

## DRUNKS AND THIEVES 2019 Part 5 July 5, 2019



By John Hoffmann

**IMPAIRED KIRKWOOD DRIVER HAS TWO CRASHES AND IS FOLLOWED BY WITNESSES ON BALLAS ROAD UNTIL T&C OFFICERS ARREST HIM:** 28-year-old Kevin Michael Kelly, 28, of the 900 block of Box Elder Drive in Kirkwood was a magnet for attention on Friday May 26, 2017 shortly after noon.

Witness David West reported that he was on EB Ladue Road waiting to turn right onto SB Ballas Road in Creve Coeur, when he saw the silver Honda Accord operated by Kelly go straight on Ballas from a turn lane. He continued that Kelly began weaving across the center line from Ladue to Conway Road and at one point go around concrete lane dividers and drive on the wrong side of the road. .

He said at the stoplight at Ballas and Conway Roads Kelly slowly rolled into the intersection. After Conway Road, Ballas expands to four lanes, 2-SB and 2-NB lanes. West said at first chance he passed Kelly, only to have Kelly speed up and pass him. Shortly after that Kelly struck a concrete curb near Missouri Baptist Hospital.

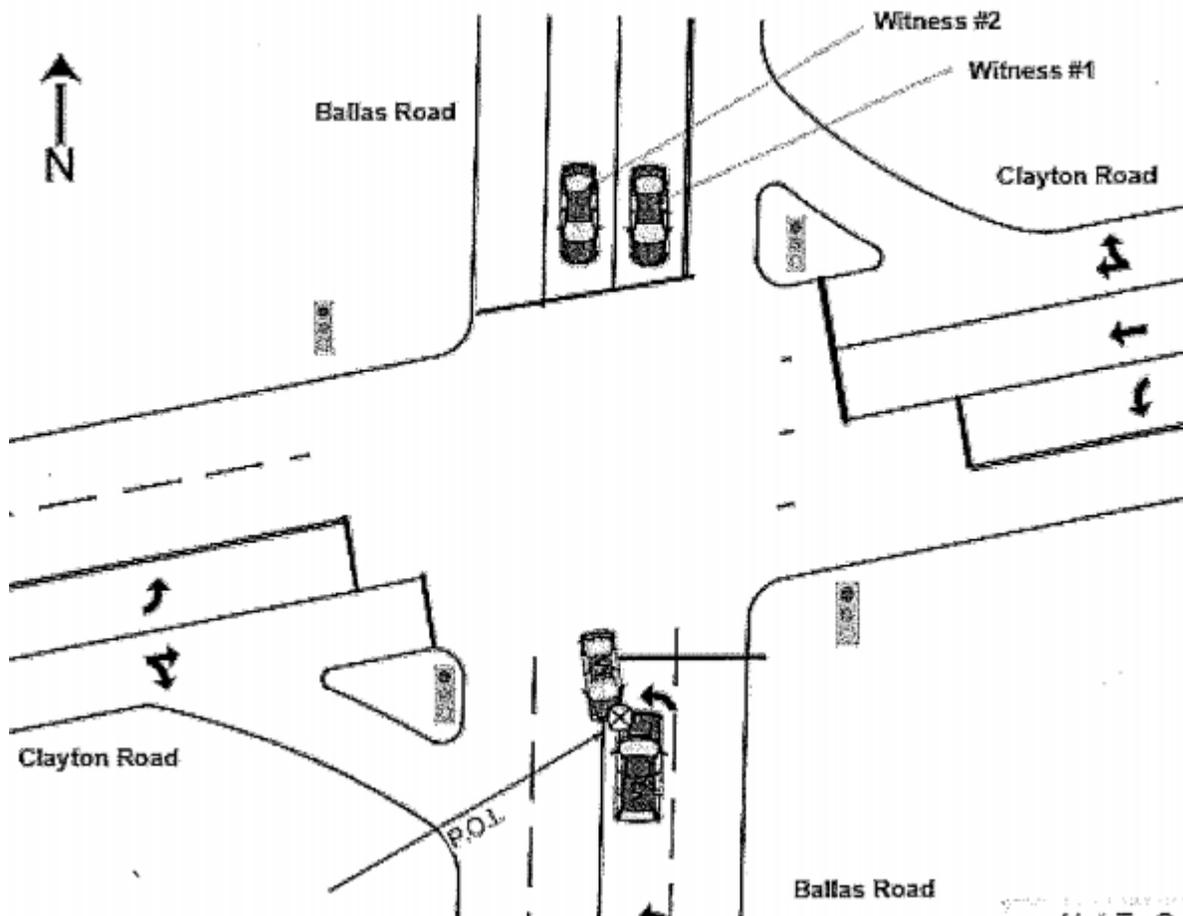


Kevin Kelly

Another witness Daniel Kiley said he was at a driveway from Missouri Baptist Hospital onto Ballas Road when he saw Kelly in his Accord strike concrete medians several times.

