

Westfield Town Council OKs Modifications for Liquor Licenses

By DOMINIC A. LAGANO
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — At its regular public meeting Tuesday night, the town council voted to approve modifications to several municipal ordinances including amendments to the town's liquor ordinance. There was a public hearing before the final council vote for these ordinances to solicit comments from the public.

All of the comments from the public during the public hearing were related specifically to an ordinance amending liquor licenses in town. Several council members also

voiced their opinions regarding this ordinance.

The ordinance allows for the four restaurants currently holding conditional liquor licenses in Westfield - Akai Japanese Sushi Lounge, Ferraro's Restaurant, Fujiyama Mama Restaurant and Sweet Waters Steakhouse - to serve alcohol without having to serve a customer food.

The final restricted license is not currently active, but was transferred from Lazio, LLC (Acquaviva Delle Fonti) to UT Westfield, LLC in November of 2013.

The restaurants would still be re-

quired to make at least 50 percent of their profits from food purchases.

Councilman James Foerst, chairman of the council's Code Review and Town Property Committee, addressed persons who he said were "misinformed" regarding the ordinance.

"The five licenses that are going to change are not new. They currently exist...the number one thing I think everyone needs to understand is that these are not going to be bar licenses. I would imply bar license would mean there is no food requirement."

Mr. Foerst said the restaurants can be monitored by sales tax records.

Mr. Foerst continued, "I think the other miscommunication here, or misunderstanding, is the time that it's taken us to get here. The process of recodification, which is what we are doing...started 10 plus years ago," he stated. "This is a culmination of a lot of efforts. So if you're new to the game, if you're new to the issue, welcome. But it's not the first time we've been talking about it. Yes, it is in fact true, the first vote on this particular ordinance was two weeks ago and that's the process. But the first discussion of this issue began in my committee 10 plus years ago, and with real vigor about two years ago."

Council members Frank Arena and JoAnn Neylan also voiced their opinions in support of the ordinance.

Councilwoman Vicki Kimmins, the lone dissenting vote for the ordinance's first reading (covered in May 22 edition of *The Westfield Leader*) also offered her opinion. "This concerns me in Westfield and I do not think for the benefit of one or two places that might be pushing this, whatever the reason is, I just don't see it."

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Lance Defeats Larsen In Primary In 7th District

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

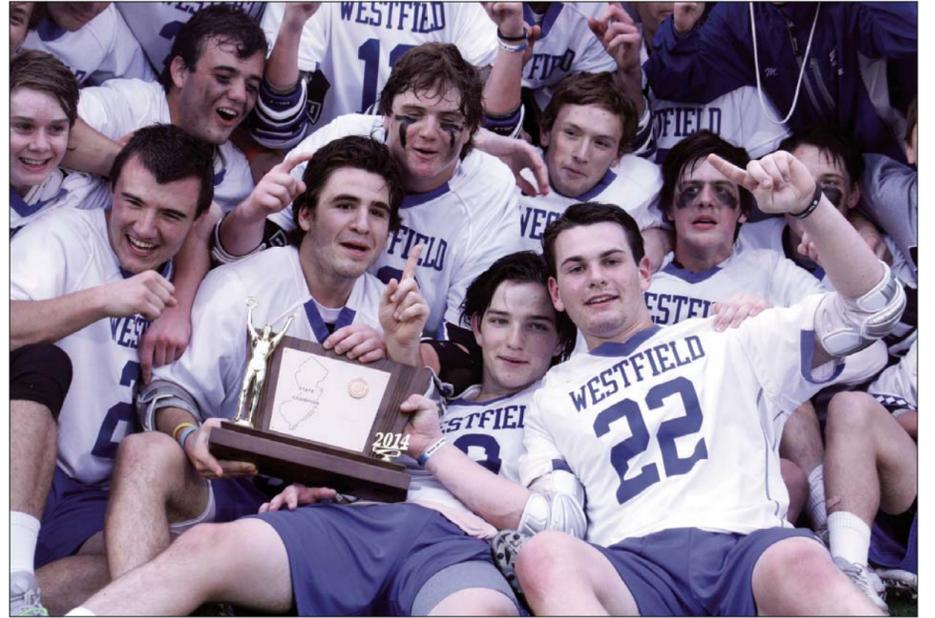
AREA — Three-term Rep. Leonard Lance (R-7th) defeated businessman David Larsen, 13,362 to 10,764 votes, for the third time in four years in Tuesday's Republican Primary Election.

Mr. Lance won in Hunterdon, Somerset, Union and Warren Counties while Mr. Larsen won Morris County. Mr. Lance won Union County by a margin of 2,957 to 1,542. The Congressman will now face the mayor of the Town of Clinton, Janice Kovach, who was unopposed in the Democratic Primary, in the November General Election. The 7th District includes Westfield, Cranford, Garwood and Mountainside.

"I thank all of those who have made tonight's strong victory possible," Mr. Lance said in a statement released Tuesday night. "I return to Washington next week to continue to support fiscally responsible policies in Congress to lower our deficits and help improve the private sector economy across the nation. I pledge to continue my efforts to stop Obamacare, open more American-made energy to consumers and serve as a check on the President's executive overreach — views that are shared by the overwhelming majority of the people of this congressional district."

