

WEST CALDWELL REPORT



YOUR OFFICIAL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
April 2008 www.westcaldwell.com

2008 MUNICIPAL BUDGET INTRODUCED

The Mayor and Council introduced the 2008 Municipal Budget on Tuesday, March 18, 2008. As introduced, the Budget includes an increase of 5 cents in the municipal tax levy or 5.49% over the 2007 Budget. Several factors that contribute to the increase are a \$164,825.00 loss in State Aid Revenues due to the Governor's Budget cuts; an increase of \$167,800.00 in costs for Police and Firemen's Retirement System, and \$91,200.00 for the Public Employees Retirement System. Additional increases for nondiscretionary expenditures covering utility, fuel and contractual obligations for Police salaries, employee medical benefits, workers compensation assessments and social security benefits account for the remaining increase.

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MAYOR

Joseph Tempesta, Jr.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Richard C. Otterbein

COUNCIL MEMBERS

William E. Payne **Public Works**
Richard C. Norgard , , , , **Legal & Personnel**
Dominick J. Aiello **Parks & Recreation**
Rosemarie M. Sutherlin **Finance & Welfare**
Richard C. Otterbein **Public Safety**
Joseph C. Cecere **Water**

The Township has again utilized approximately 91% of the available cash surplus or \$2,400,000.00, to stabilize the Municipal Tax Levy, holding the balance in reserve for 38 tax appeals that are currently pending before the State Tax Court.

The Mayor and Council have submitted an application to the State requesting Extraordinary Aid to eliminate any municipal tax increases.

The public hearing on the 2008 Municipal Budget is scheduled for Tuesday, April 15, 2008 at 7:30 pm in the Council Chambers.

DID YOU KNOW?

This issue and previous issues of the West Caldwell Report are available on line at:

www.westcaldwell.com/wcreport1.htm

POOL MEMBERSHIPS

Membership applications are now available at the West Caldwell Municipal Building, according to Councilwoman Rosemarie M. Sutherlin, Chairperson of the Pool Committee. Individuals may sign up 9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Monday through Friday and also Monday evenings from 4:30 P.M. until 7:00 P.M. A membership entitles an individual to use either the Westville Avenue or Cedar Street Pool facilities throughout the summer. For further information, call 973-226-2300 or get your application online at www.westcaldwell.com. Remember the deadline for discounted rates is April 30, 2008.

Pool season begins on Saturday, May 24, 2008 with weekend-only opening until schools close. The pools will be open daily starting on Saturday, June 21, 2008.

WEST CALDWELL-CALDWELL RECREATION

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

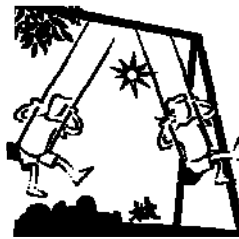


The annual Memorial Day Parade is scheduled for Monday, May 26, 2008. The parade will kick-off at 9:30 A.M. at Forest and Bloomfield Avenues in Caldwell and end with a memorial ceremony at Crane Park in West Caldwell. Groups wishing to march should contact the Recreation office at 973-226-3621.

Just around the corner, Recreation is offering Summer Playgrounds, Tot Lot and Teen Camp this summer. The Summer Playgrounds Program is for children who have completed Kindergarten through 5th grade and will run from Wednesday, June 25th through Friday, August 1st. Due to the Board of Education's construction activity plans for several of the district schools, Recreation will be offering "half-day, sunshine-only" Playground programs this year. These programs will be held at the following

sites: Francisco Park, Memorial Park, Jefferson School, Westville Pool and Richard Park. The hours are 8:30 A.M.–Noon and the fee is \$100.00 for the five-week program. Sunshine-only means should it be raining at 8:30 A.M., the sites will be closed. If the weather clears, there will be a delayed opening at 10:00 A.M. Additional fees are charged for off-site special events on a participation basis. A calendar of events will be distributed on opening day.

The Tot Lot Program will run from Wednesday, June 25th through Friday, August 1st. The program for 4 and 5 year olds, will be held at Wilson School. Children must be 4 years of age by September 1, 2008. 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 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. and the second session is from 10:30 A.M.-Noon. There is a \$45.00 registration fee. The program is limited to 75 children in each of the two sessions. It consists of special days, free play, games and arts and crafts. This is a sunshine-only program.



