

## DRUNKS AND THIEVES 2017 Part 4 September 1, 2017



**By John Hoffmann**

**WITH MANY MAN HOURS, PLUS HELP FROM COMPUTERS AND HIGH END CAMERAS TWO ARE ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH STEALING \$100 WORTH OF SWEAT PANTS (Two Pairs)** On Wednesday September 24, 2014 at 2:40 PM Dominique Daugherty, 19, of Hazelwood and Tre'voun Bethany, 20, of St. Louis had gone to the Outlet Mall in Chesterfield to steal sweat pants from the Adidas Store.

They went in a white Chevy driven by Daugherty. When they arrived they were noticed by a Saks Fifth Avenue Loss Prevention Officer carrying bags from stores that were not in the Outlet Mall and entered the Adidas Store. The Saks security officer called the Adidas Store and warned them about the suspicious pair.

Once in the store the pair took several sweat pants to try on and each put one pair in their bags and returned the other two, apparently hoping the staff did not see them with three pairs each. As they left the store without buying anything they were followed and an employee watched them get into the white Chevy and leave before the police arrived. They incorrectly wrote down what they thought was the license plate number.

If this was 1970 or 1980 the \$100 theft would likely not be solved. But times have changed.

There was a store surveillance video and a parking lot video. The parking lot video showed the white Chevy and the correct license plate number was obtained that was connected to Daugherty. A police data base was able to produce a photo of Daugherty that matched the person seen in the store video.

**They Broke an Important Rule for all Thieves:** The pair's next problem didn't deal with hi-tech devices. A female employee of the store knew both of them. They should have checked everyone in the store. If they recognized anyone they needed to abort their theft mission. The employee knew Daugherty's full name and where he lived. She only knew Bethany as a friend of Daugherty's by the name of "Tre."

A phone call to Daugherty got him to come to the Chesterfield Police Station. He made a statement that he had a "bad feeling" that Bethany was going to steal something. However he admitted that he (Daugherty) carried an empty "Express" bag into the store and that Bethany carried in a man's over the shoulder suit bag.

Daugherty denied stealing anything, but admitted that he handed a pair of sweat pants to Bethany who put them in his bag. Daugherty also said they were followed by two men out of the store to the parking lot.

Daugherty was issued and released on a summons (keep in mind this was one month after the Michael Brown shooting and riots in Ferguson. Police around the region were not requiring bonds for offenses as they did in the past. Daugherty would fail to appear in court and a warrant would be issued. He would later be arrested by police in Jennings. A bond was then posted on the stealing charge

Daugherty gave up the Tre'voun Bethany's name.

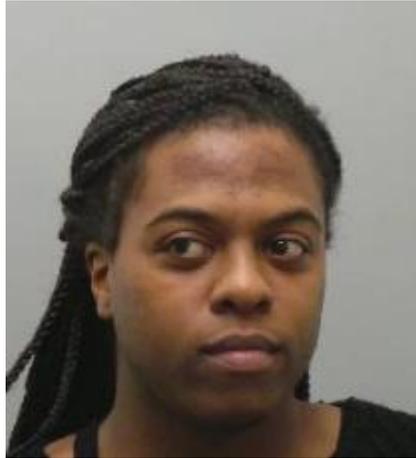
Officers then found a photo in the Missouri driver's license files to Bethany that matched the suspect in the store video.

Bethany was called refused to confirm his name or give his name. He was told to come to the Chesterfield Police Station. He did not do that and an "arrest wanted" was entered into the regional police computer system. He was arrested on 12/28/14 by the Woodson Terrace Police and picked up by the Chesterfield Police. The following is from the police report:

During the interview Bethany initially denied anything happened at the Adidas store. Bethany then changed his statement, saying they, he and Dominique Daugherty (B/M DOB: ████████/1995), had intended to steal but had not gotten anything. After more questioning Bethany then admitted he had selected a pair of sweatpants and taken them into the fitting room. Bethany said, once in the fitting room, he concealed them in a bag he was carrying. Bethany stated he then left the store without paying for merchandise. Bethany stated Daugherty ditched the sweat pants he had concealed. Bethany stated he still possessed the sweatpants and agreed to bring them back to me so he could make restitution.



Tre'voun Bethany



Dominique Daugherty

**OUTCOME:** Bethany hired a St. Louis lawyer who had the case transferred from Chesterfield to the St. Louis County Associate Circuit Court. On 10/06/16, two years and a couple weeks after the theft Bethany pled guilty. He was placed on a No-fine and No-Permanent record probation. He was ordered not to enter the Premium Outlet Mall during his 2-year probation. The odd thing about the sentence was that he was also ordered to attend a class for "traffic violators."

Daugherty pled guilty on May 10, 2016 and was given a 2-year No-Fine SIS probation and ordered to attend Theft Offender School. He failed to show for the school. He was placed on the probation revocation docket in December of 2016.

Daugherty was arrested on 01/15/16 for Resisting or Interfering With an Arrest by the St. Louis Police Department, On December 05, 2016 he failed to appear in court on the case, after completing a pre-plea "anger management" course. An arrest warrant was issued for his arrest with a modest \$250 bond,

For \$100 theft, the Chesterfield Police spent close to or more than \$1000 in manpower, investigating this case, picking up the suspects at different police stations, not to mention the Municipal Court staff having to issue on warrant and prepare a case to be transferred to the Associate Circuit Court. (This originally appeared in the Ex-Alderman Newsletter #262 on February 6, 2017)

**STOPPING AT THE GREEN LIGHTS WILL GET A POLICE OFFICER'S ATTENTION:** Reiko Anderson, 49, of Clayton who on December 3, 2015 at 4:13 AM got the attention

of Town and Country Police Officer Sapienza when she stopped in the left turn lane on Eastbound Clayton Road with no other traffic present and then drove straight.

Officer Sapienza then watched Anderson weave in and out of her lane in her silver 2008 BMW as she continued east on Clayton Road, At Clayton and Des Peres Road Anderson again stopped for a green light. At this time Officer Sapienza pulled her over on Clayton Road just past I-270.