West continued that at Ballas Road Kelly was in the SB left turn lane to go east on Clayton Road, but when the light changed he went straight and hit a car that was in the NB left turn lane.

At this time Town and Country Police Officer Jason Sapienza was responding to the radio broadcast of Kelly's reckless driving. He and another officer arrived right after the crash. Witnesses to the crash were pointing toward Kelly in his Accord as he started to flee the scene. He was stopped on Ballas Road about five blocks south of Clayton Road.



This is from Officer Sapienza's police report:

The driver of the vehicle, Kevin Kelly, W/M, 08/25/1988, stopped his vehicle at the intersection of Ballas Road and Carberry Place at which time Kelly exited his vehicle. Kelly appeared to be disoriented and had difficulty standing. Kelly stated he was nervous and was aware he had been involved in a vehicle crash. Kelly said he was looking for a place to pull his vehicle over. It should be noted Kelly stopped his vehicle approximately a quarter of a mile south of the initial crash location and only after two marked patrol vehicles with emergency lights and sirens activated were directly behind him.

Kelly appeared to be badly impaired. He was stumbling having trouble walking and mumbling when he talked. Kelly failed field sobriety tests given and was arrested for DWI, but there was one thin missing. There was no odor of booze on his breath.

At the police state Kelly denied having anything to drink, but refused to take a breath test. Officer Sapienza did not ask Kelly for permission for a blood draw or get a warrant for one to detect drugs.

**OUTCOME:** Kelly was cited for:

- 1) DWI
- 2) Leaving the Scene of an Accident
- 3) Careless and Impudent Driving
- 4) Improper Lane Use

The case was moved from Municipal Court to Associate Circuit Court in Clayton. City prosecutor Ed Sluys dropped the DWI charges. Kelly pled guilty to:

- 1) Careless and Impudent Driving fined \$198 2 points on lic
- 2) Improper Lane Use fined \$198 2 points on lic
- 3) Leaving the Scene of an Accident 1-year probation, plus community service, plus Defense Driving School and Alcohol Awareness. (No Points as it was probation)

**A YEAR LATER CHESTERFIELD MAN CLAIMING TO BE FROM COLORADO PLEADS GUILTY FOR SPEEDING 35 MPH OVER LIMIT:** On Saturday September 30, 2017 Thomas Joseph Sinak, Jr. of 15366 Squires Way in Chesterfield was driving his BMW on Westbound I-64 before Highway 141 when Town and Country Officer McPherson clocked him at 95 MPH in the 60 zone using a Laser Gun.

When stopped Sinak presented an Arizona drivers' license claiming to live in Gold Canyon, AZ. However at the time he was a mortgage broker for USA Mortgage in Creve Coeur and had been for 10 years.

He and his wife Suzette have lived at 15366 Squires Way in Chesterfield since 2013.



INABOUT (Date) AT TIME		HWY CLASS		UPON / AT OR NEAR (LOCATION)	
09/30/2017 1602 HRS		IS		WB IS 64 BE MO 141	
WITHIN CITY / COUNTY AND STATE AFORESAID,					
NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)					
SINAK JR, THOMAS, JOSEPH					
STREET ADDRESS					
6 S MESA VISTA CIR					
CITY			STATE	ZIP CODE	
GOLD CANYON			AZ	85118	
DATE OF BIRTH	RACE	SEX	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	
12/15/1972	W	M	600	170	
DRIVER'S LIC. NO.			CDL:	STATE	
[REDACTED]			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	AZ	
EMPLOYER					

ADDRESS (Street, City, State, Zip)

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DID UNLAWFULLY  OPERATE/DRIVE  PARK  C.M.V.  WITH HAZ MAT

V E H I C L E	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	STYLE	COLOR
	2010	BMW	X5	4D	BLK
	REGISTERED WEIGHT	L I C E	NUMBER	STATE	YEAR
			[REDACTED]	MO	2018

DID THEN AND THERE COMMIT THE FOLLOWING OFFENSE. THE FACTS SUPPORTING THIS BELIEF ARE AS FOLLOWS:

**EXCEEDING SPEED LIMIT 60 MPH ZONE**  
**TV LANE 3 LASER # 1 SER# UX006551 @1585.8 FEET**

Subject taken into custody. (Complete "For Issuance of a Warrant" section on reverse side.)

