

The Henderson County Sheriffs' Office Criminal Investigations Unit is nearing the end of an investigation into alleged embezzlement from the Henderson County Heritage Museum. Warrants were issued today for the arrest of Robert D. Sumner, 42 years of age, of 215 Bradshaw Ave, Hendersonville. The warrants state that Bradshaw embezzled and misapplied to his own use, \$31,499.34 in US Currency belonging to the Henderson County Historic Courthouse Corporation, doing business as Henderson County Heritage Museum.

The investigation began in early June of 2009 when members of the board of the museum, including its director, approached the Sheriffs' Office with information and concerns that funds were being stolen and diverted from their intended purpose. Their cooperation and subsequent investigation revealed that Mr. Sumner known as Bobby, had used a Museum Business credit card to pay for transmission work on his personal vehicle while writing the charge off as janitorial supplies.

According to Sheriff Rick Davis, "Investigations of this nature are very labor intensive. The investigator must review all kinds of records, files, banking statements and other documentation. This requires court orders, subpoenas, and application to the court for search warrants. Developing probable cause can be painfully slow. Once we were certain of the person responsible, the Detective had to proceed from that persons hire date in the summer of 2008. It has been a lot of work and is not over yet. We anticipate that more charges will be forthcoming. A search warrant that was executed on the residence of Mr. Sumner did yield numerous items that were purchased with funds embezzled from the museum as well."

Often we are trying to capture information before it can be destroyed or covered up by the suspect should they become aware the investigation is taking place. While I am certain we will have a strong case at its completion, there is no doubt that in this instance, investigators were swimming upstream as a result of information released sooner than we would have liked. Capt. McDonald

Mr. Sumner's attorney has advised us that Mr. Sumner is expected to turn himself into the Henderson County Magistrates office sometime today. Photo will be released at that time.

Captain Charles McDonald