Officer Sapienza immediately found that Anderson was drunk when he contacted her. He asked her to step out of the car but instead she drove further down the shoulder of Clayton Road before stopping and getting out. Here are Officer Sapienza's observations immediately after contacting Anderson:

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| BREATH                | ODOR OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE: <input type="checkbox"/> FAINT <input type="checkbox"/> MODERATE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRONG <input type="checkbox"/> NONE<br>ODOR OF MARIJUANA OR CHEMICAL: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO   |
| EYES<br>PUPILS        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WATERY <input type="checkbox"/> BLOODSHOT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GLASSY <input type="checkbox"/> STARING <input type="checkbox"/> ARTIFICIAL EYE<br><input type="checkbox"/> CONSTRICTED <input type="checkbox"/> SLOW REACTION TO LIGHT <input type="checkbox"/> DILATED |
| BALANCE AND WALKING   | <input type="checkbox"/> UNCERTAIN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWAYING <input type="checkbox"/> STAGGERING <input type="checkbox"/> STUMBLING <input type="checkbox"/> FALLING <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:   |
| SPEECH                | <input type="checkbox"/> SLURRED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONFUSED <input type="checkbox"/> INCOHERENT <input type="checkbox"/> STUTTERING <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUMBLING <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:   |
| CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR | DESCRIBE: BLACK T SHIRT, BLUE JEANS WINTER COAT SOILED BY: N/A   |
| UNUSUAL ACTIONS       | <input type="checkbox"/> PROFANITY <input type="checkbox"/> HICCUPS <input type="checkbox"/> BELCHING <input type="checkbox"/> VOMITING <input type="checkbox"/> FIGHTING <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: N/A  |
| ATTITUDE              | DESCRIBE: IRRATIONAL, UPSET, CRYING  |



Anderson either failed or could not perform or refused to do field sobriety tests.

She was arrested but then resisted being handcuffed requiring two officers to handcuff her.

At the police station she refused to take a breath test.

She was released to a sober friend on citations charging her with DWI, Improper Lane Use and Resisting Arrest. Since her arrest she has been the Respondent in an order of Protection case and was sued twice by the Village Green Apartments in Chesterfield for back rent.

**OUTCOME:** Anderson hired Clayton attorney Richard Rodemyer. Town and Country Prosecuting Attorney Ed Sluys dismissed the Resisting Arrest charge. On 11/17/16 she pled guilty to the Improper Lane Use and was fined \$225 and got a couple of points on her license.

She also pled guilty to DWI and was placed on a No-Fine, No-Points Probation 2-year probation by Town and Country Judge Dean Waldemer. (This first appeared in the Newsletter 281 on June 12, 2017)

**22-YEAR OLD DOING 96 mph AT 7 O'CLOCK ON AN APRIL NIGHT GETS A NO-FINE, NO-POINTS SENTENCE.** Orlando Burton, 22, was clocked doing 96 MPH at 7:06 PM on Sunday April 17, 2016 by Town and Country Police Officer Becker on I-270 at Clayton Road. If you have been minding your business on the Interstate and suddenly are passed by someone doing close to 100 MPH it can be frightening.



# Uniform Citation

Violator's Copy



ORI NO. MO 0957200 TOWN AND COUNTRY POLICE  
STATE OF MISSOURI  
DIVISION OF 21st CIRCUIT COURT

**140067371**

|  |   |   |                              |
|--|---|---|------------------------------|
| STATE OF MISSOURI  |   | DIVISION  |                              |
| IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF  |   | TOWN AND COUNTRY MUNICIPAL COUNTY 1   |                              |
| COURT ADDRESS (Street, City, Zip)  |   |   |                              |
| 1011 MUNICIPAL CENTER DRIVE DR, TOWN AND COUNTRY, MO, 63131  |   |   |                              |
| COURT DATE   | COURT TIME <input type="checkbox"/> AM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PM | COURT PHONE NO.   |                              |
| 05/19/2016   | 7:00  | (314) 432-1420  |                              |
| I, KNOWING THAT FALSE STATEMENTS ON THIS FORM ARE PUNISHABLE BY LAW, STATE THAT I HAVE PROBABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE THAT: |   |   |                              |
| ON ABOUT (Date)  | AT TIME   | HWY CLASS   | UPON / AT OR NEAR (LOCATION) |
| 04/17/2016   | 1906 HRS  |   | EB IS 270 BE RT HH           |
| WITHIN CITY / COUNTY AND STATE AFORESAID,  |   |   |                              |
| NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)   |   |   |                              |
| BURTON, ORLANDO, KEITH   |   |   |                              |
| STREET ADDRESS   |   |   |                              |
| 20 OLYMPIA DR  |   |   |                              |
| CITY   |   | STATE   | ZIP CODE                     |
| ST LOUIS   |   | MO  | 63135                        |
| DATE OF BIRTH  | RACE  | SEX   | HEIGHT                       |
| /1994  | B   | M   | 600                          |
| DRIVER'S LIC. NO.  |   | CDL:  | STATE                        |
|  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO   | MO                           |
| EMPLOYER   |   |   |                              |
| ADDRESS (Street, City, State, Zip)   |   |   |                              |
| DID UNLAWFULLY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPERATE/DRIVE <input type="checkbox"/> PARK                         |   | <input type="checkbox"/> C.M.V. <input type="checkbox"/> WITH HAZ. MAT  |                              |
| V<br>E<br>H<br>I<br>C<br>L<br>E  | YEAR  | MAKE  | MODEL                        |
|  | 2015  | LEXUS   | RX350                        |
|  | REGISTERED WEIGHT   | L I C NUMBER  | STATE                        |
|  |   |   | MO                           |
|  |   |   | YEAR                         |
|  |   |   | 2016                         |
| DID THEN AND THERE COMMIT THE FOLLOWING OFFENSE. THE FACTS SUPPORTING THIS BELIEF ARE AS FOLLOWS:                      |   |   |                              |
| <b>EXCEEDING SPEED LIMIT 60 MPH ZONE</b>   |   |   |                              |
| <b>STALKER CAR 1, FRONT ANTENNA, SAME, LANE 1</b>  |   |   |                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Subject taken into custody. (Complete "For issuance of a Warrant" section on reverse side.)   |   |   |                              |
| DRIVING  | POSTED SPEED LIMIT  | DETECTION METHOD  |                              |
| 96 MPH   | 60 MPH  | <input type="checkbox"/> STATIONARY RADAR <input type="checkbox"/> WATCH (AIR) <input type="checkbox"/> PAGE <input type="checkbox"/> LASER |                              |
|  |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVING RADAR <input type="checkbox"/> WATCH (GROUND) <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER                     |                              |
| IN VIOLATION OF: STATUTE/ORDINANCE - CHARGE CODE   |   |   |                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RSMo. <b>320.010</b> <b>90000050</b>  |   |   |                              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORD.   |   |   |                              |
| SEAT BELT VIOLATION: STATUTE/ORDINANCE - CHARGE CODE   |   |   |                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RSMo.   |   |   |                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ORD.  |   |   |                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> IN FATAL CRASH  | <input type="checkbox"/> IN CRASH   | <input type="checkbox"/> DWI / BAC.   | OCN                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT ZONE  | <input type="checkbox"/> SCHOOL ZONE  | <input type="checkbox"/> COMPLIANCE   |                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CONSTRUCTION ZONE   |   |   |                              |
| OFFICER  | BADGE   | TRP / ZONE  | DATE                         |
| /s/ P. O. Becker   | 00128   |   | 04/17/2016                   |