DRIVING	POSTED SPEED LIMIT	DETECTION METHOD	
95 MPH	60 MPH	<input type="checkbox"/> STATIONARY RADAR	<input type="checkbox"/> WATCH (AIR) <input type="checkbox"/> PACE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LASER
		<input type="checkbox"/> MOVING RADAR	<input type="checkbox"/> WATCH (GROUND) <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

It is interesting that he had Missouri License plates on his BMW but presented the Arizona drivers' license.

His attorney moved the case to the Associate Circuit Court in Clayton where on August 23 Sinak pled guilty and was fined \$223.

**CHESTERFIELD JUSTICE: DRIVER WITH SMALL CHILD IN TRUCK IS ENRAGED AT WOMAN STOPPING AT YIELD SIGN. ALMOST REARENDS HER TWICE AND THEN THROWS A CUP OF COFFEE ON HER CAR:** A woman motorist contacted the Chesterfield Police after the following happened to her:

On Thursday September 13, 2017 at 7:41am she exited EB I-64 at Boone's Crossing and stopped at the yield sign to let traffic pass. The driver of truck who was behind her almost rear-ended her car after she stopped. She continued that she drove on Boone's Crossing the short distance to Chesterfield Airport Road where she stopped for a red light.

She reported that the truck driver nearly rear-ended her again and this time the driver threw the contents of a cup of coffee onto the rear of her car. She said she got out of her car to see what was thrown on her car and the truck driver was enraged and was swearing at her. She added that she notice a child in the truck. The truck driver was wearing a bright orange shirt.

The woman then stated that she decided to call the police and followed the truck to see where it would stop. It stopped at the Wildhorse Elementary School. There the man and the child entered the school and she called the police.

Officer Ovca arrived at the scene, took the victim's statement and then waited for the truck driver to exit the school and return to the truck. After 40 minutes the driver refused to show his face. Officer Ovca called for an assist car. Officer Sosuh arrived to stay at the truck while Officer Ovca went into the school to look for the suspect.

The officers saw the suspect in the orange shirt exit the school, see them and then reentered the school. Officer Ovca went into the school again to be told by an assistant principal the suspect had changed shirts and walked back outside.

There Officer Sosuh had him stopped and was pulling an orange shirt out of the front of his pants.

The suspect was identified as Justin A. Mark, 44, who gave a Chesterfield address that appears to be that of his parents Eugene and Linda Mark as he has an address in O'Fallon, Missouri. That would make sense because he was on I-64 coming from St. Charles County and O'Fallon when the incident occurred, raising the likely-hood that his son used the grandparents address so he could attend school in the Rockwoods School District.

Mark has owned food preparation companies in the past. He currently has three unpaid default judgments against him for over \$3,000.



Police issued Mark a citation for aggressive driving and he was released.

**OUTCOME:** Let's see, Mark nearly intentionally hit the rear of the victim's car, threw a hot liquid on her car and then swore at her. All this happened while he had a small child in the car. He then attempted to hide from police, disguise his appearance and avoid detection.

In the court of Chesterfield Prosecutor Tim Engelmeyer and Judge Rick Brunk found that is really no big deal. On December 18, 2018 Mark pled guilty in Chesterfield Muni court and was placed on a No-Points, No-Fine Suspended Imposition of Sentence for six months. When you read this his probation term will be over.

**CHRONIC DWI DRIVER HAS FELONY CHARGE REDUCED TO MISDEMEANOR, HE IS CONVICTED, BUT DESPITE PRIORS DOES NOT GO TO JAIL FOR EVEN A COUPLE OF WEEKS.** Greg Wolters, 54 of High Ridge, Missouri was so drunk he could not tell a Town and Country Police Officer the name of the casino he had been gambling and drinking at. (Hollywood Casino in Maryland Heights, MO.)

Town and Country Officer Fowle first observed Wolters at 2:08am on Monday night/Tuesday morning April 5, 2016. Wolters was driving his 2015 Nissan Murano south on I-270, driving home to High Ridge in Jefferson Country.

Officer Fowle noticed that the Nissan was weaving badly from lane to lane. Once he got behind the car he found it was speeding too, doing 72 MPH in the 60 MPH zone.

