

# The Progress

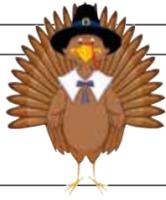
'Avoiding All Malice and Uncharitableness' Former U.S. President Grover Cleveland, Born in Caldwell, March 18, 1837

theprogressnj.com

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2020

\$2.50

Happy Thanksgiving!



Chiefs, Knights defeat gridiron opponents • 5

How much did your neighbor's house sell for? • 15

**ELECTION 2020: OFFICIAL RESULTS**

## Democrats win in North Caldwell

**NORTH CALDWELL** – The Democratic candidates claimed victory in races for two seats on the Borough Council in the Nov. 3 election.

After the Essex County Clerk's Office updated the unofficial results about 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19, Matt Atlas and Anthony Floria-Callori wrote on their North Caldwell Now campaign's Facebook page: "We did it ... together! We are excited to share that we have been elected to the



**ANTHONY FLORIA-CALLORI**



**MATT ATLAS**

North Caldwell Borough Council!

"We want to take this opportunity to thank our

many supporters and volunteers. We couldn't have accomplished this without your support. We are grateful for the countless hours that you spent helping us to get our message out over the course of the campaign. Thank you, thank you, thank you."

The updated results showed Floria-Callori with 2,260 votes and Atlas with 2,241, compared with 2,165 for Councilman John Chiaia and 2,157 for Council President Cynthia Santomauro, both Republicans.

Santomauro was running for her seventh three-year term and Chiaia for his fifth.

No Democrat has run for the all-Republican council in 20 years.

Floria-Callori ran for the council as an independent last year.

In their message Thursday, the Democrats said they look forward to learning more about and addressing the issues facing our neighbors. "As we have

pledged, we will endeavor to increase transparency and communication between the council and our borough residents.

"We thank John Chiaia and Cynthia Santomauro for their many years of public service and commitment to North Caldwell. Thanks in great part to their efforts, North Caldwell is facing an exciting period of progress and growth."

cumbents Michele Tolli, a Republican, and Chris Bardi, a Democrat, held onto their lead in races for two seats on the Roseland Borough Council.

Tolli had 2,119 votes and Bardi had 2,083, followed by 2,000 for Republican Aristotle Popolizio, who also ran last year for a council seat.

Democrat Matthew Biron, running for the first time, had 1,818 votes.

**Roseland**

In the latest results, in-

PLEASE SEE VOTE, PAGE 3



Photo by Glenn Clark

**WEST ESSEX, CALDWELL GIRLS TEAMS WIN CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Cait Lutz gets this backhanded shot past the Millburn goal keeper to put West Essex High School ahead 1-0 in the state sectional field hockey finals Saturday, Nov. 21. The Knights won the game. Meanwhile, the James Caldwell High School girls soccer team defeated Glen Rock in the state sectional finals. Please see stories on page 3.

**CALDWELL MAYOR & COUNCIL**

## Borough joins list of sites for dispensaries

By COLLEEN McSPIRIT-BRUSH  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

**CALDWELL** – Although 70 percent of borough residents voted to legalize marijuana in the Nov. 3 election, the topic was hotly debated at the Borough Council's business meeting Tuesday, Nov. 17.

The meeting was held online because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Council members voted 4-2 in favor of a resolution to put Caldwell on the list of places to host marijuana dispensaries. The nay votes were cast by Councilmen Jonathan Lace and Frank Rodgers.

Lace cited concerns about public safety and health as his reason for voting no.

"Will marijuana shops increase the likelihood that Caldwell children will be exposed earlier to the drug? Will it increase the likelihood they will try other drugs at a younger age?" he asked, adding that this is another opportunity to pollute Caldwell's air space.

Rodgers declined a request for comment on his no vote.

Borough Administrator Thomas Banker said placing Caldwell on the list is not a commitment to host a cannabis operation. "It is just positioning us to do so if the governing body wants to do so. If the state has a limit on the municipalities that can be a host, many times they are first-come first-serve. This just puts us on the list of potential places."

Councilwoman Fran DePalma-Iozzi said, "There

is a lot of fear around this issue. There are already places people can go to get marijuana. There are also benefits to it. This side has two issues.

"Councilman Lace presented his views. If it's not Caldwell, it will be someplace else. There will be controls put in place. It's premature to be frightened about something we don't know how is going to work."

Council President Christine Schmidt said, "It is legal now. This is just exploring the issue. We have to give it thought and it will take planning and education. I am not saying to do it, but the people spoke for it during the election.

In other business, the council introduced three proposed ordinances, including one to acquire the property at 16 Park Ave. for \$675,000.

"While this property is adjacent to the post office, this ordinance is not a commitment to the final project," Banker said.

He explained that if the council decides to move borough hall to the post office location on Park Avenue, this property could be used for that project.

He noted that the property owners approached the borough about the sale.

Another proposed ordinance would provide \$765,182 to pay expenses related to COVID-19. Caldwell will apply for any federal assistance available and will have five years to absorb any costs related to the pandemic in the budget.

Another proposed ordinance would amend sewer charges.

**THINKING OF OTHERS AT HOLIDAY**

Right: Tracy Voca of Caldwell brings packages to the Caldwell Food Pantry during its turkey drive Saturday, Nov. 21.

Far right: Bags of food stand ready for families to pick up Monday, Nov. 23. About 120 bags were prepared, compared with about 100 last year. Please see story on how to help on page 3.



Photos by Kathy Shwiff



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