**OUTCOME:** Mr. Burton hired Sunset Hills lawyer Gerald Linnebringer and the case was moved to the Associate Circuit Court in Clayton. There Town and Country Prosecutor decided not to prosecute the case and Burton was allowed on 11/17/16 to plead guilty with a promise of a No-Point, NO-fine SIS probation term. Burton was required to go to driving school and to make a \$300 donation to "The School" fund. On 11/14/16 he legally changed his name to Orlando Keith Foster.

Here from his facebook is Mr. Burton's take on the police:



(Appeared in Newsletter 282 on 6/19/17)

**WILDWOOD MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO THIRD OR MORE DWI. HE WAS PLACED IN SPECIAL PROGRAM THAT WOULD HAVE KEPT DWI OFF HIS RECORD UNTIL HE WAS KICKED OUT.** Preston Prevost, 24-year-old at the time, of 17617 Ailanthus of Wildwood was driving west on I-64 at 2:29 AM on Sunday June 1, 2014 when he was seen speeding by Town and Country Police Officer McNutt.

Just before Mason Road, Provost was clocked at 90 MPH in the 60 MPH zone driving his 2005 Subaru Imperza. There was little traffic and Officer McNutt followed Provost after clocking the car.

Provost was continued to be clocked by Officer McNutt and his speed dropped to 79 and then back up to 89 MPH before he exited onto Maryville Center Drive.

As Provost drove west on the North Forty Outer Road, Officer McNutt attempted to pull him over, but Provost did not stop and continued to Highway 141 where he went north and then instead of pulling to the right and stopping he continued to change into the left lane until he crossed all the lanes and turned left onto Conway Road, where he stopped.

This is what happened next from the police report:

I approached the driver and asked him for his license and proof of insurance. The driver produced his license, identifying him as PREVOST, PRESTON A W/M 08-25-89. I advised Prevost the reason for the stop and he stated he was just going with the flow of traffic. While speaking to Prevost, I detected a strong odor of an intoxicating beverage about his breath. I also noticed that his eyes were watery and bloodshot. I noticed smoke coming from the hood of Prevost's vehicle. Prevost stated he had a small coolant leak. I observed a plastic object sticking out of the driver side wheel well. It appeared Prevost had run over the item and it became lodged in the wheel well. Prevost stated he had not struck anything with his vehicle. I requested Prevost perform a series of field sobriety tests, and he agreed (see A.I.R. form).

I asked Prevost how much he had to drink. Prevost stated "I'm good" and then stated he had nothing to drink. Prevost later stated he had a beer earlier. Prevost swayed at times while balancing.

You have to love the statement from Provost that at 2:30 in the morning he was just "going with the flow of traffic."

Some of the field sobriety tests that Provost failed included for him to recite the alphabet beginning with the letter "J" and ending with the letter "W." Provost then made an admission to his overall condition when he said, "I couldn't do that sober." He did not attempt to do that test.

When asked to count backwards from 57 to 42, Provost said, "57...50" and then quit.

He failed the other tests and was arrested for DWI. A background check showed two or more prior DWI arrests and convictions. He was booked for Felony DWI Persistent Offender.

Here are Provost's answers to some routine questions at the police station at 3 Am on June 1. If Provost's answers are true he is a man of super natural abilities as he claimed he was helping his father cut the grass in the dark and drinking "4-beers" at Ballpark Village,

WHAT WERE YOU DOING DURING THE LAST THREE HOURS PRIOR TO CONTACT WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT?

HELPING MY DAD GET THE GRASS CUT

WERE YOU OPERATING THE VEHICLE AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH OR STOP?

YES  NO

HAVE YOU BEEN DRINKING?

YES  NO

IF YES, WHAT WERE YOU DRINKING?

BUD LIGHT

TIME STARTED

9:30PM

TIME STOPPED

11:30

HOW MUCH?

4 BEERS

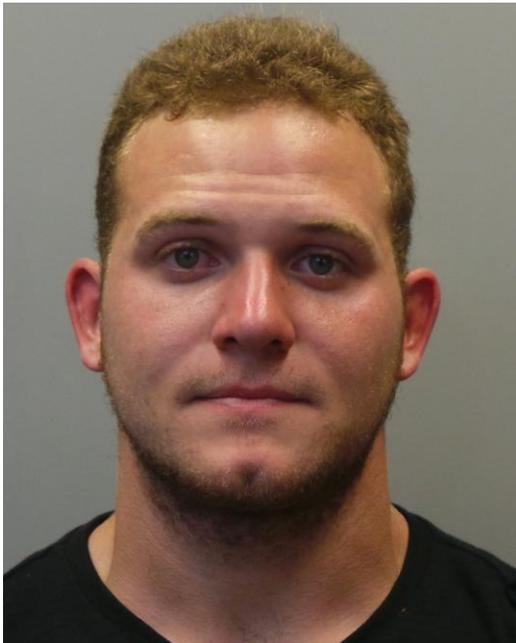
WHERE?

BALLPARK VILLAGE

ARE YOU UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF A

YES  NO

A breath test at the station showed that Prevost's BAC level was .153%.



**OUTCOME:** On July 14, 2015 Provost pled guilty before Circuit Court Judge Barbara Wallace. His sentence was not handed down. Instead he was entered into a special offenders program and his sentencing date was rescheduled to July 23, 2018.

On April 12, 2015 Provost was arrested and later convicted in the City of St. Louis of Assaulting a Police Officer and Resisting Arrest. He was placed on probation on those charges.