He stopped Wolters just north of Manchester Road and immediately noticed that Wolters appeared to be drunk. This is from his police report:

ODOR OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE:		<input type="checkbox"/> FAINT	<input type="checkbox"/> MODERATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRONG
ODOR OF MARIJUANA OR CHEMICAL:		<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WATERY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BLOODSHOT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GLASSY	<input type="checkbox"/> STARING	<input type="checkbox"/> ARTIFICIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> CONSTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> SLOW REACTION TO LIGHT		<input type="checkbox"/> DILATED	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNCERTAIN	<input type="checkbox"/> SWAYING	<input type="checkbox"/> STAGGERING	<input type="checkbox"/> STUMBLING	<input type="checkbox"/> FALLING
<input type="checkbox"/> SLURRED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONFUSED	<input type="checkbox"/> INCOHERENT	<input type="checkbox"/> STUTTERING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUMBLING

Do you remember the movies with Sean Connery or Roger Moore in a casino wearing a tux. That was not the case with Wolters. He was wearing a tank top, jeans and tennis shoes.

Wolters admitted drinking two or three beers at the casino (where they often offer free or discounted booze to get people to lose more money). He later amended the drink amount to maybe 3 14oz beers. He failed a field breath test and was arrested.

At the police station an official breath test showed his BAC to be .179%.

Officer Fowel cited Wolters for speeding 74/60, Improper Lane use and DWI. He later found that Wolters had at least four prior DWI cases.

Here is part of the record we could find:

11-08-97	DOR Suspends Lic for 2-years for DWI conviction	
04/XX/98	DWI and Refuse to Take a Breath Test	St. Louis County
11-09-01	DOR Suspends Lic for 2 years for DWI conviction	
2-16-06	Excessive BAC Conviction	
12-31-06	DOR Suspends Lic for 2-years for Failure to Take Breath Test	
09/14/07	DOR also suspends lic for points	
01/XX/08	DWI and Refused to Take Breath Test	St. Louis County

**OUTCOME:** On August 8, 2018 Wolters pled guilty to a reduced charge of Misdemeanor DWI before Assoc. Circuit Judge Michael Burton. He was sentenced to six months in jail, but then was placed on a 2-year SES probation term with no-fine, but with points.

16SL-CR04693-02 - ST V GREG A WOLTERS			
Case Header	Parties & Attorneys	Docket Entries	Charges, Judgments & Sentences
Service Information	Filings Due	Scheduled Hearings & Trials	
This information is provided as a service and is not considered an official court re			
<b>Charge/Judgment</b>			
<b>Description:</b> Dwi - Alcohol {Misdemeanor B RSMo: 577.010 }		<b>Code:</b> 577.010-005Y197554.0	
<b>Date:</b> 04/05/2016		<b>Ticket Number:</b> 999999999	
<b>OCN:</b> T9008013			
<b>Disposition:</b> Guilty Plea - 08/09/2018			
<b>Arresting Agency:</b> TOWN & COUNTRY PD			
<b>Sentence:</b> Incarceration Jail (Suspended Execution of Sentence)		<b>Length:</b> 6 Months	
<b>Sentence Date:</b> 08/09/2018			
<b>Facility Name:</b> PROBATION		<b>Assigned Length:</b> 2 Years	
<b>Classification:</b> SUPERVISED			
<b>Start Date:</b> 08/09/2018			

**FEMALE SHOPLIFTER AT CHESTERFIELD TARGET STOOD OUT FROM THE CROWD.** Normally if you are going out in public to commit crimes you want to draw as little attention to yourself as possible. That was not the case on Monday November 6, 2017 at 4:42pm when Sheriannette Gillespie, 35, of Florissant, went to the Target Store in Chesterfield Valley.

Gillespie, a Black/Female had bright blond hair. She was observed by store security leaving the store with a shopping cart full of merchandise without going through a checkout lane. There was a total of \$322 worth of merchandise that was stolen with the largest being a Raised Airbed, valued at \$90.



Sheriannette Gillespie

Security watched her place the stolen items in a Jeep Liberty model and leave the parking lot. A want with a description of Gillespie and the Jeep were broadcast to nearby departments.

Town and Country Officer Fred Yaakub spotted the Jeep and Gillespie NB on I-270. He stopped the Jeep on NB I-270 near Ladue Road. At what time he found the stolen goods in the backseat. A pink loaded 9mm handgun was also found in the car.

