at 5:15 PM at the Gazebo in Crane Park. Santa and his buddies will be visiting with help from the West Caldwell Fire Department.

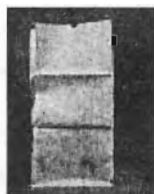


## KEEPING OUR STREAMS CLEAN!

With Fall coming, we always have a concern about leaves and grass clippings making their way into the streams and watercourses in the Township. It is very important that no debris of any kind be disposed of in a stream. In fact, the new Storm Water Regulations adopted by the State of New Jersey specifically prohibit dumping into catch basins and streams. When streams cross private property it is that property owner's responsibility to maintain the stream. If you should see anyone disposing of leaves, grass clippings or other debris into a stream or catch basin, be it a landscaper or a contractor or another property owner, please immediately notify the West Caldwell Police Department. Your cooperation is very important, and we appreciate your help.

## 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 through November 17 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.

## CIVIC CENTER IMPROVEMENTS

The Township of West Caldwell has been awarded two grants totaling \$135,000 for some much needed improvements to the Civic Center. Bids were received on this work, but the only bid far exceeded the budget. Our Architect is now revising the plans to better fit the scope of the budget, with advertisement for a second round of

bids expected later this month.

## RECREATION HIGHLIGHTS

Online registration is almost here! For most West Caldwell recreation programs, online registration for Winter Registration is expected to be available via CommunityPass. You can now securely register your entire family at one time from the comfort of your home or workplace, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The next phase will include the ability to pay online, which will be available at a later date.



Be sure to create your CommunityPass account now by clicking on the CommunityPass link from the West Caldwell Recreation homepage:

<http://www.westcaldwell.com/wcrecreation.htm>

Once your account is created, you will receive an email that contains your login information. Be sure to keep this email in a safe place, so that you can continue to enjoy the convenience of online registration.

The Adult Handicap Canteen evenings are underway at the West Caldwell Civic Center. 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.

Adult Aerobics with Dawn DiMasi is held Monday and Wednesday evenings 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM in the Wilson School gym. This program started October 1<sup>st</sup> and runs through December 12<sup>th</sup>. 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 with the programs scheduled to run from December through March of 2008.

## **BRR . . . WINTER'S COMING . . .**

. . . and with it comes the usual chore of snow removal. Every property owner is responsible for cleaning the snow from the sidewalk adjacent to their property. When doing that, it is very important to keep the snow on your property and not push it or blow it into the street.

## **TURKEY FRYER DANGER**

**M**any cooks including Emeril Lagasse and Martha Stewart have touted propane-powered turkey fryers as one of the best ways to cook the traditional Thanksgiving meal. But the West Caldwell Fire Prevention Bureau joins other safety organizations in sounding the alarm about fire and burn risks that can spoil a turkey dinner. Underwriters Laboratories has refused to put its UL mark on any propane fryer to certify its safety, a rare move for the non-profit safety testing organization that certifies almost every kind of product sold in the U.S.



Here's a rundown of the dangers:

- Many units easily tip over.
- If the cooking pot is overfilled with oil, the oil may spill out of the unit when the turkey is placed into the cooking pot. Oil may hit the burner/flames causing a fire to engulf the entire unit.
- Partially frozen turkeys placed into the fryer can cause a spillover effect. This too, may result in an extensive fire.
- With no thermostat controls, the units also have the potential to overheat the oil to the point of combustion.
- The sides of the cooking pot, lid and pot handles get dangerously hot, posing severe burn hazards.

If you already own a propane fryer, be sure to follow these safety tips from UL:

- Turkey fryers should always be used outdoors a

safe distance from buildings and any other material that can burn.

- Never use a turkey fryer on a wooden deck or in a garage.
- Never let children or pets near the fryer, even after you've turned it off. The oil inside the cooking pot can remain dangerously hot for hours after use.

For more information on this matter, residents may contact the West Caldwell Fire Prevention Bureau at 973-226-2302.

## **FIRE PREVENTION WARNS OF RECALLS**

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has recently announced recalls for two products, which may result in fire or burn hazards.

The Honeywell Corporation is recalling gas valves used in decorative fireplaces and stoves due to burn hazard. According to the CPSC, The activation knob on the valve can be left in a position between OFF and PILOT, which can cause the pilot gas to leak and accumulate prior to burner ignition. This can pose the risk of thermal burns to consumers when they light the pilot of the fireplace or stove.

This recall involves gas valves used in liquid-propane-fueled decorative fireplaces and Franklin-type stoves. The recalled valves were sold exclusively to original equipment manufacturers for use in fireplaces and stoves from April 2004 through August 2007. Those manufacturers sold fireplaces and stoves at retailers nationwide. The CPSC and Honeywell advise that Consumers should stop using the product immediately and contact Honeywell for information on how to receive a free inspection and replacement valve. For additional information, contact Honeywell at (800) 939-4836 or visit the web site at [www.nvp-hearth.honeywell.com](http://www.nvp-hearth.honeywell.com)

Salton Inc. and QVC Recall "Cooks Essentials" four-slice wide slot electric toasters model CET 401 due to Fire Hazard. According to the CPSC, the toaster can turn on without bread in the slots and ignite items placed on top of it, posing a fire hazard. These toasters were sold by QVC from January 2003 through June 2003. Consumers should call QVC at (800) 367-9444 or visit the Web site at [www.qvc.com](http://www.qvc.com) for additional information.

The West Caldwell Fire Prevention Bureau urges residents to periodically check the CPSC website at [www.CPSC.gov](http://www.CPSC.gov) for product recalls.