By November 16, 2016 Provost had been kicked out of the special offenders program he was sent to by Judge Wallace. Instead on 11/1/62016 Judge Michael Burton sentenced him to 1 year in jail, but then placed him on a 2-year SES probation term.

When people are placed in the Special Offender Program, we cannot get copies of their police reports even though they pled guilty, because they have yet to be sentenced. Sentencing is put off three years and then charges are normally reduced if they successfully complete the program. (This originally appeared in Newsletter 283 on June 26, 2017)

**PRIOR DWI OFFENDER KICKED OUT OF SPECIAL OFFENDER PROGRAM. GUILTY OF FELONY DWI THAT WAS REDUCED TO A MISDEMEANOR.** On Wednesday night/Thursday morning June 12, 2014 at 1:02 AM Farrell Wayne Webber, 57, of Ballwin was observed south on I-270 south of Clayton Road by Town and Country Police Officer Cpl. Berry.

Cpl. Berry reported that at first Webber was weaving between lanes, but then was driving his 2007 Nissan Armada straddling two lanes for over 1/4 of a mile.

When he stopped the Nissan he quickly found that Webber was drunk. This was not an unusual encounter with police and Webber as he had at least three other DWI encounters with law enforcement.

Webber refused to do one of the field sobriety test and failed the others. He was arrested for DWI and Improper Lane Usage. He refused to take a breath test at the police station and agreed to have blood drawn for a BAC test. He was then taken to Mercy Hospital and a blood draw was completed at 2:33 AM or 90-minutes after Webber was stopped by Cpl. Berry.

A test of the blood conducted by the Missouri Highway Patrol Lab showed that Webber's BAC level was .171% or more than twice the legal limit.

On July 14, 2014 a felony warrant was issued for the arrest of Webber for DWI Persistent Offender,



misdemeanor DWI. (This originally appeared in the July 17, 2017 Ex Alderman Newsletter #286)

**ANOTHER REPEAT DRUNK DRIVER ARRESTED IN TOWN AND COUNTRY:**

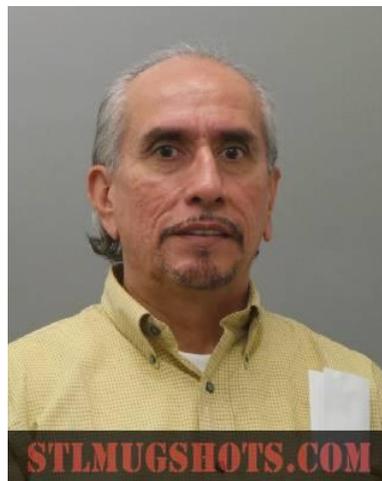
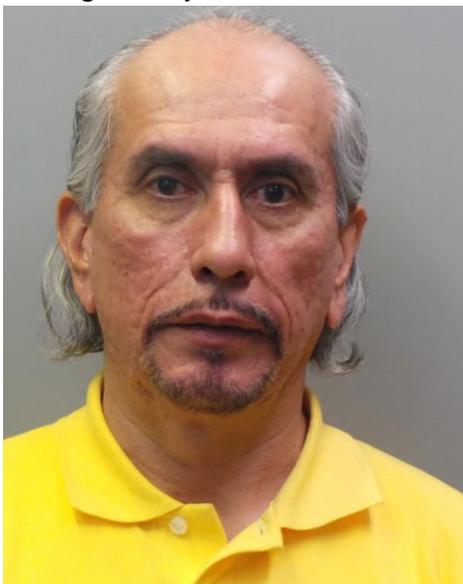
Officer Sapienza was on patrol on SB I-270 at Clayton Road on Saturday night/Sunday morning April 10, 2016 at 2:08 AM when he noticed a silver 2015 Nissan Rogue in front of him weaving and straddling two lanes. Then suddenly the driver started slowing down for no reason.

Just before Clayton Road Officer Sapienza tried to pull the driver over and activated the flashing lights on his police car. Instead of pulling to the right, the driver pulled to the left, before eventually pulling to the right shoulder.

The driver, Francisco Venero, 55, of Manchester, MO appeared to be drunk. He failed a number of sobriety tests and tested intoxicated on a field breath test instrument. He stated he had a "couple of drinks" at a casino. He presented Officer Sapienza with an International Driver's License. Computer checks determined he had a Missouri license that was now expired.

At the station the "couple of drinks" at the casino changed to four scotches at the casino. Mr. Venero, a native of Peru whose facebook and Linked In posts show he has been both a server at the former Nordstrom's and a Spanish teacher, took an official breath test. The results showed his BAC level to be .11%.

A day later Town and Country Police Admin Clerk Laurie Hangge, researched Venero's driving history and found at least two prior DWI arrests and convictions.



On April 28, 2016 a warrant for the arrest of Venero for Felony DWI was obtained from the St. Louis County Prosecutor's Office.

**OUTCOME:** On November 29, 2016 the felony charge was reduced in the St. Louis Country Associate Circuit Court and Judge John Borbonus allowed the felony charge to be reduced to a misdemeanor. Venero pled guilty and was sentenced to six months in jail, but immediately placed on a 2-year SES probation term. Venero did receive a DWI record of conviction plus 12-points on his driver's license. (This originally appeared in Ex- Alderman's Newsletter #287 on July 24, 2017)

### **WAL MART CLEAN UP CREW WAS REALLY CLEANING UP AT THE GAME**

**DEPARTMENT:** Wal Mart security at the Chesterfield store on November 22, 2014 noticed some video games were missing. A check of surveillance video revealed one of two suspects to be an overnight employee on the cleaning crew. This is from the police report:

Upon arrival at the store, L [REDACTED] showed me security footage from November 22, 2014, that showed a B/M employee, identified as Rene Faulk Jr., selecting a PlayStation 4 gaming system off the back room receiving desk, and conceal it beneath a cart full of cardboard. After a period of time, Faulk moves the cart of cardboard to the bailer, and proceeds to put the cardboard and PlayStation 4 box into the bailer. Faulk then removes the PlayStation 4 box from the bailer, and takes it to the back corner of the stocking shelves, where the security cameras don't cover.

Faulk also had a helper. Corey Jenkins, 21, of St. Louis. The two would hide items to steal and move security cameras so they would not be in the camera shot. This from the police report about Faulk confessing to stealing video games, but not the one the store detectives were first investigating. He said he sold them to a GameStop store but would not say which one. He added the motive was to help his father pay the electric bill.