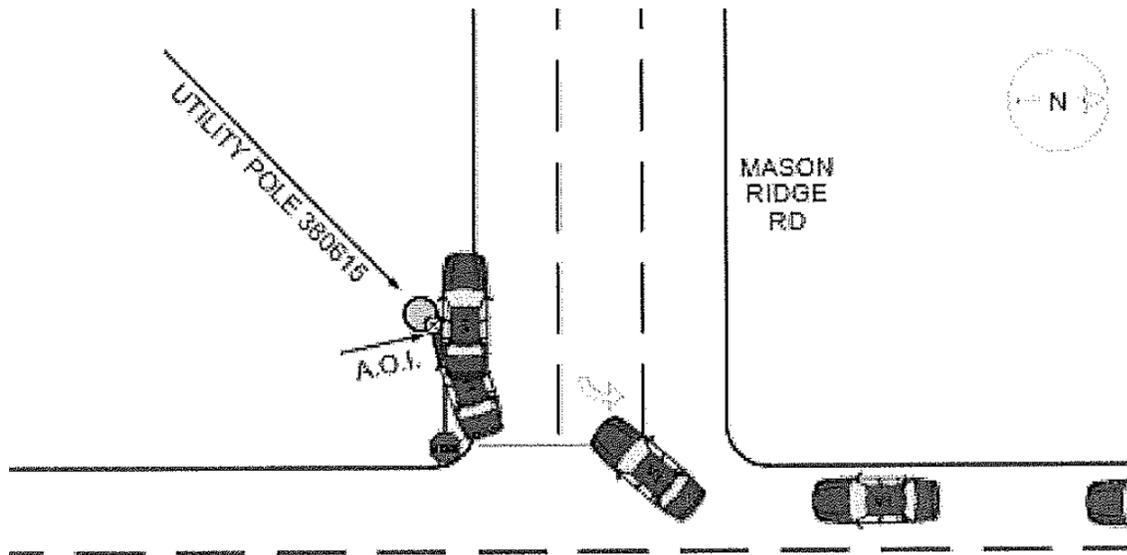


T&C Officer Freddie Yaakub

Chesterfield Officer Browich responded to the scene, seized the stolen property and Gillespie. At the police station Gillespie refused to make any statement. Her passed conviction record shows a bad check conviction in Jefferson City, MO in 2011 following a 2010 arrest.

**OUTCOME:** On October 23, 2018 Gillespie pled guilty before Chesterfield Judge Rick Brunk. In a deal made by Chesterfield prosecutor Tim Engelmeyer Gillespie was not fined or sentenced to one or two days jail. Instead she was placed on a No-Record SIS Probation term and made to attend Theft School.

**PROBLEM DRUNK DRIVER CRASHES NEXT TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.** At about 9:26PM on Friday night September 16, 2016 Peter Switzer, 73, of Ballwin was attempting to make a right turn from SB Mason Road onto Mason Ridge Road. Switzer ran off the road into a ditch on the opposite of the street and across the street from the Mason Ridge Elementary School playground.



When Town and Country Police Officer Lauren Becker arrived on the scene she found Switzer's 1991 Lincoln Town Car with the driver's door against a stop sign. She also reported that Switzer was behind the wheel with the engine running.

Below from Officer Becker's report is the condition she found Switzer to be in:

BREATH	ODOR OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE: <input type="checkbox"/> FAINT <input type="checkbox"/> MODERATE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRONG	
	ODOR OF MARIJUANA OR CHEMICAL: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	
EYES	<input type="checkbox"/> WATERY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BLOODSHOT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GLASSY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STARING <input type="checkbox"/> ARTIFICIAL
PUPILS	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSTRICTED <input type="checkbox"/> SLOW REACTION TO LIGHT	<input type="checkbox"/> DILATED
BALANCE AND WALKING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNCERTAIN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWAYING <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STAGGERING	<input type="checkbox"/> STUMBLING <input type="checkbox"/> FALLING
SPEECH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SLURRED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONFUSED <input type="checkbox"/> INCOHERENT	<input type="checkbox"/> STUTTERING <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUMBLING

Switzer admitted having been drinking and wasn't sure when his last drink was since he did not know what the current time was.

This is from Officer Becker's report.

On the above date and time, I was dispatched to a vehicle crash on Mason Road near Mason Ridge Elementary School. I located the suspect's vehicle in a ditch on the south side of Mason Ridge Road at Mason Road. The suspect's vehicle had slid sideways and was resting with the driver's side door against a telephone pole. Upon my arrival, the suspect was still sitting in the driver's seat of the vehicle with the keys in the ignition and the vehicle running. I made contact with the driver, who provided a valid MO driver's license identifying him as Peter K. Switzer. Switzer stated he was not injured and declined medical treatment. Switzer was extremely slow to respond to repeated requests for his driver's license and insurance card and seemed disoriented. Switzer's speech was extremely slurred, confused, and mumbling. As he handed me his information, I observed a small bleeding skin tear on Switzer's right wrist. Switzer again declined medical treatment.

Switzer failed some Field Sobriety tests, was arrested and taken to the Town and Country Police Station, where an unofficial PBT breath test showed Switzer to be drunk.

