

■ Police arrested and charged Carmine Rispoli, 20, Christopher Milian, 20, and Sean McQuillan, 19, all of Belleville with possession of nine small bags of marijuana after police responded to a complaint of a suspicious group on Ralph Street on Dec. 19. The three attempted to flee in a vehicle at 12:29 a.m., and police found a 12 pack of beer and the bags of marijuana in the car. Bail for each was set at \$1,030.

■ Police arrested and charged Javier Soto, 33, of Nutley with attempting to shoplift two DVDs valued at \$24.36 from the Pathmark on Washington Avenue on Dec. 19. He had a \$1,000 outstanding warrant from Belleville, a \$555 warrant from Woodridge and a \$530 warrant from Clifton. Bail was set at \$200.

■ Police arrested and charged Edwin Aponte, 36, of Newark with attempting to shoplift 11 boxes of Tylenol by putting them down his pants at the Pathmark

on Washington Avenue on Dec. 14. Bail was set at \$250.

■ Police arrested and charged Anthony Walker, 36, of Newark with attempting to shoplift \$206.06 worth of merchandise from the Pathmark on Belmont Avenue Dec. 16. He had an outstanding warrant from Orange for \$126. Bail was set at \$200.

■ A burglary and theft was reported to the Blimpies restaurant on Main Street on Dec. 16. Employees found cabinets open and the cash register open. Entry was gained by breaking a piece of wood that was holding the back door closed. A total of \$250 was missing from the register. Police are investigating.

■ A burglary and theft was reported to a 1995 Acura station wagon at the intersection of Floyd Street and Division Avenue on Dec. 16. A white male was seen breaking into the car and then fleeing in a blue Ford. The car's radio and an assortment of tools

were reported stolen by the car's owner.

■ Police arrested and charged David Donlin, 28, of Clifton with theft on Dec. 17. Donlin was the store manager at the CVS on Washington Avenue. He was supposed to make bank deposits of \$5,300 on Dec. 8 and \$4,600 on Dec. 14, and neither deposit was made. A total of \$9,900 was found on him and he was terminated as manager of the CVS. He was then charged with theft. Bail was set at \$1,000.

■ Police arrested and charged Anthony Wysocki, 34, of Bloomfield with possession of drug paraphernalia after police conducted a motor vehicle stop on his car on Dec. 17. Police pulled over his 1991 Chevrolet pick-up truck for having an expired registration. A search of the car found a glass pipe used to smoke crack cocaine. He was additionally given summonses for not having a valid registration and being uninsured.

Residents question new captain's postition

BY ANNA SPIEWAK
of Belleville Times

A recent promotion in the Belleville Police Department has raised questions about just how much taxpayers should shell out in order to feel safer.

The Township Council approved an ordinance to promote a lieutenant to captain so he can oversee local Homeland Security. But some residents are complaining that the increased salary might have an impact on taxes.

The position was added on the recommendation of Police Chief Joseph Rotonda, said Mayor Gerald Digori.

"The way the world is today, is there ever enough security?" asked Digori. "It's tough to balance what security needs and the taxpayers' pockets, but money spent for police, fire and safety is always good money spent."

But not everyone agrees with the stance.

"We're gotten a little overboard with this Homeland Security, it's now become another issue to raise taxes," said resident and tax advocate Vincent Frantantoni. "It plays on people's fears."

Rotonda hasn't made a decision yet on whom he will promote from a lieutenant to the new captain position, but he'll get there soon.

Whoever it will be, "he'll be juggling quite a few positions from the one," he said.

According to Rotonda, before 9/11 most municipal police departments didn't pay too much attention to Homeland Security, which was handled mostly by the federal government. But since the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, local police have daily briefings,

numerous meetings and training, all of which require a full- or part-time coordinator. The new captain will manage all these areas and more.

Other duties of the new captain will include supervising the headquarters' communications center, due to be renovated next year, and also the traffic bureau and community policing.

Once a lieutenant is promoted to captain, his or her salary rises about \$13,000, to \$103,000 a year.

Aside from the new position, there are currently six captains already in the police department: four in the patrol division, one in the detectives bureau and one in internal affairs.

A captain is usually next in line, behind the deputy chief, for the chief position, said Rotonda.

Belleville also has two deputy chiefs, nine lieutenants, 12 sergeants and close to 90 patrolmen, something that Frantantoni calls too much of a chain of command.

