

We continue with our bi-annual review of Municipal Court cases from Town and country and Chesterfield involving DWI, Theft and 100 MPH speeding cases.

MAN PICKES UP SECOND DWI 21 YEARS AFTER HIS FIRST: Officer McNutt observed a 2012 Kia Optima on March 3, 2012 at 1:28am on eastbound I-64 approaching I-270. The driver of the car was weaving between the two right lanes. The car exited to go NB on I-270 on the “flyover” exit ramp, the driver swerved to the left and left the road driving onto the shoulder.

McNutt stopped the car and contacted the driver, **John Michael Hedges**, 42, of St. Charles. McNutt reported that Hedges appeared to be intoxicated. Hedges told McNutt he had “2 drinks.” After he failed the field sobriety tests and was arrested he said he had “three drinks.”

A breath test showed hedges BAC to be .15%.

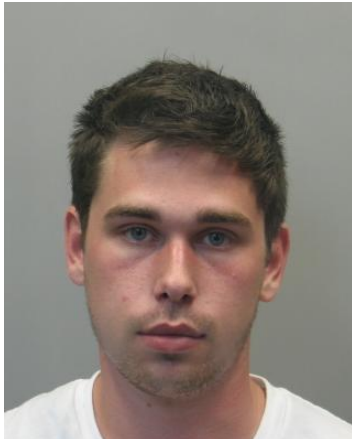


Hedges was not new to traffic charges. In the last 20 years he had a DWI in Maryland Heights, but what is more remarkable are all the reduced charges which he paid expensive fines on. Four times he had moving violations reduced to “Illegal Parking” charges with nothing going on his driving records and no points. Twice he had traffic tickets reduced to “Loud/Defective Muffler.” Once in Linn county Hedges got a 25 MPH over speeding ticket reduced to 3 MPH over the limit with no points.

On October 10, 2013 he was finally in court on the 2012 Town and country DWI charge. His lawyer had moved the case to the Circuit Court. He pled guilty to DWI before Assoc. Circuit Judge Dennis Smith, who sentenced him to 30 days in the County Jail and then suspended the jail placing Hedges on a 2-year SES probation, meaning he now has a DWI record. He also fined Hedges \$500. The lane weaving charge was dropped.

25-YEAR-OLD FROM FENTON DOING 113 GETS NO FINE AND NO POINTS: **Mark Alan Pettus, 25**, of Fenton was clocked driving his 2003 S-type Jaguar southbound I-270 at Clayton Road on July 7, 2013 at 8:08pm speeding 113 MPH in a 60 MPH zone.

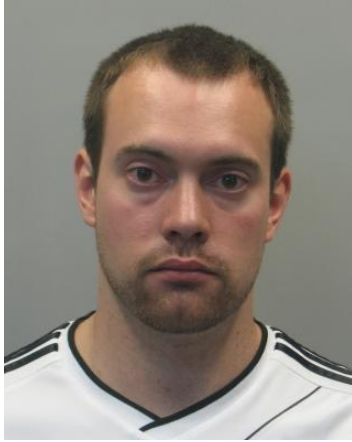
Pettus had served two days in jail for “Operating Motor Vehicle without Insurance” back in 2009.



The 113 MPH speeding citation was moved Circuit Court by Pettus’ attorney. On October 10 Town and Country prosecutor Brian Malone agreed to a plea where Assoc. Circuit Judge Dennis Smith ordered Pettus to attend a two-day driving school and placed him on a 1-year “No-record” SIS probation term. Pettus will not receive any points on his driving record and was not fined a nickel.

116 MPH CITATION FOR 22-YEAR-OLD RESULTS IN NO FINE AND NO POINTS: In 2009 two moving violations traffic citations were issued by a St. Charles County Sheriff’s Deputies to Jan Mayer. They were both reduced to “Illegal Parking” and Mayer paid a total of \$350 in fines.

On April 7, 2013 the Missouri Highway Patrol charged **Jan Philipp Mayer, 22**, of O’Fallon, Missouri with speeding 26 MPH over the speed limit in Warren County.



Two months after getting the ticket from the Highway Patrol, Mayer was cited for speeding June 6, 2013 at 12:05pm on westbound I-64 at Mason Road. He was clocked at 116 MPH in a 60 MPH zone.

His attorney had the case moved to the Circuit Court. On October 21, 2013 Judge Dennis Smith accepted a guilty plea from Mayer and immediately placed him on a one-year "no-record" SIS probation term. Mayer was not fined and receives no points on his driving record. He does have to attend a defensive driving school for two days.

