

# Department of Justice

United States Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr.  
Western District of New York

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
OCTOBER 26, 2011  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/nyw](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nyw)

CONTACT: BARBARA BURNS  
PHONE: (716) 843-5817  
FAX: (716) 551-3051

## **FORMER POSTAL CARRIER PLEADS GUILTY TO THEFT OF MAIL**

BUFFALO, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Michael Vickery, 34, of Orchard Park, N.Y., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Richard J. Arcara to theft of mail matter by a postal employee. The charge carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison, a fine \$250,000 or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Marie P. Grisanti, who is handling the case, stated that the defendant opened more than 23 pieces of mail and stole cash and lottery tickets contained in the envelopes. The investigation began in 2010 after several tenants at Creek Bend Apartments in Hamburg reported that their outgoing mail had been rifled and cash and NYS Lottery scratch off tickets enclosed in that mail had been stolen. The value of the items stolen by the defendant totaled \$281.00.

The plea is the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the United States Postal Service, Office of the Inspector General, under the direction of Elizabeth Farcht, Special Agent in Charge, Eastern Area Field Office.

Sentencing is scheduled for February 22, 2012, at 1:00 p.m. EST, in Buffalo, N.Y., before Judge Arcara.

###