

# Superintendent Charged with Larceny

OTHER SUPERINTENDENTS WORRY THE ARREST WILL TAINT ENTIRE PROFESSION

By Anthony Pioppi

**T**he former superintendent of Charles River Country Club is facing multiple larceny charges for allegedly bilking the Newton, Mass., club out of \$78,050, police said.

According to Middlesex District Attorney spokeswoman Emily LaGrassa, James Reinertson is charged with five counts of larceny in excess of \$250, a felony in Massachusetts. LaGrassa said the five counts do not stem from five incidents, but rather refer to five schemes Reinertson allegedly used to steal from his former employer. Reinertson is currently the head superintendent at Wellesley (Mass.) Country Club. He pleaded not guilty to the charges.

LaGrassa said Reinertson allegedly submitted false and inflated invoices and false rental bills to the club for reimbursement and made fraudulent equipment sales in which Reinertson allegedly had payments for the used items made payable to him. LaGrassa said the larcenies took place between April 2001 and January 2003.

LaGrassa would not comment on whether or not other arrests are expected.

Sgt. Ken D'Angelo, spokesman for the Newton Police Department, said the investigation by his department is complete. "As far as I know, this is it," he said. "The vendors were not involved."

D'Angelo said all the vendors used by Reinertson had done legitimate work for Charles River and that Reinertson acted alone in bilking the club.

Reinertson came to Charles River from nearby Dedham (Mass.) Polo and Country Club early in 2001 and began working at Wellesley Jan. 1. Prior to the Dedham job, Reinertson was head superintendent at the Orchards Golf Club in South Hadley, Mass., site of the 2004 U.S. Women's Open.

Rumors of an investigation of Reinertson had been swirling through the Massachusetts' superintendent community for months. Superintendents who requested anonymity said Reinertson called them to dispute the stories when they first surfaced.

Some superintendents worry that the arrest will taint the entire profession, but the president of the GCSA of New England said he does not think that will happen.

Jim Fitzroy, certified superintendent

at Presidents Golf Course in North Reading, Mass., said feedback from other clubs has been positive, and they realize this situation is the exception, not the rule. A member of the executive committee of the Massachusetts Golf Association, Fitzroy said he's talked to many people from clubs throughout the state. "They look at it as a single incident," he said.

Fitzroy said the incident could help the profession by allowing club members to understand the way superintendents handle their budgets.

"Most guys would welcome the opportunity to show clubs how they manage their finances," Fitzroy said. "You take a look at what superintendents are accountable for as far as running a golf course, and we have a wonderful track record. Most guys do a wonderful job."

Many superintendents praised Charles River for contacting police and not sweeping the incident aside.

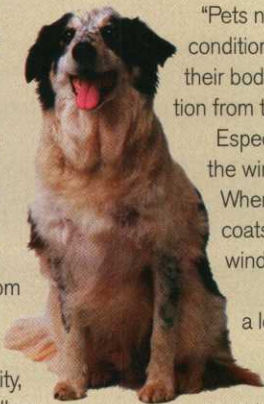
Attempts to reach Reinertson by phone at Wellesley were unsuccessful. Heather Rich, director of communications at Wellesley, said the club is not commenting at this time.

## Protect Your Pooch

IF THE WEATHER IS TOO COLD FOR YOU,  
IT'S PROBABLY TOO COLD FOR YOUR DOG

If your golf course maintenance staff features a trained border collie or another canine breed to chase away geese and other pesky creatures, make sure to protect your investment this winter by protecting your pooch from the cold.

Thomas A. Lenarduzzi, a member of the College of Veterinary Medicine faculty at Mississippi State University, warns that cold-weather temperatures can take their toll on dogs. Regarding his or her dog, a superintendent's rule of thumb for the season should be: If the weather is too cold for you, it's probably too cold for the dog, too.



"Pets need just as much protection from winter weather conditions as humans do," Lenarduzzi says. "To maintain their body temperature and stay healthy, they need protection from the elements."

Especially for dogs and cats, it's essential to keep dry in the winter so body temperatures can remain stable. When wet, both animals lose the insulation that their fur coats provide. If they must stay outside, shelter from wind and rain must be provided.

Small dogs and cats are better kept inside due to a lower body mass. Still, it's suitable to take them outside for brief periods of time, Lenarduzzi says.

Sweaters for dogs are a good idea, but care must be taken when worn outside without supervision, he adds. Should the garment's threads become caught on something, the pet might be unable to return quickly to the warmth of home.