Recreation is sponsoring a Teen Camp program for children who have completed 6th grade up through 8th grade. The goal is to offer young 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 Wednesday, June 25th, and ending on Friday, August 1st, Monday through Friday from 8:30 A.M.-Noon, sunshine only. The fee is \$100.00.



Adult Aerobics with Dawn DiMasi is held at the Wilson School gym on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7:00-8:00 P.M. The class began on March 31st and ends on June 11th. For further information, please contact the Recreation office at 973-226-3621 or visit our website at

www.westcaldwell.com.

UPGRADING AT CIVIC CENTER

Work is underway for improvements to the West Caldwell Civic Center. This project is being funded by State grants totaling \$135,000. The work will include refurbishing of the second floor meeting areas, barrier free improvements to the entrance-way, bathrooms and electric lift. Some restoration of the building's exterior to enhance its historic character will also be included.

WEST CALDWELL CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Councilman Bill Payne announced the arrival of the West Caldwell Centennial Clock. The four-faced clock was donated by the Centennial Committee to commemorate the Township's 100 years of incorporation. The 18-foot clock, which will be installed as soon as weather permits, was manufactured by the Verdin Company of Cincinnati, Ohio. It will be located in front of the Julia Potwin Civic Center on Fairfield Avenue, originally the Julia Potwin Public Library, circa 1912.



FARRINGTON AREA RECONSTRUCTION

Councilman Bill Payne, Chairman of the Public Works Committee, announced that the Township has received a \$245,000 NJDOT Grant for the roadway and curb improvements on Hillcrest Road. The extent of "Phase Two" of this project will be curbs, sidewalk and drainage. When the 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.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

As the warm weather approaches, the West Caldwell Police Department offers the following tips for homeowners:

Call the West Caldwell Police at 973-226-4114 if you observe anything out of the ordinary in your neighborhood; Lock ALL doors and windows when you are not home; Use exterior lighting on the

outside of your home during the evening hours; 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 neighbors when you are on vacation. The Police Department will conduct security surveys for residences and businesses. To schedule a survey, please contact the West Caldwell Police Department at 973-226-4114 with any questions.

SIGNS OF CHANGE

Thanks to the efforts of our Public Works Department street signs have been replaced on more than 50 of our local roads as part of a program to provide larger, reflective signs throughout town.

Councilman Bill Payne, Public Works Committee Chairman, reported that the program is in response to new Federal regulations to improve street sign visibility. There are 110 streets yet to be scheduled for the new signs "and we're shooting for completion by year's end," Payne said.



All 15 roads located west of Passaic Ave. in the "Gardens Section" of town have new signage, as have some 36 streets in the south end of town.

Residents interested in purchasing any of the older street signs on a first-come-first sold basis should call Public Works @ 973-226-2300, ext. 3400 to get on the list.

ZONING DEPARTMENT

IT'S SPRINGTIME

If you are planning any outdoor projects this spring, such as installing a shed, fence, pool or making a driveway change, please contact our Zoning Officer at 973-226-2302. We will be able to advise you on regulations and permit (if any) requirements.

WEST CALDWELL PUBLIC LIBRARY

MUSEUM PASS AVAILABLE

Residents with a valid West Caldwell Adult Library card may borrow a pass to the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. Generously funded by the Friends of the West Caldwell Public Library, the pass offers free admission for one family of two adults and up to four children. A \$40 cash deposit is collected at the time the museum pass is loaned out, and refunded when the pass is returned. The pass must be returned within 48 hours of borrowing.



ADULT SUMMER READING PROGRAM

The Library will be holding its second annual Adult Summer Reading program beginning in June. This year's theme is Book a Trip @ Your Library, and will involve travel-based activities. When patrons sign up for the program they will receive a Passport to Reading, including a bibliography of books on domestic and international armchair travel as well as travel-based fiction and nonfiction. Among the programs being offered during the summer are slide



presentations on France By Canal, Historic Buildings in France, and Book a Trip to Southeast Asia. There will also be a Pen and Pencil Drive, collecting pens and pencils from June to September for distribution to low-income schools abroad.

