

# Springboro Booster Embezzler Sentenced

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**July 9, 2013**

**DAVID P. FORNSHELL  
(513) 695-1325**

Thomas Harves, 61, of Springboro was sentenced today for the embezzlement of \$439,455.73 from the Springboro Athletics Booster Association. Judge James Flannery sentenced Harves to ninety days in jail, three years community control, and restitution. Harves previously made restitution payments to the association and paid an additional \$157,883.73 at today's hearing.

Harves was a long-time supporter of the Springboro Athletics Booster Association and had served on its board as president and most recently as treasurer. Between 2004 and 2012, Harves signed, endorsed, and cashed over 300 unauthorized checks from the Springboro Boosters' operating account. Harves used these funds for personal purposes, including deposits into his bank accounts and payment of his home mortgage.

In early 2012, it was brought to the attention of school authorities and the booster association that a large sum of funds had been transferred from the fan store, which also operates under the booster association, but had not been deposited into their accounts.

Initially, the school authorities and booster association determined that approximately \$143,390.43 was missing. Further investigation by the Springboro Police Department and a forensic accountant employed by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (BCI) revealed the total loss was much greater and occurred over at least an 8-year period.

Warren County Prosecutor David Fornshell reminded non-profit organizations of the need to employ a system of checks and balances to make sure that no one person is in charge of cash receipts, bank accounts, and other financial responsibilities. Fornshell, along with the Warren County Police Chiefs Association, recently sponsored a seminar to train volunteer leaders of youth, church, charitable, and other non-profit organizations as to how to avoid similar thefts from occurring in their organizations.

"Unfortunately, the same lack of internal controls that allowed Mr. Harves' thefts to go undiscovered for so many years is present in many other volunteer organizations. Our goal is to raise awareness of steps these organizations can take to prevent, or at a minimum lessen, the likelihood that they will become victims of this type of criminal conduct," Fornshell said.

Fornshell indicated that he expects his office and the police chiefs will hold additional training seminars in the fall.

Fornshell also complimented the Springboro Police Department, BCI, and Assistant Prosecutor John Arnold for a detailed and painstaking investigation.



Warren County Prosecutor  
David P. Fornshell  
(513) 695-1325

<http://www.co.warren.oh.us/prosecutor/>  
<http://www.co.warren.oh.us/clerkofcourts/>