

## Westfield Police Participate In Counterterrorism Training

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Police Department (WPD) took part in counterterrorism and crowd-control events surrounding last Sunday's Super Bowl at MetLife Stadium.

Police Chief David Wayman said the WPD was asked to take part in a number of events at the invitation of Hoboken over the past year. He said the city has a lot of "soft" targets for likely domestic terrorism.

"We took part in this because not only does it give us the opportunity to utilize the equipment that we just

purchased...[but to ensure] that all the equipment remains operational, because if you don't use it for a couple of months and then you go to use it, this is broken, that's broken, so it constantly has to be maintained," Chief Wayman said.

The department brought its new Mobile Command Center, the generator truck known as the Power Hawk and the Polaris military diesel all-terrain vehicle, which has a medical stretcher, to Hoboken. The chief said the counterterrorism events provided "a unique and excellent training opportunity for the members of our police department." Had an incident occurred in

Westfield, the chief said the officers and equipment could have been back in town within 25 minutes with equipment all set up.

The Hoboken events included gatherings ranging from 50,000 to 100,000 people coming to a one-square-mile area.

He emphasized that Westfield received the training to bolster public safety in the town at no extra expense to the town or its residents due to the changing of police officers' schedules. In addition, Hoboken supplied the items necessary for Westfield to run its resources, such as fuel. There also is no overtime for the officers taking part in the Hoboken counterterrorism events. He said some officers participated in the events on their own time.

"The opportunity to work with Hoboken allows our administrators to take part in the creation of their operational, tactical and logistical planning for these events where we gain experience on the actual creation of these plans and the use of our officers," Chief Wayman said. "Our department has to be trained in emergency preparedness."

"The ability to work with Hoboken at the Super Bowl was just another unique opportunity and probably the opportunity of a lifetime — because I don't think we will ever have another Super Bowl here — to take part in the formation of all the tactical and operational plans, but not only with the City of Hoboken, but to also work with all the other municipal, county, state and federal agencies that took part in the overall security plan and develop a relationship with all these other agencies," he said.

Among the agencies participating was the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, New Jersey Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and NJ Transit.

Chief Wayman said man-made disasters are "increasing at really epidemic proportions, noting that there have been eight school and/or college shootings nationwide in the last two weeks. "You don't want it to happen here, but we have to be prepared for all possible emergencies in our town," he said.

The chief said the WPD counts

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

## Scotch Plains Council to Begin 2014 Budget Talks

By FRED T. ROSSI  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

SCOTCH PLAINS — The township council is expected to hold meetings later this month to begin considering the 2014 municipal budget. Township Manager Jerry Giannis delivered to the governing body what he emphasized was an "early draft" of his spending proposals for this year. At the council's conference meeting on Tuesday, he said that if the council approved the budget as submitted — "which I don't expect it be," he said — the tax rate for the municipal portion of property taxes would rise two cents.

Mr. Giannis' budget proposal, his first since taking over as manager last summer, includes a \$40,975 reduction in overall expenditures, he said, while total salaries will increase by \$491,000, with the vast bulk of that due to negotiated contractual obligations. He said the proposed library budget — the subject of most wrangling a year ago — will be the same as 2013 as will most other departments. He will seek to use about \$2.7 million in surplus funds to alleviate a higher property-tax rate.

In other business, the council deferred discussion on a proposed ordinance governing the particulars of homeowners having an open fire — such as a chimney or fireplace-type device — in their yard. The fire department has been pushing for some oversight, and Fire Chief Jonathan Ellis and



HELPING HAND...The Westfield Police Department's Emergency Service Unit (ESU) was stationed in Hoboken on Pier A on Sunday to assist with emergency situations related to the Super Bowl XLVIII. Photo courtesy of Westfield Police Department

## Westfield Town Council Discusses DPW Method of Snow Removal

By DOMINIC A. LAGANO  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — At its regular meeting Tuesday evening, the Westfield Town Council discussed the municipal systems in place to deal with snow removal and its related complications after the recent spate of winter storms. The council also wished to publicize the ways Westfield residents can assist the Department of Public Works.

Councilman Frank Arena, Public Works Committee chairman, recently completed a "ride along" with members of the Department of Public Works to witness firsthand the procedures Public Works employees perform to clear the roadways.

"I did want to share some things so everyone clearly understands what's going on in general and how the department works," stated Mr. Arena. "When there's a snow event coming, the department has to plan for it. [The main question] is, is it going to be a long duration or is it a shorter duration of snowfall?" Mr. Arena stated the workers do several runs around the town in

the event of a lengthier storm.

