

Crystal Garcia, 46, who was born in Manhattan and is now homeless, was arrested on Dec. 18, at the Guilderland Police Department, for third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, a felony. Guilderland Police arrested Garcia on a sealed indictment from the Albany County Court for two counts of third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, according to the arrest report; Garcia was returned to Oneida County's jail.

Dontia M. Traynham, 30, of 3 Locust Hill, Guilderland, was arrested on Dec. 16, at the intersection of Lehner Road and Western Avenue, for third-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, a misdemeanor. After Traynham was in a property-damage auto accident, Guilderland Police found that he had failed to answer a summons in the town of Waterford on July 25, according to the arrest report.

Christopher J. Morgan, 23, of 333 Highland Drive, Guilderland, was arrested on Dec. 9, at the intersection of Van Wie Terrace and Western Avenue, for third-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, a misdemeanor. Guilderland Police stopped Morgan for driving in the center turn lane and then found that his license had been suspended for failing to answer a summons in Guilderland.

Jean E. Duroseau, 26, of 205 Brandywine Parkway, Guilderland, was arrested on Dec. 7, at his home, for fourth-degree criminal mischief, a misdemeanor. Duroseau broke a security lock belonging to the victim when he kicked the victim's door during a domestic dispute, according to the Guilderland Police report.

Christina L. Franze, 30, of 3889 Western Turnpike, Altamont, was arrested on Dec. 15, at 2080 Western Ave., for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, a misdemeanor, and she was ticketed for driving with obstructed vision, an infraction. Guilderland Police stopped Franze for having an inadequate exhaust and an obstructed view and then found that her license had two active suspensions — one from the town of Coeymans and the other from Guilderland — according to the arrest report.

Tora A. Stringfield, 25, of 121 Lark Drive, apartment B, Albany, was arrested on Dec. 11, at Crossgates Mall, for petit larceny and criminal mischief with intent to damage property, both misdemeanors, and she was ticketed for second-degree harassment, a violation. Stringfield took the sensor tag off of a gray coat, worth \$79.90, at H&M, which caused an inch long tear, according to the Guilderland Police report. While Stringfield was in the custody of store security guards, she punched one of them in the face, the report says, and police later found that she had marijuana.

Stephen D. Perry, 33, of 3734 Martha Boulevard, Beth Page (Nassau County), was arrested on Dec. 12, at 2040 Western Ave., for driving while intoxicated, first offense, and for driving with a blood-alcohol content of .08 or higher, both misdemeanors. After getting a civilian complaint that Perry was sleeping in his car, parked at CVS, Guilderland Police arrived to find him outside the car and noticed signs of drunkenness, the arrest report says. Perry refused a breath test and a chemical test showed that he had a blood-alcohol content of .16, according to the report.

Elizabeth M. Price, 18, of 1307 Third St., Rensselaer, was arrested on Dec. 10, at Crossgates Mall, for petit larceny, a misdemeanor. Price stole a two-piece pajama set, worth \$25, from the Garage clothing store, according to the Guilderland Police report.

Jamie L. Gavigan, 17, of 8 Idlewild Park, A1, Watervliet, and Christina L. Weatherby, 31, of 508 Fifth Ave., Watervliet, were each arrested on Dec. 13, at Crossgates Mall, for petit larceny, a misdemeanor, and Weatherby was also charged with possession of burglary tools, a misdemeanor. The pair stole merchandise worth a total of \$519.97 from J.C. Penney, according to the Guilderland Police reports.

Sherry M. Francis, 34, of 107 Lewis Rd., Altamont, was arrested on Dec. 15, near the intersection of Schoolhouse Road and the Northway ramp, for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, a misdemeanor, and she was ticketed for using an illegal signal, an infraction. Guilderland Police stopped Francis when she made a turn without using a signal and then found that her license had been suspended, according to the arrest report.

Marquisha S. Young, 22, of 150B Lark Drive, Albany, was ticketed on Dec. 13, at Crossgates Mall, for disorderly conduct, a violation. Guilderland Police ticketed Young near Old Navy when she "did recklessly create a risk of public inconvenience and annoyance when she did engage in violent, tumultuous behavior when she was involved in a physical altercation," according to the police report.

Monique D. Murray, 21, of 431 Morris St., apartment 1, Albany, was arrested on Dec. 12, at Crossgates Mall, for petit larceny, a misdemeanor. Murray stole two five-packs of Carter body suits, a sterling silver necklace and earring set, two Carter pajamas, a Carter blanket, a pair of bunny slippers, a Speechless dress, two Ruby Fox dresses, two Arizona shirts, and two Pout sweaters, from J.C. Penney, according to the Guilderland Police report.

Miriam M. Edmunds, 21, of 226 Clinton Ave., apartment 1, Albany, was arrested on Dec. 13, at Crossgates Mall, for resisting arrest, a misdemeanor, and she was ticketed for disorderly conduct, a violation. Edmunds "did continue screaming and yelling" as Guilderland Police moved her away from the scene of a fight near Old Navy, according to the arrest report.

