



North Caldwell Community News

It's time for another update on the many exciting and newsworthy things happening in our North Caldwell community!

1. Road Grants - Did you know... North Caldwell received a roadway preservation grant from the State of New Jersey in November in the amount of \$320,000 which will be used to restore Deer Trail Road and Robin Hill Road. This is in addition to a \$340,000 roadway preservation grant also received from the State in June for Brookside Terrace. On a yearly basis, North Caldwell identifies and attends to roads most in need of repair using grants and bonding for the related costs. A number of our other streets will be part of the roadway maintenance program this year after completion of the careful analysis currently being performed. As always, residents in the area of the affected streets will be given advance notice. However, it is most exciting to note that the \$660,000 in grant money from the State allows the Borough to reinvest in our infrastructure with much less financial burden placed on our residents.

2. 2020 Census – Did you know... In mid-March, homes across the country will begin receiving invitations to complete the 2020 Census. Once the invitation arrives, you should respond for your home in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail. When completing the census, you will include everyone living in your home on April 1, 2020.

- March 12 - 20: Households will begin receiving official Census Bureau mail with detailed information on how to respond to the 2020 Census online, by phone, or by mail.
- April 1: Census Day is observed nationwide. By this date, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. Once the invitation arrives, you should respond for your home in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail. When you respond to the census, you'll tell the Census Bureau where you live as of April 1, 2020.
- May - July: Census takers will begin visiting homes that haven't responded to the 2020 Census to help make sure everyone is counted.
- December: The Census Bureau will deliver apportionment counts to the President and Congress as required by law.
- By March 31, 2021, the Census Bureau will send redistricting counts to states. This information is used to redraw legislative districts based on population changes.

Please visit <https://2020census.gov> for more information.

3. NJ MVC Agency-on-Wheels - Did you know... North Caldwell contacted the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission to determine whether the MVC would consider stationing its mobile MVC unit in North Caldwell. We're very happy to advise that the MVC has agreed to welcome North Caldwell residents at the mobile unit which will be parked at the Liberty Field parking lot on Friday, April 3, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Drivers will be able to renew licenses and registrations, obtain duplicate licenses and registrations, register to vote, obtain photo identification, surrender license plates and much more. We are excited to be able to bring this convenience to our community with no cost to the Borough. Additional details are available on the Borough website.

4. Walker's Pond - Did you know... the Borough will be going out to bid for the dredging of Walker's Pond? We have received support and assistance from Senator Pennacchio and Assemblyman Webber on the Walker's Pond dredging project and utilized their support to turn it into very productive conversations with the NJDEP in recent months. We anticipate receiving the necessary permits from the NJDEP in late spring based on their recent updates. Although the NJDEP prohibits dewatering activities in May and June, starting the bid process now will put the Borough in position to secure a contractor and begin construction this summer. This will restore the pond back to its previous luster and provide for many benefits to the Borough. The Borough has already submitted applications to the NJDEP and Essex County Recreation and Open Space Trust Fund for grants to offset the Borough's financial obligation for this project. This is a vitally important project to our community and we are excited to be working so diligently towards the restoration and improvement of this hidden gem within our Borough.

5. Drainage Study – Did you know... 2018 was the wettest year on record in New Jersey while 2019 offered little relief as nine months provided rainfall totals well above average. As a result, North Caldwell felt the impacts throughout our drainage systems in town. In order to determine the best way to address this issue, a drainage study was authorized by the Mayor and Council. The Study and Recommendations of Drainage Improvements has now been completed and the Mayor and Council are studying it and determining how quickly we can begin to implement the recommendations. There are a number of hard questions being asked by the Mayor and Council in an effort to improve drainage throughout the Borough while also limiting the financial burden on the Borough. Here are some of the questions:

- *Are grants available for any of these projects?*
- *What projects would be good candidates for low-interest loans offered through the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust?*
- *Can we coordinate multi-jurisdictional projects with Essex County (and possibly others) to work on regional remediation projects and potential cost sharing based on ownership of infrastructure or shared benefits?*
- *How else can we reduce the impact of the remediation projects on our town budget and by extension on our residents?*

The first steps, already underway, include updates to the Borough's ordinances, Stormwater Management Plan and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan. Additionally, you will likely see the Borough's Public Works Department on the streets and in drainage ditches over the next several months in a renewed effort to systematically inspect and clean drainage infrastructure as necessary. These efforts are considered zero-cost projects and they are moving forward immediately. Meanwhile, all other projects are being ranked based on a number of elements such as safety needs, population affected, project benefits, cost and level of permitted restrictions.