Travel films will be shown weekly, and the program will end with a party with entertainment and prizes for all those who participated.

For information about any of these programs, call the Library's Reference Desk at 973-226-5441.

CATCHING THE READING BUG

Wasps and bees and ants and fleas, oh my! Catch the Reading Bug at the Library this summer! Children ages preschool through 11 years old will explore the amazing world of bugs with buggy programs, story times, rhyme time, raffle drawings and a reading club. Families are invited to join the

Read-To-Me portion of the program for children who are not yet reading. This year's Summer Reading Program and Club start on Monday, June 9, 2008. A special encore performance by Kurt Gallagher for children ages 4 and up will kick-off this fun-filled summer. The program runs through Monday, August 11, 2008.

Please stop by the library and visit the Youth Services Department to pick up additional information about the summer reading club and a schedule of summer events.

METAMORPHOSIS FOR TEENS

Teens may experience a METAMORPHOSIS @ the library this summer. Teens can write book reviews and participate in a weekly trivia contest for special prizes. "Talk It Up and More" will be offered on Tuesday evenings. Participants will discuss selected books, present Readers Theatre scripts and enjoy an Internet Scavenger Hunt. The activities for teens will begin on Monday, June 23, 2008 and run through Friday, August 8, 2008. Check out the Teen Space area of the library to find out more about the Teen Summer Reading program, METAMORPHOSIS @ your library!

ENJOY ALL THAT JAZZ ... AND POETRY!

April is both National Poetry Month and National Jazz Month. Check out some poetry books written by old time favorites like Robert Frost and Emily Dickinson, or discover some modern popular poets like Robert Pinsky and Mary Oliver. Experience the various sounds of jazz by borrowing music CDs, such as "Old Flames" by Sonny Rollins; Ella Fitzgerald's "Something to Live For"; "Kind of Blue" by Miles Davis; and Diana Krall's "The Look of Love".

NEW LIGHTING GRACES CRANE PARK

The Township has completed a fully funded lighting improvement project that will allow for safe egress from Crane Park, especially during our summer concert series. The gas style lights are the same style as our Bloomfield Avenue Streetscape lighting and Municipal Building, bringing a classic look to our downtown area.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Spring into action and attend one of the Health Department's free or discounted screenings this season!

Male Cancer Screening is scheduled for Thursday, May 1st, from 5:00-7:00 P.M., 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 are required. Please call the Health Department at 226-2303 for more details.



Free Vision and Hearing Screenings will be held Wednesday, May 8th from 9:00–11:00 A.M. at the West Caldwell Public Library.

Spring Health Day, is scheduled for May 14th, 9:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M. at Harrison School, Gray Street. Representatives from the Health Department, Chilton Memorial Hospital and Medical Laboratory Diagnostics will be on hand to provide a variety of health screenings and information, including a health panel (also known as CHEM 23); thyroid test; prostate cancer PSA test; Lyme disease screening; and more. In addition, medical staff will offer free blood pressure checks; eye exams; weight and nutrition counseling; and other health services. Pre-registration is required for all blood screenings. Costs for the blood chemistry screenings vary. Visit the Health Department at 30 Clinton Road to register, or call 973-226-2303 for more information.

Also mark your calendar for Skin Cancer Screening on Wednesday, August 6th from 1:00–3:00pm. This important health screening will be held at Westville Pool, on Westville Ave., and will include a risk assessment, education and full body examination by a 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 A.M., at the West Caldwell Public Library. Residents are invited to meet with nurses for a blood pressure check and education about hypertension, heart disease and risk factors.

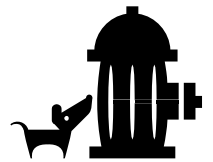
OFFICE OF THE CLERK

TOWNSHIP CODES

The Township Code and Board of Health Code are now available on the Internet. Residents will now have unlimited electronic access to these codes, which can be accessed at www.westcaldwell.com.