Mr. Lance said he looks forward to a "spirited campaign" in the fall.

In the neighboring 12th District, Assemblywoman Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-15th, Mercer), capturing 15,413 or 43 percent of the vote, was victorious over state Senator Linda Greenstein (D-14th, Middlesex), 10,031 or 28 percent; Assemblyman Upendra Chivukula (D-17th, Somerset), 7,824 or 22 per-



STATE CHAMPS...The Westfield High School Boys Varsity lacrosse team celebrates after winning the Group IV State Championship against Southern Regional, 10-6, in Somerville on May 25. See story page 11.

Garwood GOP Elects Piarulli In Primary to Replace Mayor

By BRIAN TRUSDELL
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

GARWOOD — Sal Piarulli beat incumbent Pat Quattrocchi for the Republican nomination for Garwood mayor in Tuesday's Primary Election, topping a sweep for Councilman Jim Mathieu's conservative faction which also took control of the borough's GOP committee by winning six of eight seats.

Mr. Piarulli won 113 to 99, earning the right to face Democrat and former councilman Charles Lombardo, who ran unopposed in his party's Primary, in November.

"I'm ecstatic," said Mr. Piarulli, who waited at Borough Hall to get

the results with his wife and two of his children. "I was cautiously optimistic. For three months, walking the streets, talking to people, telling them my plan, I really feel help put me over the top."

Mrs. Quattrocchi was seeking a second term as mayor, having run and been elected with Mr. Mathieu four years ago.

"I don't know what to say. I just don't have anything to say," Mrs. Quattrocchi said. "I don't want to say anything I may regret later."

Mr. Piarulli won in three of the borough's four districts.

Mr. Mathieu, who won re-election to his council seat in November, moved to take control of the

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Garwood Bd. OKs Use Variance, 4th Ave. Developer

By MEGAN K. SCOTT
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

GARWOOD — The planning board approved a change of use variance to enable construction of nine townhouses on a lot zoned as single-family residential on Fourth Avenue. The lot had been grandfathered for commercial use for the previous owner's catering business - Five Star Catering — as a pre-existing, non-conforming use.

The meeting, designated as "bifurcated" by attorneys, considered only the "change of use." Detailed drawings will be required to be submitted and approved at later hearings.

The owners are proposing to spend more than \$5 million to build

the townhomes. The 5-2 vote on May 28 came after nearly three hours of testimony — including from a site planner, traffic safety engineer and architect — and concerns from several residents about the impact on traffic, property values and the aesthetics of the neighborhood.

Planning board members Bruce Paterson and Robert Scherer voted no. Mayor Pat Quattrocchi and Bill Nierstedt, a borough councilman, were not permitted to vote because of their positions on borough council.

The meeting lasted so long that board members voted to suspend their bylaws and go past 11 p.m.

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CHEERS...The Westfield Town Council voted to approve modifications to several municipal ordinances including amendments to the town's liquor ordinance at its meeting on Tuesday. There was a public hearing before the final council vote, at which time comments from the public were heard.

MS Council Continues Debate On Size of Homes

By KATE BROWNE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

MOUNTAINSIDE — The borough council continued an animated discussion Tuesday night regarding what size homes are most appropriate for the myriad of lot sizes in the community.

The present regulatory scheme limits construction of residential single-family homes on a quarter acre lot to a floor area ratio (FAR) of 3,375 square feet.

Councilman Keith Turner contended that the rules should be revised to link the size of the home to the size of the lot. He noted that if the present 2.25 percent FAR was increased to 2.35 percent it would allow the construction of a 3,535-square-foot home. Mr. Turner explained that he had discussed the issue with three different builders who had advised that many buyers wanted homes with a fourth bedroom on the ground floor, which could be done if the borough raised

the lot size which it uses to calculate the applicable FAR.

Mayor Paul Mirabelli suggested that the group take a "holistic" approach and solicit input from John Chadwick, the planner who is presently assisting the planning department with the revisions to the Mountainside Master Plan. The Mayor noted that it was critical that homes be appropriately scaled for their lot size and suggested that the council members prepare a comprehensive list of questions on the potential impact of any proposed changes for Mr. Chadwick to consider at the council next meeting.

The council heard a report on the transfer of several liquor licenses and received an update on the police department's efforts to obtain law enforcement accreditation from the state. The accreditation program provides the department with a process to systematically conduct an internal review and assessment of

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AND THEY'RE OFF...The Centennial Village Velocity 5K Race on Sunday morning in Cranford draws a large crowd of runners. The race is sponsored by the Centennial Village Group, which works to beautify and revitalize Cranford's Centennial Avenue business district.

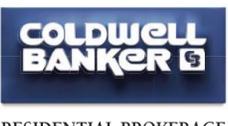


JUMPING JACKS AND JILLS...Westfield High School students jump for joy at a pre-prom party at the Abrams' residence. Pictured, left to right, are: Frank Guerriero, Sam Gruskin, Mary Rippe, David Gruskin, Drew Stierhoff, Sadie Jezierski, Fraser Weist, Sarah Davidson, Josh Norton, Kaitlin Abrams, Jared Elner and Rebecca Plotkin.

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