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Daley indicted on embezzlement charges

By Linda Kush

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The former president of Tewksbury Youth Baseball was indicted Tuesday on charges he stole \$423,000 from league coffers, according to law enforcement officials.

A Middlesex Grand Jury charged Wilfred Daley, 58, of Andover, with two counts of larceny over \$250.

Calling it one of the worst cases of embezzlement he had ever seen in Tewksbury, Police Lt. Dennis J. Peterson said, "It's sickening to think you'd take that much money from kids."

Tuesday's indictment concludes an investigation that began last January, when a Billerica sporting goods store threatened to place a lien on town property after the league had failed to pay a \$40,000 invoice for nearly a year.

It was then when Tewksbury Town Manager David Cressman alerted police.

The probe proved to be tough going because the league treasurer, Delaney's wife, did not keep financial records. In contrast, the previous league treasurer had kept meticulous books and made regular financial reports to the Board of Directors.

Without league records, police subpoenaed the league's bank records. As Tewksbury detectives and investigators from the Middlesex District Attorney's Office combed through withdrawals from automated teller machine and debit receipts, they found questionable transactions spanning more than three years.

Tewksbury police discovered that Daley wrote checks to himself on the league account and used debit cards issued to the league for a trip to Las Vegas with his wife and two sons, shopping sprees for hunting equipment and luxury leather goods, and other personal expenses.

Meanwhile, other unpaid invoices emerged.

Daley, a Tewksbury police officer in the 1970s, was a practicing lawyer until June 6, 2006, when the state Board of Bar Overseers and the Office of Bar Counsel suspended him for failure to cooperate with a disciplinary investigation.

Cressman was glad to learn that the embezzlement investigation concluded and had uncovered the extent of the financial loss.

"It's sad that the situation occurred, but at least it looks like it will be resolved," he said.

Police are uncertain where Daley is living now, but his attorney says he will surrender himself to appear in court. An arraignment date has not been set.

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