Based on this information, L [REDACTED] feels that Faulk was involved in the theft of the Sony PlayStation 4 gaming system, and several video games.

L [REDACTED] and District Security Manager C [REDACTED] B [REDACTED] did an interview with Faulk in the store manager's office. At 0115 hours, L [REDACTED] came to the security office and informed me that Faulk is denying taking the PlayStation gaming system, but did admit to taking two PS4 games (Assassins Creed Unity) and an Xbox 360 game (Grand Theft Auto). The three games together totaled \$179.88.

Faulk stated he sold the games to a GameStop location, but refused to tell them which location, and he used the money to help pay the electric bill at his father's house.



Co-defendant Corey A. Jenkins

**OUTCOME:** Faulk was merely issued two summonses to Chesterfield Municipal Court for the theft of two video games. On 8/16/16 he pled guilty and was fined \$200 on each charge. He apparently was not represented by a local lawyer.

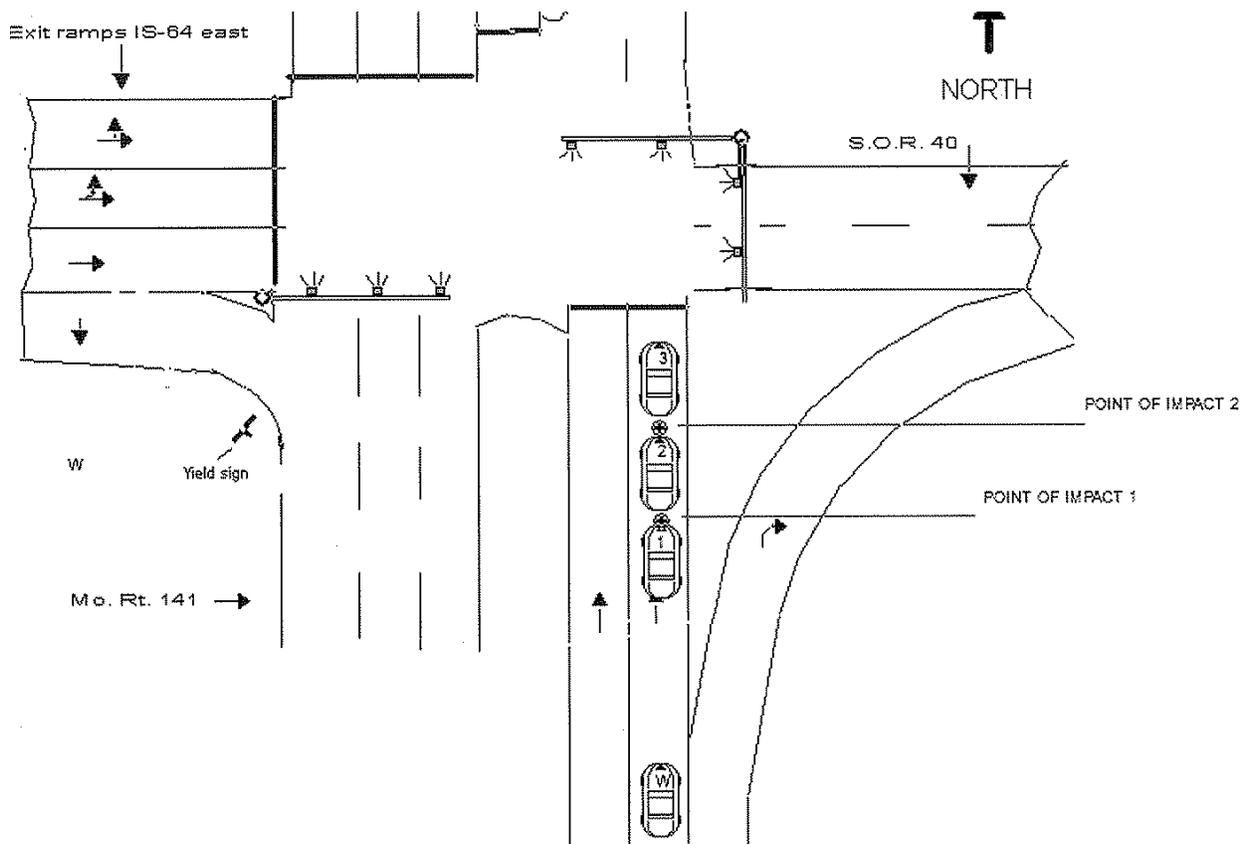
Corey Jenkins was charged with a felony theft over \$500 on January 2, 2015. His case was finally disposed of on May 12, 2017 when he pled guilty, was sentenced to a 5-year SIS NO-Record, No-Fine, NO-Jail probation term. (This originally appeared in our Ex-Alderman Newsletter #266 on February 27, 2017. It was updated on 8/27/17)

**THE PERFECT WITNESS PROVES O'FALLON SUSPENDED DRIVER WITH NO INSURANCE CAUSED A THREE CAR ACCIDENT. OF COURSE AFTER PLEA BARGAINING WITH THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PROSECUTOR HE LEFT COURT**

**WITH NO-POINTS AND NO-FINES:** It was two days before Christmas 2015 at 5:32 PM. Two cars were stopped at the red light on NB Highway 141 at I-64.

A third car, a 1995 Honda civic operated by Jacob Ponder, 31 was approaching them too fast to be able to stop from crashing into the cars. At the time Ponder's drivers' license was suspended and he had no insurance. Following Ponder was a woman from Manchester, MO.

When Ponder crashed into the first car in front of him, a 2002 Honda Accord driven by a 72-year-old man from Ballwin, that impact forced the Accord into the rear end of a Mercedes Benz ML-350 driven by a man from St. Charles that was the first car at the stoplight.



Ponder briefly stopped, did not identify himself. All the drivers agreed to pull to the shoulder and exchange insurance information. Instead of pulling off the road, Ponder sped off. However the witness took photos of the cars and license plates.

Officer Yaakub was able to get statements from the driver from Ballwin and Mercedes driver.

He was able to identify Ponder from the license plate and found a phone number for him.

Ponder told Officer Yaakub that he was hit from behind and forced into the Accord after being hit by a car. The 73-year-old man said it was only Ponder and there was no vehicle behind him.

The witness stated she was driving behind Ponder when the crash happened and there was no other car.

