



North Caldwell Community News

1st Quarter 2023

It's hard to imagine that the 1st Quarter of 2023 is coming to a close. Over the past three months, the Mayor, Council, and all Borough employees have been hard at work to make sure the services our residents have enjoyed for so many years continue, while focusing on new initiatives to improve the great town of North Caldwell. We hope your new year is off to a wonderful start and you are enjoying the spring season.

The beginning of the new year brought several changes to our North Caldwell Police Department. First, as you likely know, our longtime Police Chief, Mark Deuer retired after 29 years of service to the residents of North Caldwell. Chief Deuer always put the interest of North Caldwell first, instituting the highest levels of professionalism amongst the officers of the Police Department while ensuring our community achieved one of the highest safety ratings within the state. We thank Chief Deuer for his service and wish him and his family the best as they look to the next chapter of their lives.

Taking the helm of Chief of Police in North Caldwell is Karl Strodthoff, who has served North Caldwell in an exemplary manner for the past 25 years. We are fortunate to have Chief Strodthoff as the new leader of our Police Department, as we know he will do a great job serving our residents.

Other promotions that took place within the North Caldwell Police Department were:

- Sergeant Michael Credico promoted to Captain
- Detective John Herbert promoted to Sergeant

In addition, Luke Roszkowski was hired as a patrolman. We congratulate each of these individuals on their new positions and we wish them the best, and to be safe, as they work to keep North Caldwell a peaceful place to live.

Here are more updates on what has been taking place within our Borough:

Finance: The Finance Committee, along with Borough CFO Rich Mondelli, reviewed the 2023 budget requests with every department to understand the services and costs our Borough demands. After continued discussion at the Mayor and Council's Budget Workshop meeting, we are happy to report that the Borough's tax rate will be unchanged from the prior year despite increased expenses caused by current inflationary pressure as well as lingering supply chain costs.

With sewage fees from neighboring towns increasing, however, we plan to raise annual fees by \$25 per residence and \$50 per tax exempt property. This still keeps our annual sewer fees lower than all of our surrounding towns and we will do our best to keep this fee stable for the foreseeable future.

Public Safety: The North Caldwell Police Foundation raised funds to pay for the purchase of a License Plate Reader ("LPR") camera for the Borough. The Borough completed an agreement with Essex County to install the camera on a County traffic signal to make this the second LPR in town. The Borough is concerned about the increased number of stolen vehicles in the area and

recently submitted a grant application to Congresswoman Sherrill's office for federal funding, which may help expand our LPR infrastructure and assist the North Caldwell Police Department in their investigations.

Traffic Light: The Borough is actively seeking to improve the safety of our pedestrians. In conjunction with Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo, Jr. and the North Caldwell Board of Education, the parties are nearing a formal agreement to install a traffic light at the intersection of Gould Avenue, Mountain Avenue and Knollwood Drive.

Shared Services: The Borough is progressing forward with the expansion of the North Caldwell-Essex Fells Municipal Court. The addition of Verona to the municipal court will create a savings for all three municipalities. The State has made funds available through the Local Efficiency Achievement Program Implementation (LEAP) grant program for shared service endeavors such as this, and the Borough submitted a LEAP grant application for technology improvements to the courtroom.

Effective January 1, 2023, the Borough expanded our existing dispatch and emergency 9-1-1 services. We have historically provided this service to the Boroughs of Essex Fells and will now also service the Borough of Caldwell. The recent expansion has gone well and is creating economic savings for all three municipalities.

Hilltop Conservancy: Special thanks to the North Caldwell Department of Public Works for their cleanup efforts in the Hilltop area. The DPW worked closely with the Hilltop Conservancy to remove debris. We thank all our residents and the neighbors of the Hilltop area for doing their part in cleaning up their yard and placing all trash and recyclables in appropriate containers.

Technology: The Borough continues to work to keep the Borough's technology infrastructure as current as possible. Most recently, the Borough's server was upgraded to a new virtual environment. To accomplish the server upgrade, the Borough's internal network was also upgraded to allow for isolation of the system and redundancies on the system. As usual, the Borough continues to upgrade employee workstations and provide regular updates to the new Borough website.

Green Brook County Club: A subset of the Borough Council has had several meetings with the owners of the Green Brook Country Club property. We continue to review a revised proposal that they submitted to the Borough and will continue to work towards a solution that minimizes any impact to our Borough. As discussions evolve, we will be sure to communicate all updates with the public as soon as possible.

Walker's Park: The Borough Council has approved the reconsolidation of the Walker's Park lots. We have converted the property back into a singular 17-acre park and eliminated the five one-acre lots zoned for residential development. This action eliminates the potential sell-off and development of these five lots at the end of Meadow Lane and preserves the entire property as parkland. The reconsolidation also should help progress approval of the NJDEP permits, which will allow for the creation of a usable park for all of our citizens. We are also continuing to explore plans to revitalize the Walker's home and convert it into a usable space for our Borough to enjoy.

Fireman's Field Renovation: The synthetic field surface at Firemen's Field has been completed well in advance of the 2023 Baseball and Softball season. We will hear "Play Ball" and have a ribbon cutting ceremony before the first games on April 2, 2023 and will celebrate with the entire community during the Baseball Opening Day Parade on April 22, 2023.

