



A COUNTY TRADITION...Union County Freeholders were on hand at the county's annual Christmas tree lighting and charity drive event held December 5 at the Watchung Stables in Mountainside. Over 2,000 people attended the event that featured a petting zoo, caroling, refreshments and a Watchung Mounted Drill Team demonstration. Pictured, left to right, are: Comcast Vice President and General Manager, Buck Dopp; Freeholder Chester Holmes, Freeholder Vice Chairman Daniel P. Sullivan and his son, Daniel, Freeholder Chairman Nicholas P. Scutari and Freeholder Alexander Mirabella.

Freeholders, Dept. Heads Receive Pay Hikes; Park Workers Seek to Resolve Contract Talks

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

ELIZABETH — The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, last Thursday, approved salary increases for themselves as well as department heads.

In a separate but related matter, raises were also issued to the county's constitutional officers. These include the County Clerk, Sheriff and Surrogate. All raises were for 3.5 percent. The seven non-officers of the freeholder board will be paid \$25,875 with the Chairman receiving \$27,875 and the Vice Chairman, \$26,875. All represent \$875 increases over their current compensation.

As for the department heads, their new salaries will be as follows: Clerk of the Board, Liz Genievich, \$72,573; County Counsel, Carol Cohen, \$116,448; County Manager Michael J. Lapolla, \$127,392; Deputy County Manager George Devanney, \$103,334; Director of Administrative Services, Joseph I. Salemme, \$91,261; Director of Operational Services Frank Dann, \$95,039; Public Safety Director Harold Gibson,

\$91,055; Director of Finance Lawrence Caroselli, \$95,697; Director of Runnells Specialized Hospital Joseph W. Sharp, \$101,543; Director of Human Services Frank Guzzo, \$93,413. Mr. Dann, who was named to his post earlier this year, will be paid \$10,000 less than his predecessor, Armand Fiorletti who retired.

The freeholder and department head raises are retroactive to January 1, 1999. Dan Nazza of Elizabeth called the raises "unconscionable at this time."

He said the board appears to be "more self motivated than you are about us; and what gets me is you people have other jobs. A lot of us are retired."

Mr. Nazza said he believes a more appropriate approach to raising salaries would be to have it reviewed by an independent commission.

"I feel they might find the salary increases unjustified," he said.

Joseph Doherty of Elizabeth said he was opposed to the raises as a "beleaguered and overburdened taxpayer."

He said he is "confident" that the current salaries are "adequate."

"They (county officials) are not struggling like your average citizen," he said.

"Perhaps it is time for the citizens to storm the steps of government and cast out the political parasites and brazen bureaucrats who turn a deaf ear to their constituents' concerns," Mr. Doherty said.

Beatrice Bernzott of Linden said she had no problem with the raises as long as the board does not continue the practice of giving themselves increases every year.

The board passed the ordinance to approve the raises by a 7-1 vote with Freeholder Donald Goncalves dissenting. Mr. Goncalves, who was replaced on the Democratic Freeholder ticket this year by Angel Estrada, will not be on the board come January.

The board approved the resolution for 3.5 percent raises for Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi and Sheriff Ralph Froehlich at \$105,238 each. The same salary will be paid to incoming Surrogate James Lacorte. The raises for the County Clerk and Sheriff will be retroactive to January 1, 1999.

According to the Office of the Freeholder Clerk, Mr. Lacorte will not receive retroactive pay, however, the estate of the late Surrogate, Ann P. Conti, will receive back pay for the time she served prior to her death last July.

Those increases were approved by an 8-0 vote. Jerry Goldman of Elizabeth questioned why the increases were retroactive. Freeholder Chairman Nicholas P. Scutari stated that the process involves ongoing negotiations and has been a long-time practice of Union County government.

On another matter, the board approved 10 waivers, submitted by county employees, of the county's residency requirement for county workers. Voting against the waivers were Freeholders Scutari and Goncalves and Freeholder Chester Holmes.

Mr. Scutari said most of the waivers were from Union County police officers and corrections officers and one for a worker at Runnells Specialized Hospital.

Freeholder Sullivan noted that waivers were for "extraordinary and exceptional circumstances," such as health and other family concerns,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

Westfield Girl Scouts' Act of Kindness Helps Bound Brook Man Recover From Storm

By SONIA V. OWCHARIW
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD — The aftermath of September's Tropical Storm Floyd is long gone, but the memory will serve as a reminder just how intense and unpredictable nature can be.

It may have wiped away homes, businesses and personal property, but not all hope was washed away, especially for one Bound Brook resident whose life will never be the same.

The Westfield Girl Scout community at Wilson Elementary School, consisting of nine troops from kindergarten to fourth grade, on November 13 shed kindness and love through gifts upon 73-year-old retired Bound Brook resident Andy

Papa. Mr. Papa and his sister had to evacuate their two-level home off of Main Street in Bound Brook during Tropical Storm Floyd when water levels reached over seven feet high in his first-floor apartment.