Ponder consistently lied and stated he would come to the Town and Country Police Station with his car, but never showed up.



Jacob Ponder

This is from the police report:

I was able to locate Ponder's cell phone number through a record check. I contacted Ponder on his cell phone and he stated the following:

"I was traveling north on Highway 141 at Highway 64 when I was struck from the rear. My car was pushed into the car in front of me and that car was pushed into the car in front of it. The car that hit me then left the scene onto eastbound Highway 64. We all got out and everyone said there cars were fine and we agreed to leave the scene."

I asked Ponder to drive his vehicle to the station so I can see the damage to his vehicle and also bring his insurance card. He advised me that there was no damage to his vehicle. I advised him that there would be some sort of damage based on the damage to the other vehicle that I observed and he again stated that there was no damage to his vehicle. I advised him to respond anyway and he stated that he would try.

Ponder was called twice more and continued to refuse to come to the police station. An arrest order was entered into the Regional Police Computer System. He was eventually arrested and charged with Leaving the Scene of an Accident, Driving with a Suspended Drivers License and Operate a Vehicle without Financial Security (Insurance).

**OUTCOME:** In 10 years prior to this accident Ponder had several moving violation citations reduced to non-moving violations such as Excessive Exhaust or Parking Violation. He did have one 20-plus MPH citation that he pled guilty to.

But more troubling was when he came to court with a lawyer in Town and Country on December 15, 2016 he had pending charges in St. Charles County Court from a July 20, 2016 incident where he was charged with Driving While Suspended and No Insurance.

Town and Country prosecutor Ed Sluys either did not check this (which I was able to do in seconds) or did not care. Ponder was allowed to plead guilty to the Leaving the Scene of an Accident and Driving While Suspended and receive No-Points and No-Fine probation sentences. The No Insurance citation was reduced to Littering and he was fined \$225.

Here is a guy who has a record of getting breaks on moving violations, who caused a three car crash with damage, refused to identify himself, then fled the scene. The same person refused to come to the police station so a report could be completed causing the police to issue arrest orders. The city prosecutor allows this guy, who was photographed by a witness to leave the courtroom with No Points and No Fine for

Leaving the Scene and Driving with a Suspended License. I don't think it could be more clear that Ed Sluys and the law firm of Curtis, Heinz, Garrett and O'Keefe do not give a rat's as about the safety and welfare of the local motorists.

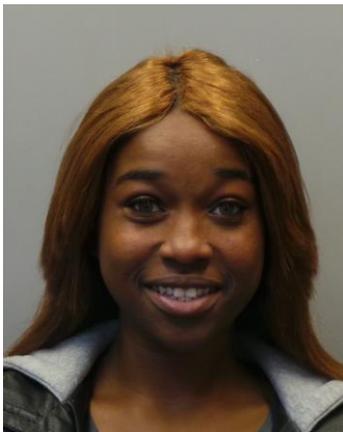
Apparently the Board of Aldermen doesn't seem to be interested enough about this ongoing serious problem to do anything about it.



By doing nothing these people are part of the problem. (This originally appeared in the Ex-Alderman Newsletter #263 on Feb. 6, 2017)

**EMPLOYEE THIEF:** Store security units aren't just for catching shoplifters. Often stores have bigger problems with employees stealing from inside than crooks coming in from the outside. I had been following the case of a Nautica Turner, 19, charged with Felony Stealing Over \$500 for a couple of years.

Turner worked at the Home Depot Store in the Manchester Meadows Shopping Center. She was contacted by store security in December of 2014 after the discovered she had been making fraudulent returns of items that had never been purchased for cash. When contacted she confessed and it was also determined that she had been stealing cash. The total amount stolen was \$702.22 taken from between October 25, 2014 and December 3, 2014.



Nautica Turner

Town and Country Police charged her with felony Stealing Over \$500. The police report was short and sweet and left lots out including the "Motive." Next came the continuances and the Failure to Appear arrest warrants.

**OUTCOME:** Finally with Turner 21-years-of-age, she finally pled guilty in Associate Circuit Court in Clayton, MO on January 19, 2017. Judge Michael Jamison sentenced her to a SIS No-Fine, No-Jail 2-year probation sentence. (Orig Appeared in Ex Alderman Newsletter 288 on July 31, 2017)

**OUTLET STORE MANAGER CAUGHT STEALING FROM DEPOSITS:** I once arrested the Director of Security at the Sak's Fifth Avenue store at 5555 Wisconsin Avenue in Chevy Chase, Maryland for internal theft. Of course corporate security from New York had flown into town and set up surveillance cameras in his office and watched late at night from the manager's office on the third floor. By the time I arrived he had already obtained a written confession. (After his conviction he sued Sak's claiming they went after him because he was gay. This was interesting as over 50% of the male sales force at the store seemed to be gay.)

However, I don't remember arresting managers. Bookkeepers and cashiers yes, but no managers. The manager of the Skechers shoe store in the Premium Outlet Mall in Chesterfield Valley was arrested on December 2, 2015 for an ongoing theft from the store totaling thousands of dollars.



The bank notified not the store but regional loss prevention of bank deposits missing money. What corporate security did reminded me of my Sak's Fifth Avenue case.

They came in during the middle of the night and installed hidden video cameras over the safe in the manager's office and over registers.

The video cameras showed the store manager Marie England was taking clear deposit bags from the safe, cutting them open and removing one or two large bills. What was amazingly stupid was that after stealing the money, she did not try and alter the deposit tickets.

Once confronted by corporate security she confessed and further admitted to conducting a return fraud, where she would take cash for alleged returns. Her total take for stealing from deposits and from the return scam was \$2,944. This is from Officer Pollman's police report:

We discussed the thefts from the bank bags and I asked her to describe how she removed the money from the bags. England stated she would see the deposit bags in the safe and use a pair of scissors to cut open the bag. Because the bags were clear, she could manipulate the money and typically remove a couple of large bills (i.e. \$100 bill or \$50's). She would return the deposit bag to the safe and place the stolen money into her pocket. She did not attempt to change the deposit slip. I showed her the list provided by P████ S██████████ concerning the stolen money from the deposits and asked her if it was accurate. The only discrepancy she had concerned the first bag wherein the entire bag was taken. She did not recall that.