The drainage study is available for review on the North Caldwell website. We urge all residents to review it and offer your thoughts to be a part of the solution.

6. Additional Turf Field Amenities - Did you know... the Council's DPW committee has approved and recommended to the Mayor and Council the addition of a number of enhancements to our turf field including installation of security cameras, automated gates, considerations for additional storage space and various other desirable additions to our new field. We'll keep you updated as construction begins and new items are added.

7. Public Safety - Did you know...in 2019, the North Caldwell Police answered or created call logs for 11,302 incidents. That's 30 calls for service or reports generated each day of the year. As the community continues to grow and change the police department also trains and adapts to the changes to ensure we provide the highest quality of care and safety for all residents.

We also would like to remind everyone that locking your vehicle at night as well never leaving keys or key fobs inside your vehicles is the best way to assist our police to prevent vehicles from being stolen. There is still a large-scale motor vehicle theft ring operating in the state and from time to time they make their way back to North Caldwell and the surrounding area to commit crimes. These actors generally make these attempts in the early morning hours prior to 5:00am. Please-- if you see something suspicious, call the police department immediately.

Phone scams have been a trend this past year. These scams range anywhere from PSE&G, Social Security, fake police fundraisers or even people saying they have a family member held hostage and require money to set them free. If you receive a call which seems suspicious, never provide any personal information or send any type of payment. Contact the police department to help you determine if the call is a scam.

Last but not least, we would like to welcome our new Fire Chief to the North Caldwell Fire Department. Tim Peterson comes from a family of fire fighters and civil servants and we are excited to have him leading our Fire Department.

8. Pool renovations - Did you know... our town pool is self-sustaining through a “pool utility” and taxpayers do not contribute to its upkeep and maintenance. The pool has given our community many decades of fun, exercise and an opportunity to meet and interact with our friends and neighbors. A number of exciting features such as a zero-entry wading pool recently were added and additional improvements are being considered.

9. Camp Wyanokie – Did you know...the Borough holds part ownership of a beautiful 150 acre preserve at the edge of Norvin Green State Forest in West Milford. The camp surrounds a five acre scenic lake. There is a pavilion with picnic tables and various campsites with lean-tos and cooking fireplaces. No permits are needed for day trips but permits are needed for group (10 or more) outings and if you’re planning on building a fire or overnight camping. The camp is administered by a Commission of representatives of the five owner towns. North Caldwell is represented on the Commission by Councilman John Chiaia, Anthony Prinzo, and John Gakos. Please visit our North Caldwell website and be sure to look under the Recreation section for Camp Wyanokie information, photos, directions and more!

10. Technology - Did you know...there is a renewed effort to improve technology offerings throughout the Borough. The Borough has worked feverishly to improve the Borough’s website and will be unveiling our brand new website in the coming weeks. All of the recently added tools such as online water payment, online ticket payment and garbage complaint forms will still be available. You can still make payments through a secure online payment portal for your water utility or for summonses. The Garbage Complaint Form is easily accessible if you have an issue with garbage or recycling pickup. Your complaint is immediately sent to key staff members throughout the Borough and directly to the garbage hauler. We are also working on building out a pothole complaint form and an online payment option for property taxes. We hope the new website will make us more accessible to you and we welcome your suggestions.

11. Borough Hall - Did you know...the Mayor and Council authorized a bond ordinance in 2019 for upgrades to our borough campus including Borough Hall, the Police Department and Fireman’s Hall. Some of the projects such as HVAC and drainage improvements will not be as visible as others. However, we are excited about the new brick pavers already installed in front of Borough Hall in addition to the upcoming door and window replacements. Keep an eye out for these upgrades as they will beautify the building and improve our energy efficiency.

12. Pet Care - Did you know... the Borough's Animal Control Officer will be busiest in the spring season as everybody is anxious to enjoy the spring weather. Please remember to license all of your pets, keep your pets curbed, and clean up after your pets when enjoying the spring weather. Please also remember that dogs must be kept on leashes at all times. These requirements in the Borough's Code are for the health and safety of both our residents and all our pets. A copy of Chapter 38 (Dogs, Cats and Animals) is available for your viewing on the Borough's website. Should you have any questions, please reach out to the Animal Control Officer at Borough Hall.

