

New Canterbury Home Would Be 7.5 Ft. Higher Than Gatehouse

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Planning Board on Monday night heard the continuation of Julie Marsella's application for a subdivision of 200 Canterbury Lane with the existing "Little Gatehouse." Four-dozen residents attended the meeting, and about a quarter of them addressed the board with questions to the testifiers.

Ms. Marsella's traffic engineer, Elizabeth Dolan, shared the results of a second traffic study she conducted September 17 and 18 from 7 to 9 a.m. and 4 to 6 p.m., as proposed by the board in July. Her study showed that there were 117 more vehicles on East Broad Street heading in the eastbound direction during the morning hours. She said the other time periods on Wychwood and East Broad did not have a significant change.

Ms. Dolan also exhibited line-of-sight and car-turning schematics. She said drivers exiting the proposed driveway on Wychwood Avenue would have enough room to bypass the island.

"Even if it swings wide, it will not hit the island," she said. She said her plan was designed using an oversized truck at 18 feet in length, whereas a typical SUV or car is 16-and-a-half feet.

Ms. Dolan's line-of-sight recommendations include cutting four trees

west of the proposed driveway along Wychwood Avenue and other trees on the right side of East Broad where the road enters Wychwood. She said foliage planted on a triangle should not exceed 30 inches in order to have clear sight lines. She said an alternative to cutting trees would be to re-

are a viewing interference.

Board member Danielle Walsh interjected by asking if this sight line was an existing issue. Ms. Dolan said it was.

The applicant's architect, Roger Winkle, said that to build the new property, about four to five trees would have to be removed, according to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conclusions. He also presented designs on the proposed new structure, which he described as a two-story English country manor.

According to Mr. Winkle, his design would complement the existing one-and-a-half-story gatehouse by keeping the front walls as low as possible, adding three dormers with finials on the peak and using "all natural" materials. He said the house would be made of full stucco—not latex—wood, natural stone veneer and roof shingles made of either rubber of another composite to simulate a slate look. The rear would include stucco with a wainscot of stone with some exposed brick to look authentic.

He said the plans are for a 33.5-foot-high property—seven-and-a-half feet higher than the little gatehouse and six-and-a-half feet lower than the larger gatehouse.

Mr. Winkle said the new home would cover 2,808 square feet of the lot, more than 3 percent under what is allowed in the zone by the town; and a FAR (Floor to Area Ratio) of 4,092 square feet, or 24.4 percent, which is under the maximum of 25 percent under town requirements.

He did not mention the two variances the applicant requests. The lot frontage is over by almost 13 feet, the

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STROLLING...Visitors relax and enjoy beautiful weather on Saturday at the Westfield street fair.

move branches that are seven feet or below on the trunk, though for optimum safety she recommended removing the trees because the trunks

Rec. Comm. to Decide on Houlihan Lights Next Month

By MARIA WOEHR
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Recreation Commission Monday night requested that the Westfield Soccer Association (WSA) provide them with field schedules as the commission considers whether the lights at Houlihan Field should be kept on for an additional half hour.

"We are asking for a trial period on Friday and Saturday nights until the middle of November to extend the lights to 10:10 from 9:30 so we can play two games on these nights," said Bob Clancy, vice president of operations for WSA.

Area resident and teacher Donna Panagos said she was "absolutely against" the 10:10-10:15 request.

"The players hang out and make a lot of noise. They have the field from noon until dusk and I sit there in my kitchen and hear the whistles, coaches and players while I am grading papers. This is everything against having good neighbors. We had a petition with 200 signatures on it against those lights. We don't want those lights at all," she said.

Mr. Clancy said the field would only be used on Friday and Saturday for inter-county games, which means all players would be from Westfield. The games would be played from 6 to 8 p.m. and 8 to 10 p.m.

The WSA has 2,600 children in the program, and all of the field slots are full, according to Mr. Clancy.

"I would rather my children be hanging out at a soccer field than at Starbucks. We had an agreement when we first began this that we would work from 9:30 to 10, and we have been on our best behavior," he said.

Board Chairman William Palatucci said, "Our policy only indicates that we are to turn off the lights at the specific time. We have an agreement and we will reconsider it at next month's meeting, but we need to see what a difference the half an hour will make."