At first he agreed to take an official breath test (his license has been suspended before for failing to take a test). However, shortly before taking the test Switzer claimed he was feeling faint and added that he had a heart pacemaker.



Peter Switzer

Switzer was transported to Mercy Hospital by Fire District paramedics. Officer Becker asked if he would submit to a blood draw and he replied, "Get a Warrant."

That is what Officer Becker did.

Under the warrant the first blood draw was at 1:36am or 4 hours after the crash. A second blood draw was done at 2:40AM or 5 hours after the crash.

The first blood draw showed a BAC level of .13%. The second showed a level of .12%. This means at the time of the crash Switzer was more than twice the legal limit of .08%.

Here is part of Switzer's record that we could find:

/21/86	DWI Pled Guilty 02/17/88	St. Louis CO
01/21/95	DWI Pled Guilty 11/27/96	St. Louis CO
04/20/95	DWI Pled Guilty 10/25/95 Placed on probation	Chesterfield PD
03/05/96	DWI Refused Breath	St. Louis CO
09/16/16	DWI Pled Guilty 08/24/18 4 yrs prison, but placed on Probation for 5 years	Town & Country

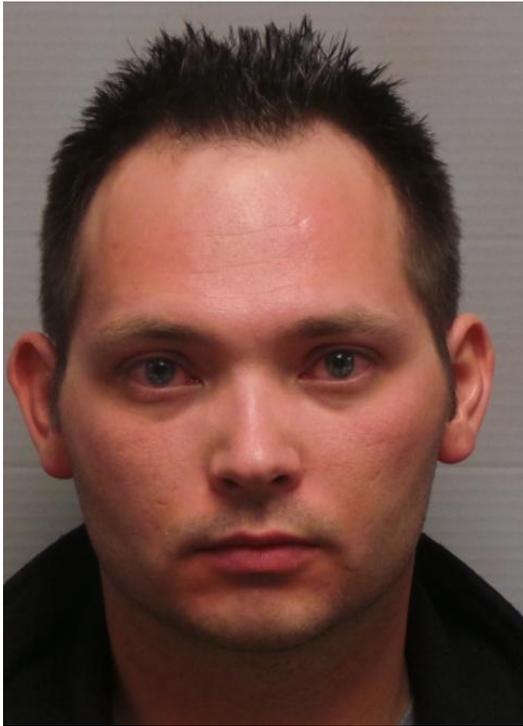
**OUTCOME:** Switzer was charged with a Felony Persistent DWI. On 08/24/18 (almost two years after the crash and arrest) Switzer pled guilty before St. Louis CO Associate Circuit Judge Michael Burton. He was sentenced to 4-years prison, but was immediately placed on a 5-year Suspended Execution of Sentence Probation term to run 5-years.

**SPEEDING DRIVER ON CLARKSON ROAD IS ALSO DRUNK, HE GETS NO-FINE, NO-RECORD PROBATIONI FROM CLARKSON VALLEY JUDGE.** On Wednesday night into Thursday morning at 12:11AM Bradley DeProw, 29, of Dexter, Missouri was stopped for speeding on Clarkson Road at Forest Club in the city of Clarkson Valley. The stop was made Officer Friemel. He immediately believed that DeProw was intoxicated. He called Officer Lantz for assistance.

DeProw was driving a rental Toyota Corolla and staying at a nearby hotel. Officer Lantz who was assisting on the stop found that DeProw's speech was slow and DeProw had a strong smell on intoxicates on his breath. His eyes were bloodshot and his slow speech was slurred. Also his balance was unsure as he swayed when trying to stand still failing more field sobriety tests. DeProw agreed to take an unofficial breath test, that he failed. He was arrested for DWI.

At the Chesterfield police station DeProw agreed to an official Breath Test. The BAC test showed DeProw's BAC level to be .128%.

He was issued citations for speeding the DWI and released.