Jasmine L. Mercado, 18, of 180A Lark Drive, Albany, was arrested on Nov. 26, at 1645 Western Ave., for fourth-degree criminal possession of a stolen credit card, a felony. Mercado had the Visions Credit Union credit card that belongs to the victim, according to the Guilderland Police report.

Joseph E. Archambeault, 37, of 260 Manning Boulevard, Albany, was arrested on Dec. 16, at 1671 Western Ave., for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended registration, both misdemeanors, and he was ticketed for driving without brake lights, an infraction. Guilderland Police stopped Archambeault for having a broken brake light and found that his insurance was not in effect and his license had been suspended, according to the arrest report.

Spargo charged with two felonies

By Zach Simeone

BERNE — The decade-long legal battle of Thomas Spargo, a Berne resident and former State Supreme Court justice of New York, is ongoing.

On Dec. 10, Spargo was charged with one count of attempted extortion and one count of attempted bribery.

According to the indictment from the United States District Court for the Northern District of New York, a grand jury charged that Spargo, while a Supreme Court justice, solicited and pressured an Ulster County attorney practicing before him to consent to give \$10,000 to benefit him "all under color of official right and induced by fear of economic harm," the indictment says.

Further, on the count of attempted bribery, it says Spargo "corruptly solicited and demanded, for his own benefit...\$10,000... for the use of his official actions and influence to the benefit of an Ulster County attorney practicing before him, and for refraining from the use of his official actions and influence to harm that Ulster County attorney."

"All under color of official right and induced by fear of economic harm."

At Spargo's Dec. 16 arraignment, a deadline for discovery was set for Jan. 13, 2009.

Neither Spargo nor his lawyer, E. Stewart Joffe, could be reached for comment.

The roots of these issues reach back to 1999, when Spargo was running for town justice as a Republican in Berne. The New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct charged that, during this time, he handed out \$5 gift certificates to voters and, after identifying himself as a candidate for town justice, brought a round of drinks at a bar.

In addition, the commission charged, he handed out coupons for doughnuts, coffee, and gasoline; gave out half-gallons of apple cider and doughnuts at the town dump; and purchased and delivered pizza for Berne-Knox-Westerlo teachers, town highway department workers, and workers at the school bus garage.

While judges are allowed to hand out promotional material, the commission said, they cannot distribute things of value to voters. Spargo, a Republican, won the election, in a town where Democrats outnumbered Republicans 3 to 1.

While serving as town justice, the commission charged, Spargo saw criminal cases prosecuted by the Albany County District Attorney's Office, without disclosing to the defense that he had rendered legal services to Paul Clyne's campaign for district

attorney, or that the Clyne campaign committee owed Spargo \$10,000 for legal services.

In both instances, the commission said, Spargo "failed to avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety and failed to act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary."

Then, in May of 2001, the commission said that Spargo, calling himself a candidate for the Supreme Court, talked at a fund-raiser in Rochester about his work in the Florida recount on behalf of the George W. Bush presidential campaign. The commission said that this "exceeded the boundaries of permissible conduct."

The commission filed complaints against Spargo in 2002 for these charges. Spargo argued that his First Amendment rights were being violated, and eventually lost the case.

To pay for the legal costs as-

sociated with these charges, the commission said, Spargo approved the creation of the Thomas J. Spargo Legal Expense Trust. In 2003, the commission charged, Spargo asked, through friends, for contributions to this trust from lawyers with cases before him.

Bruce Blatchly, an attorney from New Paltz, told *The Enterprise* in 2004 that Spargo invited him to "meet some people" at a luncheon at La Canard in Kingston. Blatchly suspected that he would be asked for money at this lunch, as he had never dined with Spargo before, he said.

As he was leaving the luncheon, Blatchly said, he was approached by Sanford Rosenblum, an old friend of Spargo, who asked him for \$10,000.

Eight days later, Blatchly told the commission, Spargo called him to discuss the judicial assignments for the coming year. That call, the commission said, "was intended to induce Mr. Blatchly to contribute to respondent's legal expense fund."

Richard Emery, a New York City lawyer and member of the commission, called Spargo's case "a paradigm for what is wrong with our adversarial elective system for selecting judges" in his written opinion. "In effect, the misconduct rules regulating judicial campaigns are a patchwork of compromises and *ad hoc* judgments which fail to address the central causes of the unseemliness of judicial campaigns: party control and the candidate's need to raise money."

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Wills and Bequests

Ahmad R. Benford, 18, of 13 New Hope Terrace, Guilderland, was arrested on Dec. 7, at Crossgates Mall, for second-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, a misdemeanor, and he was ticketed for operation of a motor vehicle by an unlicensed driver, an infraction. After being in a personal-injury auto accident on the Crossgates ring road, Guilderland Police found that his license had been suspended.

Rachel M. Buckley, 17, of 117 Ridge Drive, Oneonta (Otsego County), was arrested on Dec. 12, at Crossgates Mall, for fifth-degree criminal possession of stolen property, a misdemeanor. After getting a signed complaint from an employee of the Garage clothing store, Guilderland Police arrested Buckley, who had a black and white scarf, worth \$14, from the store, according to the arrest report.