The next discussion concerned the fraudulent returns. England noted the employee number on each receipt which identified her as the person conducting the transaction is hers (51541). She told me the employee numbers are listed next to the register but a code is required before you can log in. England is the only person who knows her personal log in code. England stated she would review previous sales and look for purchases near \$100.00. Using the invoice number, she would pull up the sale and complete a "fake" return. She would keep the cash from these returns.

England stated she stole the money to help pay for her husband's severe tooth infection which happened in July and her father's suicide which occurred in October. Her father's wife refused to pay for the funeral and she was then responsible for all the financial costs associated with it.

There were 22 instances of thefts documented from July 28, 2015 through November 19, 2015.



Marie England

Six months before she began stealing from her store there was a \$6,503 default judgment against her in a St. Charles County Circuit Court. On January 6, 2017 there was a \$588 judgment against her filed by St. Luke's Hospital.

**OUTCOME:** On December 9, 2016 England pled guilty to one count of Felony Receiving Stolen Property. Judge Ellen Levy Siwak sentenced England to a 5-year SIS No-Record, NO Fine, No Jail probation term. She was also ordered to pay back Skechers the \$2,944 stolen and pay \$46 to the crime victim's fund. Two months later there is no indication of any payments being made. (This originally appeared in the March 6, 2017 Ex Alderman's Newsletter #267)

**FELONY DRUNK DRIVER GETS CHARGE REDUCED TO MISDEMEANOR AND THEN GETS PROBATION:** Terry Mewes on 01/16/2015 was 58 years-old, had a suspended/revoked drivers license and a couple of DWI arrests. He lived in North County in Charlack. He was was driving a 2003 Silver Ford F-150 pickup truck at 10:28 PM on the Friday night. Oh Yeah, Mewes was also drunk. Also he was due in court in St. Charles County on a DWI charge in six days.

He caught the attention of Town and Country Police Officer Wilkey who saw the truck weaving from lane to lane just west of I-270 on I-64. Officer Wilkey followed Mewes west and stopped him after he exited at Maryville Center exit.

When Officer Wilkey contacted Mewes he was first overpowered by the smell of cigarette smoke in the cab of the truck.

He asked for Mewes' drivers' license and Mewes said he did not have a license as it was suspended and he also did not have insurance.

This caused Officer Wilkey to get Mewes out of the truck. That was when he noticed the smell of alcoholic beverages on his breath, his speech was slurred and his eyes were bloodshot. Officer Wilkey arrested Mewes for Driving on a Suspended License. He handcuffed him and took him to the police station while another officer waited for a tow truck to remove the pickup truck.

At the police station Mewes agreed to take some sobriety tests. He stated he had been drinking earlier in the day, but did not consider himself intoxicated. He failed the sobriety tests. He took a breath test that showed his BAC level to be .187%.

He had prior DWI arrests in St. Louis County and St. Charles County.

We found just a small portion of Mewes' driving record that showed the two DWI arrests and a No Insurance conviction.

|          |  |                                 |
|----------|--|---------------------------------|
| 07/29/91 | DWI  | St. Louis CO.                   |
|          | 10/29/92 Pled Guilty 6 months jail placed on SES 2-year probation      |                                 |
| 01/05/12 | No Insurance Pled Guilty \$40 fine                                     | Charlack                        |
| 12/19/13 | DWI  | St. Charles CO Sheriff's Office |
|          | 01/22/15 Pled Guilty 60 Days Jails Placed on 2-year SES probation term |                                 |



Terry Mewes

**OUTCOME:** A felony DWI charge was issued against Mewes. But on 02/10/17 the DWI was reduced to a Misdemeanor. He pled guilty to the DWI and the Driving With a Suspended/Revoked License. County Judge Michael Burton sentenced Mewes to 6-months to the County Jail for DWI and one-year for the Driving While Revoked. He then immediately placed Mewes on a SES probation term for 2-years.

On 09/23/16 Judge Burton had already issued Mewes a Hardship Limited Privilege Driver's License with an Interlock Breath Test ignition device required for the next 10-years. (This originally appeared in Ex-Alderman Newsletter 288 on July 31, 2017)

**17-YEAR-OLD STEALS ELECTRONICS AT WAL-MART, THEN CHANGES CLOTHES TO AVOID DETECTION. IT DIDN'T WORK!** Dejuan Nelson, 17 of North St. Louis walked into the Chesterfield Valley Wal Mart on Thursday May 26, 2016 at 3:50 in the afternoon. He was wearing a uniform where he worked, Lion's Choice, a fast food restaurant located in the same shopping center as the Wal Mart. He was also carrying a duffle bag.

Carry a duffle bag into a retail store will get the attention of store security quickly. The fact that Nelson was 17-year-old is another factor in gaining the watchful eye of store security. Add the fact that Nelson is an African-American and you have a triple threat guaranteeing store security will watch you. Nelson did not let the security staff down.

They watched on video screens as Nelson went to the electronics and placed two Blue Tooth Speakers into the duffle bag. Security then called the Chesterfield Police special retail patrol team and Officer McBride responded to the store.

Nelson went into the the Wal Mart bathroom located beyond the checkout lanes. He was in the restroom for a while. When he exited the restroom he was wearing different clothes. By this time Officer McBride was outside of the store. A check of the bathroom showed two empty Blue Tooth speaker packages in the trash can.

Security officers watched Nelson get into a black vehicle which Officer McBride immediately pulled over after Nelson pulled out of his parking space.

Nelson was told why he was stopped. He admitted stealing just one speaker and pulled it out of the duffle bag. We are guessing he was hoping of keeping the other one, thinking the police surely would not search his duffle bag.

When officers did search the duffle bag they found the other speaker and three video games.

Nelson was arrested taken to the Chesterfield Police Station, booked and then released on summons for the charge of Stealing returnable in Municipal Court.