Mr. Arena also detailed the long hours the Public Works employees dedicate to completing the work. "Yesterday we had guys that started at seven in the morning and I left them at nine o'clock [in the evening], and they were still going. These guys put in long, long days and they're out there until the job is done.

"Each storm brings its own consequences, its own plans, and what I've learned, and anyone else who has been on a truck will know, there's an art to the way they go about doing it."

Mr. Arena then described the order of importance of the roads that are plowed. "In general, what do we do, what is the first thing we attack? The

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

## Mayor Glover Discusses SP FW PD Merger, Downtown

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

SCOTCH PLAINS — Scotch Plains Mayor Kevin Glover discussed a number of issues that the township faces in 2014 during a phone interview with *The Westfield Leader* on Friday.

The mayor said talks between Scotch Plains and Fanwood on merging the two towns' police departments have stalled recently as some on a committee working on the merger are opposed to a Joint Meeting, a state-sanctioned entity that would operate the joint department. As previously reported by *The Leader*, the Joint Meeting would be governed by a management committee made up of three members: one appointed by each governing body with the third appointed by

the two appointees. All three would serve one-year terms and either be reappointed or replaced annually.

An executive director would oversee the day-to-day operations of the department, which would eventually have 56 total officers versus the current combined 61.

"It clearly has stalled," Mayor Glover said. The mayor said he wants to meet with the committee, noting that some have concerns on the Joint Meeting setup as it might cause public-safety issues. Mayor Glover said he does not share those concerns.

He said the Joint Meeting format would produce the most savings for the two towns, noting that the savings for the township from the merger is estimated at \$700,000.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



GETTING THAT MAGIC NUMBER...Blue Devil junior Lillian Scott, with basketball, is surrounded by her teammates after scoring her 1,000th point with 2:08 left in the second quarter in the game against Rahway in Westfield on February 4. The Blue Devil Lady cagers defeated Rahway, 60-20. See story next week. David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader

## MS Council Discusses Road Repairs On Wyoming Drive

By KATE BROWNE  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

MOUNTAINSIDE — Representatives of Selario Construction LLC., which is constructing a single-family home at the southwest corner of Wyoming Drive and Cherry Hill Road, appeared at the February 4 work sessions of the Mountain-side Borough Council meeting to discuss options for remediating the damage caused by Elizabethtown Gas Company's violation of the borough's Road Opening Ordinance at the residence, which is located at 1151 Wyoming Drive. The ordinance prohibits road openings for five years after repaving a road.

Michael Disko, the borough engineer, provided a detailed report on his investigation of the incident and his recommendations to resolve the issue. According to Mr. Disko, the road opening permit application mistakenly indicated that the excavation would be on Raccoon Hollow, which intersects the area. The gas company determines the opening lo-

cations based on its records of main locations. The inaccurate listing of Raccoon Hollow on the road opening permit application and the location map was the result of an error by Elizabethtown Gas staff and not Selario LLC.

The council agreed with the borough engineer's recommendation that Selario, LLC. mill and repave Cherry Hill Road from the recent paving limit of Wyoming Drive to past the gas opening. This will represent a curb-to-curb restoration. To insure that the work is done properly, the company will be required to provide a \$15,000 escrow to the borough for the resurfacing work, which will be performed by the borough.

In other business, the council approved a \$300 donation to the Governor Livingston High School Project Graduation and agreed to issue proclamations to honor Edward Verlangieri's 100th Birthday Celebration and Youth Art Month. The council's next meeting will be Tuesday, February 18.



BRAVING THE ELEMENTS...Westfield Troop No. 77 from St. Paul's Episcopal Church made a great showing at the annual Boy Scout Klondike Derby held January 25 in the Watchung Reservation, placing second and third in the scout class. Greg Ryan for The Westfield Leader



HEAVY COVERAGE...Heavy snow blankets a tree across from the Westfield Fire Department on Monday after the area takes another hit from Mother Nature. Photo courtesy of Michael Devaney

### PAGE INDEX

Regional .....	2-3	Education .....	14-15
Editorial .....	4-5	Sports .....	9-13
Police .....	6	Real Estate .....	9-13
Community ...	6-7	Classifieds .....	13
Obituary .....	16	A&E .....	15-16



CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

EXTRAORDINARY PROFESSIONALS

Whether Your Real Estate Needs Are Local, National, or International

**Your Move Is Our Move** and We're Ready To Assist You Every Step Of The Way.

Westfield - West | 600 North Avenue West, Westfield | 908-233-0065 | www.coldwellbankermoves.com/westfieldwest

© 2013 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Owned and Operated by NRT LLC