Town councilman and liaison to the recreation commission Peter Echausse said, "As many children on the field can get out there...should. The parents and children are excited to have that, and I applaud your efforts."

The commission will decide at next month's meeting whether to allow WSA games to continue until 10:10 p.m. The association will present the commission with its current schedule and revised schedule to indicate the difference the half an hour would make to game times, officials said.

In other news, Memorial Pool construction is underway. The adult and kiddie pool are being renovated.

"[Contractors] are ripping up the kiddie pool right on schedule," Recreation Director Bruce Kauffman said.

Officials said renovations on the Tamaques Park tennis courts have been completed. The courts received \$2,000 worth of repair work.

With an increase in demand for Westfield's athletic fields, field schedules continue to be a pressing issue, officials said. The commission will meet with user groups for each league to discuss scheduling with them. Also, the recreation commission will display recreation leagues time slots online.

Officials announced that the commission would also start making a list of capital projects so that the commission might address them as soon as possible and start touring the facilities.



PROSPECT STREET AND GOAL...Local girls kick a soccer ball around as other Festfall-goers enjoy food, games and vendor booths at Westfield's annual street fair on Sunday afternoon. See additional photos at goleader.com/photos.

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VIEW FROM THE TOP...Westfield Leader photographer Davide Samsky flies 1,000 feet above the Festfall street fair on Sunday, capturing Westfield and its visitors at the intersection of Broad and Elm Streets. See additional photos at goleader.com/photos.

Westfield Officials, Residents Address Town's Traffic Hot Spots

By MICHAEL J. POLLACK
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — Addressing intersections in need of improvement from a safety perspective—known as traffic hot spots—traffic consultant Gordon Meth answered questions from residents attending a special meeting last Wednesday night in the municipal building's community room.

To address the first hot spot, comprising the area near Memorial Pool,

Mr. Meth's main proposal stressed changing the "blinking light" at Scotch Plains Avenue and West Broad Street to a "full traffic light" equipped with cameras that gauge the level of traffic and change according to it.

Mr. Meth also said because such a light could interpret the volume at the intersection, traffic would flow better.

"It's a great idea—installing a traffic light. We have to think about the children who walk to school every day. I'm also concerned about the speeding near Memorial Pool," resident Joan Penczak said.

Fourth Ward Councilman Jim Foerst, who represents that area, told *The Westfield Leader* that, knowing the lengthy amount of time involved in getting county approval for the traffic signal, "we decided that, in the interim, we would go forward with the installation of the sidewalk on Scotch Plains Avenue, do line-of-sight

studies on all four corners of the intersection and clear out vegetation that the county has been recalcitrant in maintaining, so [drivers] could see what's there (signs that warn drivers to 'slow ahead')."

Mr. Meth also wants to reduce the speed limit on West Broad Street and improve visibility in the area.

To deal with the South and Scotch Plains Avenues intersection, Mr. Meth proposes eliminating the 45-degree, right-turn island and rewiring the traffic signal; in the meantime, the existing yield sign at the point where eastbound traffic on South Avenue merges onto Scotch Plains Avenue could be changed to a stop sign.

Mr. Ciarrocca said the existing 45-degree merge encourages speeding onto Scotch Plains Avenue. With the proposed changes, drivers would have to completely go up to the traffic sig-

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Westfield Council Discusses County Building Concerns

By MICHAEL J. POLLACK
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — During the public portion of Tuesday's town-council conference session, John Devitt, a Highland Avenue resident, spoke of his concerns surrounding the construction of a 49,000-square-foot vehicle-storage facility at 300 North Avenue, adjacent to the Ralph Froehlich public safety building. Those council members who spoke sided with Mr. Devitt but reiterated that the body is "powerless" to stop Union County from completing the project.

Mr. Devitt said the entire structure, slated to include a three-story building that will provide 130 surface parking spots and 11 rooftop spaces, would be "a little smaller than Shop Rite."

He said, "I believe we have a red flag here in Westfield. That red flag is right next to the public-safety building, which we ride by everyday. We find it's an oversized building and very bulky. It impairs Westfield's resi-

dential, small-town character... Since the county did such a poor job building that structure, as far as Westfield is concerned, I think this really has to be monitored very closely from here on in."