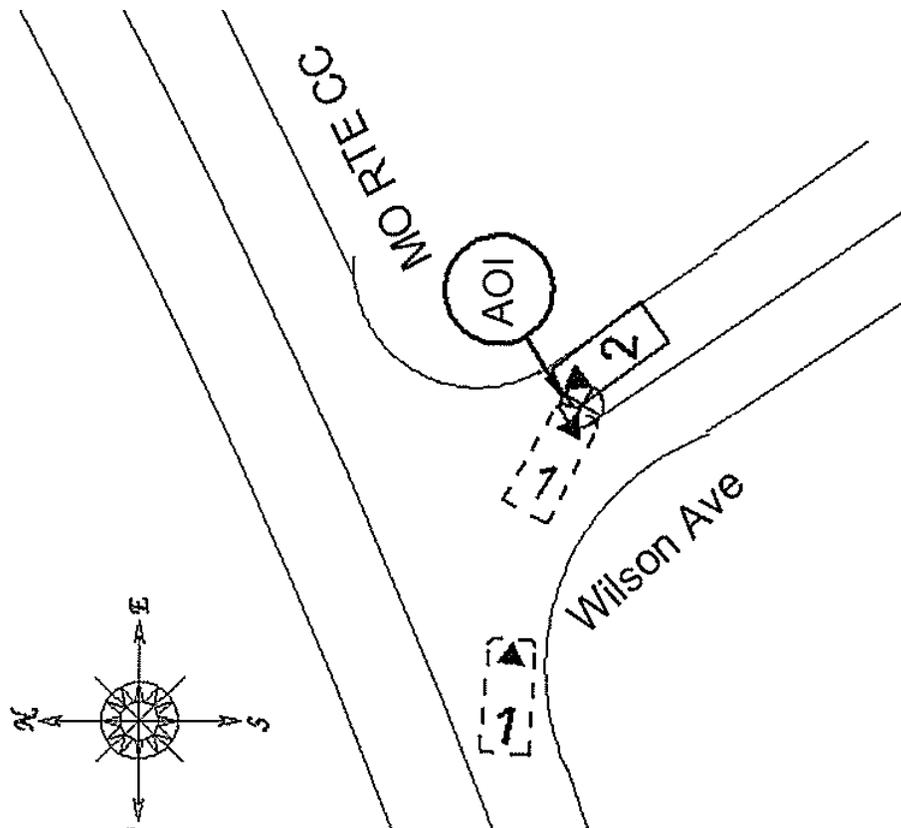
Nelson

**OUTCOME:** Nelson had no prior record we could find and seemed to be a good candidate for a probation term, but he did not have a lawyer. However on December 20, 2016 he pled guilty to Stealing and was fined \$300. The merchandise he stole was valued at \$89 retail. (This originally appeared in Newsletter #271 on April 3, 2017)

**CHESTERFIELD DOCTOR HITS CAR AT INTERSECTION AND THEN FLEES SCENE. HE THEN LIES TO THE POLICE ABOUT THE INCIDENT.** On August 18, 2015 at 6:50 PM Kelli Kozielek of Chesterfield was in her Honda Odyssey Van stopped on Wilson Avenue at Wild Horse Creek Road waiting to turn. She had her two children in the car with her.

A man driving a Jeep made a wide right turn from Wild Horse Creek and struck her Honda. He stopped and asked where she would like to pull over and exchange information. She said the parking lot of Wild Horse Elementary School. He agreed but instead of going to the parking lot he fled the scene.

Kozielek described the man as being older with white hair, driving a black Jeep Wrangler. She thought she had the license number of the Jeep. However, an investigation showed it was the wrong license number.



About a month after the accident on September 12, 2015 Kozielek saw the Jeep and the man who had been driving it pass her on Long Road at Edison. She followed the Jeep to 703 Long Crossing Road where it stopped and the driver entered a business. She called the police. When the police arrived she was talking to the other driver and crying.

The police contacted the man, who was Dr. Michael Stadnyk, 50, of 36 Chesterfield Lakes Road. Stadnyk denied ever meeting Kozielek before or being involved in an accident. Stadnyk continued to deny any involvement in the accident, but offered to pay Kozielek's deductible. An odd gesture for someone not involved in an accident. This is from the police report:

I approached the Jeep to inspect for any damage. I observed Stadnyk walk over to Driver 2 and offer to pay her insurance deductible once again. I did not observe any damage to the front steel bumper. However I did observe several white paint transfers on the front license plate of the Jeep. Drivers 2 vehicle was white in color. I re-contacted Stadnyk. When I asked why he would offer to pay for damage to Drivers 2 vehicle, if he was not involved in the accident. He replied, "I'm a Christian. Wanted to pay it forward." Stadnyk stated he has owned the Jeep for approximately three years and had not been involved in an accident for several years. Further into my investigation, Stadnyk stated his vehicle underwent, "Routine maintenance" at [REDACTED] about one month ago from this date.

Stadnyk went back again and offered to pay Kozielek's insurance deductible Officer Charles Thompson's bullshit antenna when up.

When asked if he wasn't involved in the accident why did he want to pay Kozielek's insurance deductible. Stadnyk said he wanted to because he was a "good Christian" and "pay it forward."



Dr. Michael Stadnyk, a radiologist who practices for Mercy in Festus.

The Chesterfield Police did not give up, but went to the car dealership where Stadnyk said there was work done on the Jeep after the accident date. The dealership said it was mechanical work and not body work.

On September 15, 2015 Officer Jeff Ovca, who took the original report went to Stadnyk's home and contacted him again. Stadnyk finally admitted that he had indeed struck Kezielek's Honda and left the scene of the accident.

This is from the police report:

On 09/15/15, following up on information received from P.O. Thompson (noted in his supplement report), I contacted Stadnyk for an interview and to photograph his jeep. Upon contact, and advising him of how I wished to proceed, Stadnyk stated "Let me just tell u what happened". Driver 1 advised he was traveling east on MO CC approaching Wilson Road. Driver 1 stated he attempted to turn right onto southbound Wilson, but hydroplaned and struck the front of vehicle 2. Driver 1 said he did not hear where driver 2 wanted to pull over to, and thought she turned left onto MO CC (westbound), so when he turned around on Wilson, he turned left onto Wildhorse Creek Road to find her. When he could not find her, Driver 1 said he returned home.

He was cited from Improper Lane Use and Leaving the Scene of an Accident.

Common sense would tell you it is a terrible idea to flee the scene of an accident where you hit someone from the same area where you live and shop, unless of course you a drunk. Apparently Dr. Stadnyk is lacking common sense.

**OUTCOME:** Over one-and-a half years after the accident, on January 24, 2017 Stadnyk's cases were finally resolved. He pled guilty to Leaving the Scene of an Accident and Improper Lane Use and was fined \$225 on each charge. However on the

Leaving the Scene of an Accident charge Stadnyk was allowed to go to Driving School and avoid the points. The police report did not indicate if he also paid Kezielek her deductible or her insurance company. (This originally appeared in Newsletter #270 on March 27, 2017)