DRUNK DRIVER CLAIMS HEART ATTACK: Sometimes over a long enough police career you have night where everything goes right and other times you have one where nothing goes right. I remember one night back in 1978 as a heavy snow was falling I had nothing to do and stayed at work in Rock Hill as a detective well after midnight, driving around looking at the pretty landscape.

John Copeland (recently retired police chief and city administrator of Town and Country) was one of the two uniform officers working. He was checking a business along Manchester Road near Warson Woods when he saw a brand new Cadillac pull up in front of a men's clothing store in the Warson Village Shopping Center.

The Cadillac had just been stolen by two men from North St. Louis off the lot of a Cadillac dealer in Clayton. They had driven out to Warson Woods and planned to throw a metal milk crate through the window of the clothing store and make off with a lot of men's suits.

As Copeland drove toward them the chase was on. They lost control of the Cadillac in front of the Ford dealership on Manchester in Kirkwood and drove off of Manchester Road on to the roof of a new Thunderbird parked on the sunken parking lot. Copeland

arrested the passenger and the Kirkwood cops got the driver by following his footsteps in the snow. I picked him up and hauled him back to our police station.

As we were sorting all this, we got a phone call from the cops in Fenton, they wanted us to try and get to one of our residents, a known heroin user, before he made it inside his house and arrest him for the robbery at a motel room across from the Chrysler plant. If the suspect made it in his house, we'd need a warrant to go in and get him. If we got him on the lawn we could arrest him and hand him over to the cops in Fenton.

When we got to his house his car was already in the driveway and apparently he just arrived as the car was not snow covered. I was going to the front door at 3am, ring the door bell and tell him we had a report that someone had thrown a rock through a window on his car and trick him outside the house. Just to be on the safe side, I put Copeland in the backyard in case the suspect ran.

I rang the bell, the suspect ran out the backdoor directly into the gunsights of Copeland who arrested him.

All and all it was an example of a night where everything seem to work out well for us.

That was not the case on August 12, 2012 at 3:26am for Town and Country Officer Fowle who stopped a 2010 Chevrolet Cobalt being driven by **Richard Conrad Kopf, 33, of Wildwood**. Kopf had been driving 40 MPH eastbound I-64, lane weaving and then driving in between two lanes of the highway.

When Fowle walked up to the car he observed two open beer cans in the console between the driver and the passenger. By the time he got Kopf's driver's license he could already pretty much tell that Kopf was drunk.

Then the 33-year-old Kopf claimed he was having chest pains. When asked if he wanted an ambulance to take him to a hospital, Kopf replied, "I don't know."

Kopf then moved his body and began to scream and rolled out of the car face down on the pavement. Fowle then called for an ambulance at which time Kopf tried to get up and Officer Fowle told him to stay where he was. Kopf then began to demand that Fowle, driving a police car with a multitude of flashing lights and wearing a police officer's uniform, prove his was a cop.

The ambulance arrived and took Kopf to Mercy Hospital, where his condition was not serious enough for any emergency treatment.

Officer Fowle was able to speak to Kopf, fill out a booking sheet, advise Kopf of his rights, learn that Kopf refused to answer any questions and refused to submit to a blood test to determine his BAC level. Fowler issued Kopf citations for DWI, Improper Lane Use, Failure to Signal and an Open Container violation.

Fowle was also able to determine the Kopf had a prior DWI arrest in Chesterfield on 04/24/2001.

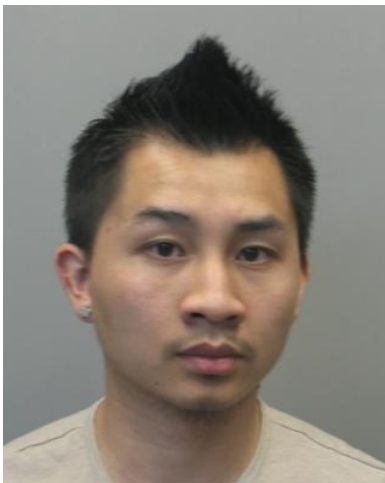
Kopf's attorney moved the case to the Circuit Court. 13 months after he was stopped and claimed he was having a heart attack, Kopf pled guilty before Assoc. Circuit Judge Dennis Smith. Smith fined Kopf \$500 and sentenced him to 60 days in the County Jail, only to suspend the jail sentence and placed Kopf on two-years probation.

The other charges were all dropped. On the positive side the DWI conviction is on Kopf's record and points were assessed against his license, one of the rare exceptions we found.

102 MPH CITATION RESULTS IN NO FINE AND NO POINTS:

On April 20, 2013 just after midnight Yu Chang Liang, 24, of Overland was clocked driving his 2006 Audi on northbound I-270 at I-64 at 102 MPH by Officer Schlager.

