

# 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 Garwood GOP by running six candidates, including himself and his wife, Liz, in three of the borough's four districts.

Mr. Mathieu defeated Glenn A. Sytko, 43 to 36, and Mrs. Mathieu beat Cheryl A. Niedermaier, 40 to 38, in District 2; Mr. Piarulli beat Victor DeFilippo, 15 to 8, while Mr. Piarulli's wife, Linda Morello, defeated Mr. DeFilippo's wife, Judy, 13 to 9, in District 4;

in District 3, Dominick Zurzolo beat Garwood GOP Chairman John Quattrocchi, 29 to 22, and Mr. Zurzolo's wife, Erika, defeated Mrs. Quattrocchi, 28 to 24.

In District 1, Carol Kearney and Gene Jannotti ran unopposed, with Mr. Mathieu's endorsed candidate, Alex Grohol, who ran as a write-in, received only one vote.

"I'm very happy; that's obvious. The people wanted to take the local GOP in a more conservative direction," said Mr. Mathieu, who thanked the Quattrocchis for leading the Republican Party, "when nobody else would."

Ms. Kearney and Richard Dolan, who ran unopposed for the Republican nominations for borough council, will face incumbent Democrats Sara Todisco and Lou Petruzzelli, who also ran unopposed.

Democrats control four of the six council seats. The only other Republican on the council, Mike Martin, supported Mrs. Quattrocchi's campaign.

Mr. Mathieu vowed to work with Ms. Kearney and Mr. Dolan, who campaigned for Mrs. Quattrocchi, to elect the full Republican slate in November with Mr. Piarulli atop the ticket.

"I look forward to a spirited campaign against Councilwoman Todisco and Councilman Petruzzelli," Mr. Dolan said. "I'm disappointed Mayor Quattrocchi did not win the Primary."

Ms. Todisco and Mr. Petruzzelli will run with Mr. Lombardo, who said he was not concerned with the Republican Primary outcome.

"It doesn't matter," he said. "Our campaign already is in full swing."

*Probitas Verus Honos*

# Army Corps' 2 to 3 Years From Finishing Flood Study

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE

*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

**CRANFORD** — The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is two to three years away from fully completing its study on how to alleviate flood impacts along the Rahway River, Deputy District Engineer Joseph Seebode said at a packed public information session held last Wednesday in the township committee chambers.

The USACE began its study in 1999, after Hurricane Floyd hit and devastated the region, and it would be another two to three years before the study is presented to Congress and a decision made by Congress, Mr. Seebode said.

"It will probably take five to 10 years before you start to see the benefits of a flood risk reduction benefit," Mr. Seebode said.

The USACE conducted preliminary economic analyses on 10 flood risk management alternatives and three met the potential for a positive benefit-to-cost ratio necessary to apply for federal funding. The 10 alternatives range from \$15 million to \$230 million. The USACE looked at how these alternatives would operate in a 100-year flood.

The three alternatives include proposals to build a dry detention basin in the South Mountain Reservation, construction of new outlets on the Orange Reservoir in conjunction with channel modifications in Cranford, and non-structural modifications to structures within the 10-year flood plain in Cranford.

"We are developing a tentatively selected plan. I believe it will be one of the three... I think number four (Orange Reservoir) as the process has gone on has begun to present itself to make a

lot of sense in terms of the minimal amount of work, the large amount of benefit, and the lesser amount of environmental damages, cultural resource damages, and recreational damages...", Mr. Seebode said.

Modifying the dam structure in the Orange Reservoir would cost close to \$69 million. It would include replacing existing pipes, which currently are not able to pass floodwaters fast enough, and putting new, larger pipes into the dam, and gates and levers to control the water, Mr. Seebode said. Also, it included modifying the shape of the river.

Included in this alternative would be modifying or replacing the North Avenue and North Union Avenue bridges in Cranford, which have impacted flooding in Cranford, Mr. Seebode said.

Also, Hansel Dam near the Cranford Canoe Club, and Droscher Dam, would be removed, he said. The township is concerned that removing Hansel Dam in Cranford would mean that the water levels in the river by the canoe club during dry days would be low to nil, and thus the river could not be used for recreation.

"Both the South Mountain detention basin and the Orange Reservoir modification would store peak storm water which according to the USACE calculations, would reduce water elevations by about one foot in Cranford; upstream in Millburn it would be a greater benefit," Dan Aschenbach, former township mayor and member of the Mayor's Council Rahway River Flood Control, told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*.

The non-structural modification  
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## Greater Westfield Area C of C News: Garwood will be Rockin' on Sunday

Presented by the Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce on Sunday, June 8, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (rain or shine) in downtown Garwood — Welcome to Garwood Rocks!, home of New Jersey's most exciting car show and live music outdoor festival, suitable for all the family to enjoy! Featuring an all day live stage, with numerous bands, entertainment, vendors, festival foods and amusement rides, Garwood, N.J. is revving up to celebrate spring in style. Center Street will be closed to traffic from South Avenue to Unami Park.

Join us for an entire day of family fun and Rock 'n' Roll, with a top class car show hosted by

Hot Rod "Mike." The live music, presented by Crossroads, includes top bands starting at 10 a.m. with the RMC Rock Shop Band; 11:30 a.m. Cranford Guitar All-Stars, 1 p.m., Nikki Briar and The Sweet Briar Band; 2:30 p.m., The Benjamins and at 4 p.m., The Brother John Brown Band. Many artisans and crafters will be displaying paintings, pottery, photography, handmade jewelry, furniture and many other unique gifts. Food vendors will be selling culinary delights. Strolling entertainment will entertain festival goers. There will be a KidZone with rides and activities by the Garwood Family Y at Locust Avenue. Get ready to rock!