13. Resident News

a. **Grace Mazza** – The following is a post from our North Caldwell Police Department:

On November 26, 2019, 9 year old Grace Mazza was home alone with her great aunt who had a life threatening emergency. Grace identified that her great aunt was not responsive and needed help. Grace made her way to a neighbor's house and told them she needed help right away and 9-1-1 was called. North Caldwell Police, West Essex First Aid Squad, and Paramedics responded and were able to get her the medical help she needed. If it wasn't for Grace, this would have had a very different outcome. North Caldwell Police presented Grace with a shirt, patch, and certificate for her actions.

Great job Grace! We're lucky to have you in North Caldwell!

b. **Ruth and Arthur Fost** – the New Jersey Theatre Alliance, at its Annual Curtain Call Event, awarded to our long-time residents Ruth and Arthur Fost the 2019 Star Award which pays tribute to "leadership and generosity to the field of theatre". Congratulations to both! We're proud of the Fosts and so many of our philanthropic residents.

c. **Dana Commandatore** – Dana is a former resident who grew up in North Caldwell and went to West Essex High School, graduating from Montclair State University. She appeared on "America's Best Home Baker" in December 2019, where she was one of three finalists. Dana is also an active autism advocate, published author and speaker including giving a TED talk – "Hitting the Reset Button on Life". Dana now resides with her family in Los Angeles.

d. **Sam Prince** – Sam, now 17 years old, was the recipient of a heart transplant at age 8. He was honored, along with four other New Jersey families, at this year's Rose Bowl with a float dedicated to directing attention to organ donation. While a student at Gould School, Sam raised over \$3,000.00 for charity selling lemonade and his brother Max's "Max's Mitzvah Movers", a team created in 2012, has raised more than \$60,000.00 for the New Jersey Sharing Network money which has increased the number of lives saved through organ transplant research, etc. Sam is scheduled to compete at the 2020 Donate Life Transplant games. Go Sam!

As always, please contact Mayor Alessi, any Council member, or the staff at Borough Hall with any questions or concerns.

Your North Caldwell Mayor and Council,

Mayor Joseph H. Alessi

Council President Cynthia Santomauro

Council members John F. Chiaia, Frank Astorino, Arthur Rees, Robert Kessler, Ken Tilton

Upcoming Community Events

Senior Meetings and Luncheons (1:00p.m. at the Firemen's Community Center):

April 1st – Spring Spectacular

May 6th – Cinco de Mayo

June 3rd – Summer Picnic

Senior Spring Activities

Senior Chair Yoga – Tuesdays from 11:00a.m. – 11:45a.m. at Firemen's Community Center (March 3rd-April 7th and April 14th-May 19th)

Senior Spring Trip -- TBD

Recreation Programs:

Recreation Cal Ripken Baseball and Softball will be set to begin practices by the end of March. The Recreation Department is excited to host the Spring Spectacular event for North Caldwell's young families on April 7th. Join us at the Liberty Field Tennis Courts and Pavilion area at 4:00p.m. to enjoy face painting, sweet treats and an egg/candy hunt.

Opening Day of Baseball and Softball – Saturday, April 25. Parade kicks off at 9:00a.m.

Spring After-School Programs at Grandview School:

Dr. Stem for Young Engineers (1st and 2nd grade boys and girls) on Thursdays - Registration opens on March 30th

Multi-Sport Clinic on Thursdays – Registration opens on March 12th

Spring After-School Programs (Registrations open on March 12th):

Kiddie T-Ball (boys and girls ages 3-5) on Wednesdays

Petite Soccer (boys and girls ages 3-7) on Tuesdays

Beginner Lacrosse (boys and girls kindergarten-3rd grade) on Fridays

Summer Registrations

Summer Fun Camp (Kindergarten-7th grade boys & girls) opened on March 2nd

Kiddie Camp (boys and girls ages 3-5) opened on March 2nd

Pool registration opens on March 16th

Tree Seedling Day

Saturday, April 25 from 12noon to 2:00p.m. in the Borough Hall parking lot

Borough Hall is closed on Monday, May 25 in observance of Memorial Day.

Upcoming Mayor and Council Meetings:

Regular Meeting – Wednesday, March 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Conference Meeting – Tuesday, April 14 at 7:30 p.m.

Regular Meeting – Tuesday, April 28 at 7:30 p.m.

Conference Meeting – Tuesday, May 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Regular Meeting – Tuesday, May 26 at 7:30 p.m.