"It started out so slowly in the house, and I thought of nothing of the rain," Mr. Papa said.

"Once the water starting coming into my house, it wouldn't stop," he continued. "I salvaged what items I could such as my socks, medicine and clothes and went upstairs where my sister lives. My sister and I waited there until we were rescued from the second-floor window by the New York rescue squad. I lost everything."

Following the flood, school con-

sultant and Junior Girl Scout Leader Nancy Luscombe and Brownie Leader Vickie Algarin discussed how they as a community could help a flood relief victim.

"We were looking to help one person. This way the girls could see their efforts better," Ms. Luscombe stated.

"It was Brownie Leader Vickie Algarin who mentioned the idea to her son's pre-school teacher who then told her about her father-in-law, Mr. Papa," Ms. Luscombe said.

The response was overwhelming, with donations ranging from two color televisions, two TV tables, a bed frame and sofa bed, coffee and kitchen tables, dishes and a microwave, tools, a power drill and men's clothing.

"I'm a tough cookie, being a truck driver all those years, but those girls just broke my heart. I get goose bumps just thinking about what those girls did for me; it was like Christmas for me," Mr. Papa exclaimed.

The troops and their leaders involved with the charitable deed are as follows: Daisy Troop (kindergartners) No. 513 - Kris Fitzpatrick and No. 607 - Anne-Marie Crowley; Brownies (first grade) Troops No. 711 - Ingrid McKinley and No. 510 - Gail Hatch and Nancy Zellner; (second grade) Troop No. 700 - Laura Hughes and No. 722 - Kim Friedman; (third graders) Troop No. 41 - Vickie Algarin, Christine Kline, Mary Flannery and Cathy Cahill, and Junior Girl Scouts, (fourth graders) Troop No. 498 - Nancy Luscombe and No. 536 - Karin Engel and Nancy Tepper.

"It made me happy to help Mr. Papa with the presents. If I could help, I would help anywhere," said Samantha Luscombe, a fourth grader and a member of Junior Girl Scout Troop No. 498.



PRESENTS FOR MR. PAPA...Girl Scouts from Wilson Elementary School in Westfield and some of their family members surround Andy Papa, a 73-year-old retired automobile worker from Bound Brook, one of the hardest hit victims of Tropical Storm Floyd. Donations were collected from the community to aid Mr. Papa and help him restore his home. Joining Mr. Papa, pictured left to right, are: front row, Katherine McKinley, Kristin Zellner, Meghan Sullivan, Claire Algarin, Kaitlin McHone, Sarah Frantz and Rebecca Rose, and back row, Lauren Huff, Samantha Luscombe, John Algarin, Vickie Algarin, Lizzie Albright, Nancy Luscombe and Kim Berke.

Why Go To The Mall?
Pashminas are at...

Sambiance

Delicious Sorbet Colors
Beaded Fringe

380 Springfield Ave • Summit • (908) 273-2320
Thursday Evenings & Sunday Afternoons

Downtown Westfield Corporation

Welcome Home To Westfield Trolley Route
Avoid the Saturday traffic and congestion of downtown while enjoying a nostalgic trolley ride.
Park at the South Side Train Station Lot (No Meter or Permit Required)

Trolley Pickup/Drop-off Stops - Look for The Signs

A. South Avenue Train Station	D. Corner E. Broad & Central
B. Lord & Taylor	E. Corner Central & Quimby
C. Corner E. Broad & Elm	

Every Saturday Until Christmas - 10:30am to 4:30pm
Rides Are No Charge • Info 908-789-9444

Everybody has to Pay Taxes.
We can help you invest to pay less.

Tax-free and Tax-deferred investing. Why pay more taxes than you have to? Choosing the right investments can help reduce the amount you pay in taxes. Whatever your financial goals might be, a Senior Financial Consultant* located at Fleet will work with you, one on one, to ensure your goals are always kept in mind. Call to make an appointment with Gregory Longo, Fleet Enterprises, Inc. at (800) 23-FLEET extension 74818 or (908) 654-2449

Fleet
Ready When You Are

Investment Guidance
Tax-free Bond Funds
Tax-deferred Investments

Products offered are: *Senior Financial Consultants are registered representatives of Fleet Enterprises, Inc. (member NASD/SIPC). Fleet Bank affiliate. Fleet and Ready When You Are are registered marks of the Fleet Financial Group, Inc. ©1999 Fleet Financial Group, Inc. All rights reserved.

What school do you go to?
Delbarton

And how do you say that?
Together.

Come be part of a community that celebrates every student's efforts.
Admission tests will be administered on January 15, 2000.

DELBARTON
Delbarton School, 230 Mendham Road, Morristown, NJ 07960-4899
(973) 538-3231, ext. 3019