DeProw

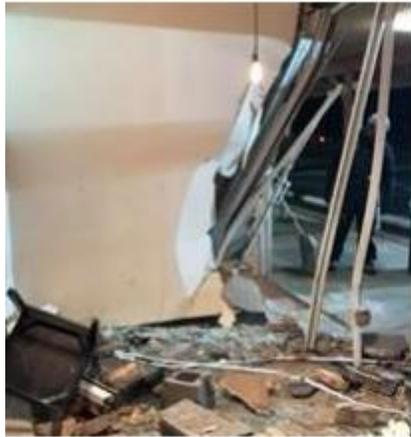


DeProw' eyes

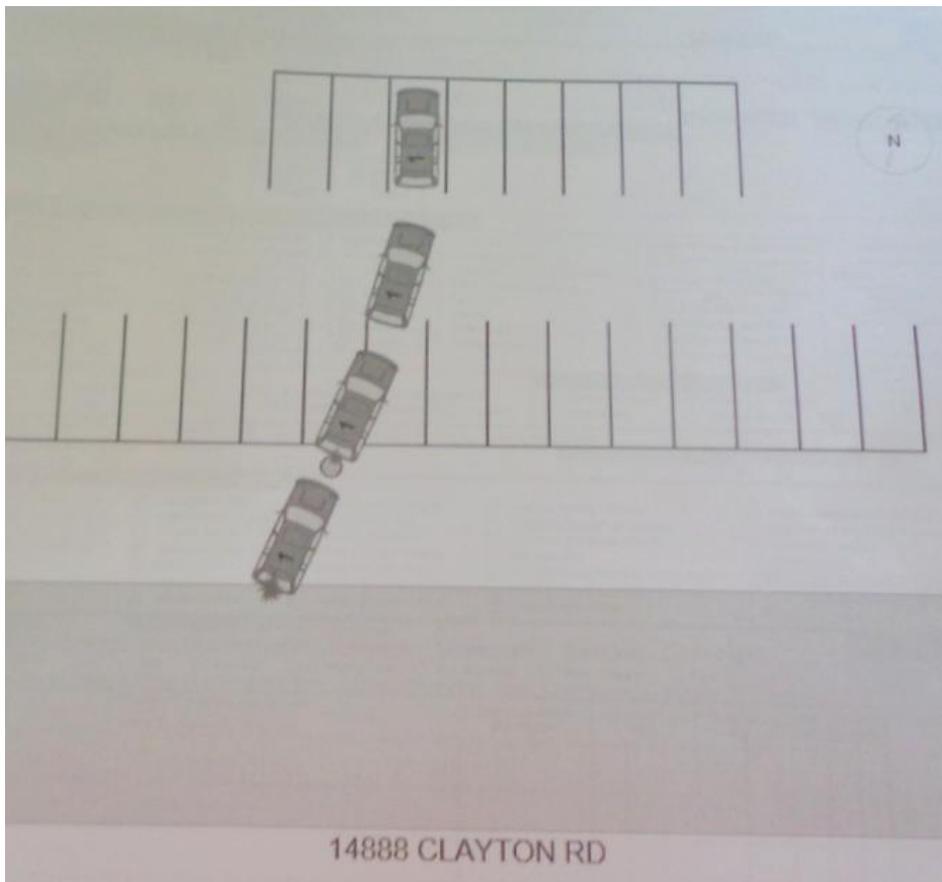
**OUTCOME:** On September 20, 2017 DeProw pled guilty to speeding and DWI in Clarkson Valley Municipal Court. Judge Porter placed him on a No-Fine, No-Record 2-year SIS probation for DWI and fined him \$122 for speeding.

**DRUNK OLIVETTE MAN BACKS INTO RUSSELL'S BAKERY:** At 6pm on February 5, 2018, Jack Suggs of Olivette, parked in the parking lot of the strip center on the southwest corner of Clayton Rd and Baxter Rd to pick up some food at Smitty's Restaurant and Bar. Suggs did not pull into a space against the curb in front of the building line. Instead he parked his Jeep Grand Cherokee in the lot.

After getting his food he returned to his Jeep and promptly backed up at high speed across the parking lot, through an empty curb side space, over the curb and into the closed Russell's Bakery and Café, through plate glass windows.



Jack Suggs



One witness told Chesterfield Police officer Bryan Branson that he smelled alcohol on Suggs breath. Another witness said she saw Suggs in the Jeep back up at high speed into Russell's. Suggs stated he didn't know if his gas pedal got stuck or what.

Suggs failed field sobriety tests and tested over the limit in a field breath test. He was arrested for DWI and Improper Backing and taken to the Chesterfield Police Station.

At the police station he agreed to take an official breath test. That test taken at least an hour after the crash and despite Suggs BAC level dropping, showed his BAC level to be .091%.

He was cited for DWI and Improper Backing.

**OUTCOME: DWI, amended to C & I driving after SATOP completed, paid fine of \$198.50 and costs of \$26.50. Improper Backing, amended to Illegal Parking, paid fine of \$198.5 and costs of \$26.50**

To make a DWI case you almost have to have a witness to put the drunk driver behind the wheel. There were two witnesses in this case. Only one was identified in the police report. City prosecutor, Tim "Let's Make a Deal" Engelmeyer did not get the witness to court and instead reduced a DWI that caused thousands of dollars in damage to Careless Driving. Engelmeyer reduced the Improper Backing to a "Parking Violation." Yes, it is apparently illegal to park your car in the seating area of a restaurant.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY POLICE DO THE RIGHT THING. THEY SPENT THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN SALARIES TO ARREST AND CONVICT A DRUG ADDICT FOR STEALING \$275.** It was interesting that the suspect in this case, Joshua Winters, when stopped by police in connection with crimes would not have any photo ID and would give the name of a Missouri Department of Corrections Officer.