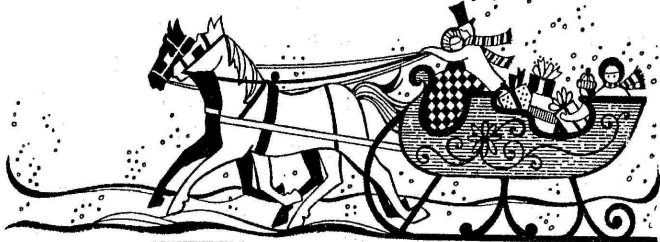
"We enforce these big salaries and these people are talking about cutting the budget to stabilize taxes," he said. "I'm against the position, because we can't afford it, I'd rather see more patrolmen on the streets than all this hierarchy."

Frantantoni noted that there's a reason why New Jersey didn't get one of the highest homeland security grants, because it's not seen as one of the prime targets. The Garden State got the ninth highest homeland security grant, roughly \$42 million, from the federal government. The funds were distributed on a population-share basis, according to the Department of

SEE SECURITY, PAGE 18

*Our thanks to everyone in the
community for your continued patronage.
It is our pleasure to be of service to you.*

Tom Sposato & Staff



For Your Convenience
Open Christmas Day 8am-6pm
Christmas Eve 7am - Noon For Repairs
- OPEN 'TIL 10PM FOR GAS -

J & N SERVICENTER

Complete Automotive Repairs

~ Foreign & Domestic ~

• Commercial Snow Plowing
Shocks • Struts • N.J. State Inspection Computer Diagnostics
Brake Service • Exhaust • Tune Ups

29 Franklin Ave. • Nutley
973-235-9832 • Fax 973-235-1820
OPEN DAILY - 6:30am - 10pm



**All the Health Benefits of a
Two Hour Workout
in a 30 Minute
Concentrated Program.**

Cuts™
fitness for men

"The 30 Minute Circuit Training Workout"
"The Fastest Growing Men's Fitness Franchise"
234 Franklin Avenue, Nutley
Call: 973-667-6617
www.cutsfitnessformen.com

Now Open
To The Public
**Diamond Spring
Café & Banquet Hall**
"A Unique Facility"

Open 7 Days • Year Round
Cafe & Full Bar Open
For Lunch & Dinner 11am-9:30pm
Serving:
Pasta • Steaks • Seafood • Pizza
Have Your Party in our Banquet Hall
Seats 80 • Full Bar • Custom or Pre-Packaged Plans
35 Evergreen Avenue • Nutley, NJ 07110
973-661-3020
Ample Free Parking
www.DiamondSpring.net



B Main Street BARBER SHOP

\$6.00
HAIRCUT
NEW CLIENTS ONLY
One Coupon Good For
The Whole Family
With This Coupon Expires 1/06/04

"All The Latest Styles"

Flat Top • Skin Fades • Brooks
Shape Ups • Regular Cuts
Senior Discounts • Corporate Cuts
~ Walk-ins Welcome ~

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| 483 Franklin Ave. Nutley <small>(Behind Starbucks)</small> 973-667-5800 | 266 Washington Ave. Belleville <small>(Across from Middle School)</small> 973-751-9090 | 405 W. Passaic Ave. Bloomfield <small>(At Five Points)</small> 973-338-4017 |
|---|--|---|

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| ADVERTISING FAX | 973-233-5014 973-233-5030 | CLASSIFIEDS FAX | 1-800-891-0173 973-569-7440 |
| CIRCULATION FAX | 973-233-5005 973-233-5031 | EDITORIAL FAX | 973-667-3895 973-667-3904 |
| bellevilletimes@northjersey.com | | | |

BELLEVILLE ★ TIMES

90 Centre St.
Nutley, NJ 07110-1093
©2004 North Jersey Media Group Inc.

USPS 049-220
Belleville Times publishes every Thursday. Offices are located at 90 Centre St., Nutley, NJ 07110-1093. Periodical Postage paid at Newark, NJ.
Postmaster: send address changes to: Belleville Times, 90 Centre St., Nutley, NJ 07110-1093.

We are not responsible for typographical errors.
Newsstand: 50 cents per copy.
Home Delivery Annual Billing Cycle:
\$21.95 in county
\$31 out of county

Photo Reprint Service and PDF Full-Page Sales
We will reprint most staff and freelance photos and PDFs of pages that appeared in this newspaper since 1/1/02. Photos and PDFs are sold for personal use only. All commercial and/or other uses are strictly prohibited and may subject one to civil penalties. Photo prices: \$15 for 5x7, \$25 for 8x10. PDF files: \$30. Prices include sales tax. Call 973-569-7017 or e-mail reprints@northjersey.com