Hydrant Flushing: As part of the Borough's routine maintenance of its water distribution system, the North Caldwell Water Department will inspect fire hydrants and flush water mains

between 7:00pm and 11:00pm from approximately April 10, 2023 through April 27, 2023. Flushing water mains involves the systematic opening of fire hydrants and allowing them to flow for several minutes. Residents may experience a slight discoloration of their water following flushing. If this occurs, it is suggested that residents run their water until it clears. The discoloration is temporary and presents no ill health effect, but may stain laundry. Residents are therefore advised to be sure water is clear before washing clothes.

Senior Meetings: This club was formed in an effort to keep those who have reached the age of 62 active and to meet others of their own age. Any resident of North Caldwell who has reached this age is invited to join. The meetings are typically held on the first Wednesday of every month at Fireman's Hall. The following are the upcoming meeting dates:

- Wednesday, April 5th
- Wednesday, May 3rd
- Wednesday, June 7th

In addition, once the pool is open, every Wednesday is "Free Senior Swim Day" for all North Caldwell residents over the age of 62. Guests are welcome, but there is a cost of \$15 for each guest.

West Essex First Aide Squad (WEFAS): This organization is comprised completely of volunteers who rely on donations from the surrounding communities so they may continue to offer critical, life-saving service – all at no charge. In 2022 the WEFAS responded to 294 calls for North Caldwell residents. Please consider donating to this organization at <https://westessexfas.org/donate/>.

REMINDERS:

Tree Removal Ordinance: Before removing any trees from your property, please note that a tree removal permit is required. Please call the Building Department, 973-228-6410 ext. 106 for more information.

On-line tax bill & water bill payments: As a reminder, you can now pay your tax and water bill on-line at the Borough website <https://www.northcaldwell.org/home/pages/online-payment>.

Emergency Alert Notifications: We encourage all residents to register with the North Caldwell Emergency Alert Notification system. You will receive information such as road closure or water main breaks, as well as other public safety announcements. You can register for these notifications at <https://www.northcaldwell.org/home/news/sign-north-caldwells-emergency-notifications>.

Civic Rec: For any resident looking to participate in North Caldwell sponsored programs, please ensure you and your family are registered through the Civic Rec Registration site. <https://secure.rec1.com/NJ/north-caldwell-nj/catalog>.

Drainage Reporting Form: If you are experiencing an issue with water drainage, we want to know about it. You can submit your concern to the Borough at <https://form.jotform.com/221602966403048>.

Auto Thefts: As a reminder, please make sure your vehicles are locked when unattended and key fobs are removed. Vehicle thefts continue to be a concern of public safety in our area.

Camp Wyanokie: The camp opens on April 1st of each year and is open through the last weekend in November. For those wishing to enjoy overnight camping, you can reserve a camp site at <https://www.campspot.com/book/campwyanokie>. This beautiful 150 acre preserve at the edge of Norvin Green State Forest in West Milford surrounds a 5-acre scenic lake. There is a pavilion with picnic tables and various campsites with lean-tos and cooking fireplaces. Family

Day at the camp will be held Saturday June 17th. This is a day for all residents to enjoy the day at the lake. Activities include fishing, a petting zoo, pony rides, and a BBQ. If you would like to attend, please register at www.campwyanokie.com/special-events. Registration will open in May 2023.

The North Caldwell Recreation Foundation (NCRF): If you would like to get involved and volunteer some of your time, the North Caldwell Recreation Foundation is looking for volunteers. If interested in learning more, please contact the NCRF at northcaldwell.recfoundation@aol.com.

Upcoming Events & Dates:

- Pool Membership and Summer Fun registration portals are open.
- The Annual Spring Spectacular will be held on Tuesday, April 4, 2023. (rain date April 5).
- Earth Day Weekend is scheduled for April 21st – 23rd. This will include neighborhood cleanups as well as cleanups of the Borough fields and park.
- Baseball & Softball Opening Day – Saturday, April 22nd. The parade begins at 8:30 AM.
- The North Caldwell Fire Department 40th Annual Pancake Breakfast will be held on Sunday, June 4, 2023 from 8:00am to 12:00pm at Firemen’s Community Center. Tickets are available in advance at <https://www.northcaldwellfire.com/shop/pancakebreakfast>.

Upcoming Mayor & Council Meetings:

April 11, 2023 – Conference Meeting
April 25, 2023 – Regular Meeting
May 9, 2023 – Conference Meeting
May 23 – Regular Meeting
June 13 – Conference Meeting
June 27 – Regular Meeting

Additional meeting dates are posted at <https://www.northcaldwell.org/mayor-council>. Meeting agendas are posted at least 48 hours before each meeting at <https://www.northcaldwell.org/mayor-council>.

On behalf of the Mayor, Council, and Borough employees, we wish everyone the best. Enjoy the spring season, and for those celebrating, have a Happy Passover and Happy Easter!

Mayor Joshua H. Raymond
and the North Caldwell Borough Council

Council President Anthony Floria-Callori
Councilman Matthew Atlas
Councilman Robert Kessler
Councilman Arthur Rees
Councilman Kenneth Tilton
Councilman Stephen Weinstein