Joshua I. Winters, 28, of Bellville, Illinois is a drug addict who shoplifts to buy drugs.

On Monday September 18, 2017 at 3:50pm Joshua I. Winters was in the Town and Country Schnuck's Supermarket on Clayton Road at Woods Mill Road. A customer observed Winters put a number of 12-packs of Red Bull energy drink in a shopping cart and leave the store without paying. The customer contacted a store manager who checked security video and confirmed a black male had left the store without buying, what was first thought to be \$113.94 worth of Red Bull and later determined to be \$275 worth of Red Bull.

Winters was wearing a distinctive "Althoff" high school sweatshirt. At the time Althoff, a Catholic high school, was located in East St. Louis, Illinois. (it has since moved)

Shortly after hitting the Town and Country Schnuck's store, Winters was at the Twin Oaks Schnuck's store on Big Bend stealing baby formula.



Town and Country Schnucks



Twin Oaks Schnucks

There the car was stopped by County Polices and the baby formula and Red Bull were all recovered. Also found in the car was the hooded Althoff sweatshirt. At the time of the stop Winters had no ID and gave the name of Dontarius Marks.

Both Winters and another person in the car, Christopher Beasley, B/M 33, also of Bellville, IL had taken drugs just before the County Police stopped them and were overdosing. They were both transported to Mercy Hospital, while their loot from the Town and Country and Twin Oaks Schnuck's stores was seized.

Winters using the name Dontarius Marks had Town and Country Police detectives searching for Marks. They found him in Columbia, Missouri and learned that he was an employee of the Missouri Department of Corrections. It turns out that Winters has been claiming to be Marks for some time, using his date of birth and other information.

In fact Marks told detective how he had been arrested in Illinois after being stopped for a traffic violation. There was a warrant for Failure to Appear in his name that was given by Winters. He was briefly arrested. Marks' parents had allowed Winters to move into their house years ago when he was basically a homeless high schooler. Winters has been paying back their act of kindness for sometime giving their son's name when is arrested after committing crimes.



Drug addict & thief Joshua Winters    Department of Corrections employee Dontarius Marks

Town and Country detectives wanted to obtain a felony charge since Winters had three convictions in Illinois. A warrant officer at the St. Louis County Prosecutors Office required the detectives to first obtain court certifications from the Illinois courts of the convictions. They obtained the documents. The case was then refused because two of the convictions were for Stealing and one was burglary. The warrant officer stated they all had to be for Stealing to get a persistent offender Felony charge.

**OUTCOME:** There was a long and an expensive road to the final outcome of this incident. Here is what officers and detectives did:

- 1) Responded to call, viewed video, put out a lookout to other agencies and wrote a report.
- 2) County police recovered stolen property, notified T&C PD. T&C picked up stolen items and returned them to Schnucks.
- 3) Detectives attempted to locate person after false name was given.
- 4) Detective called Jefferson City contacting employer of Dontarius Marks and then interviewed Marks determining he was not the suspect.
- 5) Detective obtained a drivers license photo of actual suspect Winters. Detective went To Belleville, Illinois and had Winters positively identified by a family friend.
- 6) Winters had been arrested on a separate charge by Bridgeton Police and held on the Town and Country warrant.
- 7) Two Town and Country detectives went to Bridgeton PD, took Winters into custody,

drove him back to T&C Police station, processed (took fingerprints & photos) and interrogated him obtaining a recorded statement. Winters was release to St. Louis Police officers as he was wanted for a Burglary in St. Louis.

- 8) Detective went to County Prosecutor's office and was told to obtain certified copies of Illinois convictions.
- 9) Detective obtained conviction records, returned to County PA's office where the case was refused.
- 10) Case was presented to City Prosecutor and an arrest warrant was obtained.

**COURT:** This entire event dragged on for 15 months. The theft was on 09/18/17. Winters was arrested on June 11, 2018. He appeared in Town and Country Municipal Court on January 22, 2019.

He pled guilty before Judge Niehoff and was charged only court costs of \$26.50 and there was no fine. Credit was apparently given for the short time Winters was in jail at Bridgeton and Town and Country police stations.