Despite a "courtesy" presentation to the planning board in early September, First Ward councilman Sal Caruana said, "They're exempt from our zoning requirements."

Town Attorney Robert Cockren concurred with Mr. Caruana's assessment, comparing it to the board of education's exemption from local zoning requirements. He said the "courtesy" review by the planning board might lead to recommendations, but "that's all they are—recommendations. If there is going to be any input, it'll have to be through other avenues."

In terms of the county's attitude toward Westfield and the council, Fourth Ward Councilman Jim Foerst said, "The interesting thing to note

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COLONIAL GREETINGS...A colonial figure meets a young fan at Union County's annual Harvest Festival, held last Sunday at the Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountainside. See additional photos on page 9.

Quattrocchi, Russitano Focus On Spending, No-Bid Work

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

COUNTY — Although Republicans have not held a seat on the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders in 10 years, GOP freeholder candidates Patricia Quattrocchi of Garwood and John Russitano of Westfield are fo-

Westfield Candidates Forum Update

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Candidates Forum, sponsored by *The Westfield Leader* and the League of Women Voters, is scheduled for Sunday, October 14, at 7:30 p.m. at the municipal building at 425 East Broad Street.

Those seeking election to the four seats up for grabs on the town council for four-year terms will participate. Democrats Ross Katz (Ward 1), Bruce Regenstreich (Ward 2), Matt Sontz (Ward 3) and Lenore Scurry (Ward 4) oppose Republicans Frank Arena (Ward 1) and incumbents JoAnn Neylan (Ward 2), Mark Ciarrocca (Ward 3) and James Foerst (Ward 4).

There are eight seats on the Westfield Town Council, two from each ward. Every other year, four seats are up for election. Mayoral races occur every four years; the next will be in November 2009.

The public can attend and submit questions for the forum in advance by e-mail to editor@goleader.com.

Westfield TV-36 will air the forum and replay the telecast several times prior to Election Day, November 6.

Leader reporter Fred Rossi and Merry Wisler of the League of Women Voters will moderate the forum.

View candidate biographies, video and other features at goleader.com/07election.

cusing on a jump in county spending, taxes and the awarding of no-bid contracts the past few years by the all-Democratic 9-0 board.

During an interview last Thursday at the offices of *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*, Mrs. Quattrocchi, making her fourth consecutive run at a board seat, said county spending continues to be a big issue for her.

"[The freeholders] surpassed the mark of over a million dollars a day [in spending]," she said.

"Union County right now is in the number nine position of having the highest county taxes in the country—that's out of 795,000 counties that have over 65,000 residents," Mrs. Quattrocchi said. "I don't want to be number 10 or number nine for highest taxes. I want to be number nine for having great reading scores in Union County; I want to be number nine for providing employment in Union County. I want to be number nine for having the lowest crime rate."

She said the lower increase in the tax levy, 3 percent this year, "doesn't make up for what they have been doing for the past eight, nine or 10 years."

The candidate said the biggest area of spending are the salaries of "middle and upper management."

Mrs. Quattrocchi said a Dunn and Bradstreet retired purchasing agent looked at three months of county expenses on his own and submitted his findings to the board.

"What he found was that, for instance, [the board had] five different companies that they were buying bottled water from and four different

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1947...Members of Westfield High School's Class of 1947 return to town last Saturday for their 60th reunion and pose in front of the 302 Elm Street administration building, which had been the high school in 1947. Pictured, left to right, are: front row — Robert Turnbaugh, Horseshoe Bay, Tex.; Lois Donaldson McMullen, San Diego, Calif.; Carol Sanford Baldwin, Baldwin, Mo.; Peggy Allen Kelly, York, Pa.; William Robinson, San Mateo, Calif.; middle row — Peggy Rapp McElroy, Springfield, Va.; Jean Heatly Turnbaugh, Horseshoe Bay, Tex.; Mary Ann Crowell Freeman, Easton, Conn.; Richard Coykendall, San Mateo, Calif.; back row — Paul Littmann, Forest Hill, Md.; Donald Miller, Arlington, Va.; Arthur Bingham, West Tisbury, Martha's Vineyard, Mass., and Louis Budell, Marcellus, N.Y.