HYDRANT FLUSHING UNDERWAY

Councilman Joseph Cecere, Chairman of the Township Water Committee announced that the Spring Hydrant Flushing Program began Monday, March 24, 2008 on Mountain Avenue at the northern end of the Township and will proceed to the southern end of the Township at Beechtree Road. The program, which requires approximately eight weeks to complete, will be carried out during weeknights between the hours of 9:00 P.M. and 1:00 A.M. It is necessary for proper maintenance of our water distribution system. The procedure provides an opportunity to test the Township's fire hydrants and also removes accumulated sediment from water mains.



Residents are urged to check to be sure that their water is running clear before starting any laundry during this time. If there are any questions about the program, please contact the Township Engineer's Office or the Water Department at 973-226-2301. The latest updates on the hydrant-flushing program are available on TV Channel 36.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

PERMIT-CLOSEOUT PROGRAM

Thanks to the cooperation of Township residents, the Permit-Cleanup program initiated in 2007 has been very successful. We thank those of you who have responded to our letters so promptly. We are continuing to send letters to residents who have open construction permits. If you receive such a letter, please contact the Building Department as soon as possible to schedule inspections. We will then be able to issue a "Certificate of Occupancy" or approval.

WEST CALDWELL FIRE DEPARTMENT

SUMMER FIRE SAFETY TIPS

With spring in the air and summer just around the corner, many of us are preparing to enjoy lounging and entertaining outdoors. The West Caldwell Fire Department offers a few tips for making sure your family and home stay safe when using barbecue grills, fire pits and chimneas.

- Don't leave children alone with or near a fire. Always keep curious children away from hot grills.
- When a gas grill is not in use, remove control knobs and store them inside, away from children.
- Grills, fire pits and chimneas should not be placed next to your home's walls, under porches or overhangs, and never indoors.
- Be sure to monitor active grills. Wear protective mitts or gloves while barbecuing.
- Do not store gasoline or other combustible or flammable materials in the vicinity of grills, fire pits or chimneas. Keep extra wood upwind and away from the fire.
- Lighting a charcoal grill requires caution. Use only the appropriate amount of lighter fluid, and NEVER substitute gasoline, kerosene or other flammable liquids for lighter fluid. Better yet, use a chimney starter.
- Charcoals should be left to burn out in your grill. Do not dispose of charcoals in trash cans or bring them indoors. Soak coals in water to ensure they are out.
- Routinely clean ashes from the grill and inspect for holes or loose fittings.
- Lighter fluids and "quick-start" charcoal should be stored outside and away from the home.
- Make sure the embers have burned out before going inside for the night.
- Make sure everybody knows how to put out a clothing fire (stop, drop, and roll).



- Gas grills should be cleaned at least once each season. Spiders often make their homes inside the components, and their webs can block off gas intake and damage your grill.
- Use only a gas cylinder designed to store propane and only use a reputable propane supplier to fill it. If a new cylinder is being filled for the first time, tell your supplier so air can be removed.
- Most gas grill accidents are caused when propane tanks are hooked up incorrectly. Make sure the cylinder is equipped with an OPD (Over-Pressure Device). When changing propane cylinders, test the connection for leaks with soapy water and tighten as necessary.
- Propane gas is odorless. A "rotten egg" odor is put into the gas so that it's easy to detect if a leak occurs. If you smell the "rotten egg" odor near or around your propane gas cylinder, immediately contact the Fire Department.
- When not in use, keep the valve tightly closed and never store propane gas cylinders inside an enclosed structure -- store and use outdoors only.
- Handle cylinders gently -- dents, gouges and rust can weaken cylinders.
- Always keep cylinders upright and, when transporting, secure it in position. Keep your vehicle well ventilated when transporting cylinders.
- Don't leave cylinder in a vehicle -- sitting in a hot vehicle can cause the safety relief valve to discharge gas!
- No propane gas cylinder should be scrapped, destroyed, cut with a torch, punctured or have the service valve removed by the public.

If you would like more fire safety information, please contact the West Caldwell Fire Prevention Bureau at 973-226-2302.

Township of West Caldwell
30 Clinton Road
West Caldwell, NJ 07006