Liang was cited for speeding 102 MPH in a 60 MPH zone and for failure to signal a lane change.



Yu Cheng Liang

Liang's lawyer moved the case to the Circuit Court. On August 29, 2013 Liang pled guilty to both charges and left without paying a fine, having a record or receiving points on his driver's license.

Judge Mary Schroder gave Liang a "no-record" Suspended Imposition of Sentence one-year probation term on both charges. SIS sentences do not carry fines. Schroder forced Liang to make a donation to the "school fund" and attend a 2-day weekend driving school.

CRTIQUE OF T&C DWI REPORTS:

Having been a police officer, police supervisor and administrator I have made about 375 DWI arrests over 30 years, assisted other officers on DWI arrests, worked special DWI saturation patrols, reviewed several hundred other DWI arrests and instructed officers on DWI arrest procedure and reporting writing. I find the Town and Country DWI arrest reports amazingly short and without substance.

One command officer told me that while acknowledging the reports no longer have much detail, the department is getting a 98% conviction rate and until the conviction rates starts to drop he doesn't see a problem as the shorter reports means the officers are returning to patrol duties faster. I find this attitude counterproductive. You are telling officers that you don't expect them to do the best job possible.

Chief Pat Kranz has told me in the past that officers had video recordings of the suspects that are rather convincing in court.

Here are my problems with both of those positions.

1) Police officers are documentarians of a segment of our society. People who get the DWI report do not see the video recording unless there is a trial and as we see from our special newsletters there are almost never any trials.

Officers are selling their cases. They are selling the charges to a prosecutor and to the defense attorney. The prosecutor sees the report and the defense attorney gets a copy. Judges may also see the report after conviction and prior to sentencing. Probation officers can see the report. After a conviction (including these ridiculous deals) the public can eventually see the reports. None of these people see the video.

You don't need to give a DWI suspect his rights per the Miranda Ruling until you sit down to interview them. I have found that four-out-of-five drunk drivers on the way to the

police station without being asked any questions make incredible spontaneous statements and utterances which are all admissible. Often the drunks are loudly talking to themselves.

In recent years many of the Town and Country cops have stopped writing these down in their reports.

When drivers refuse to take a breath test their spontaneous statements often provide more proof to the reader as to how drunk they really are than the field sobriety tests.

If properly done, defense attorneys see how hopeless their case is and prosecutors see how strong their case is. The better the quotes in a report the more a defense attorney wants to avoid a trial and having the video played.

2) This is also excellent training. If officers write down all pertinent utterances by a suspect in regular DWI reports it becomes second nature to them. When a felony arrest involving a serious crime occurs officers will have to provide anything the suspect said at the time of the arrest or while he transported to jail.

It used to drive me crazy when officers would arrest suspects as fugitives from other police departments and simply write how they stopped the person and found out they were wanted and arrested them. These reports were often just three or four sentences long. The arresting officers would claim it was the job of officers from the department where the charges were filed to worry about statements.

However, suspects are most likely to babble about a crime at the time of the arrest. The longer after the arrest the more likely they are to keep their mouths shut. If they are going to make utterances or try and create bogus alibis at the time of their arrest, the officers should include that in their arrest reports and make sure the detectives from the department that brought the charges gets the report.

3) The Town and Country Police arrest, book and process with fingerprints and photos people stopped for driving over 100 MPH. That is an excellent policy. However they do not write arrest reports. They should be doing this so the prosecutors and defense lawyers can see exactly how guilty the defendant is.

4) These reports are available to the public after there is a conviction or a guilty plea with a no-record probation term (for the length of probation, then they become closed). A detailed report can be extremely helpful to insurance agents and underwriters and in the case of accidents claims adjusters and insurance company attorneys.

CHESTERFIELD:

MAN WITH EXTENSIVE RECORD STILL GETS THE CHESTERFIELD “SPECIAL DEAL,” DESPITE BEING DRUNK, TRYING TO RUN FROM COPS AND KNOCKING OUT POWER TO HOMES: Andrew J. Maas of St. Albans, while at St. Luke’s Hospital being treated for injuries sustained after he drove into a utility pole said that he had several beers plus some shots at Busch Stadium and then went to a friend’s house in Town and Country after the game.



On October 19 at 12:35am, while on patrol Officer David Krumm clocked Maas on a moving radar unit driving a 2007 Volvo, doing 61MPH in a 45mph Zone on Eatherton Road.

Krumm made a U-Turn to try and stop Maas, but lost sight of the car. Next Krumm saw a large flash and found the Volvo had crashed into a utility pole on Eatherton Road at Centaur Road.

Wires were down as Officer Krumm watched Maas exit the car from the passenger side and immediately fell down face first. Once paramedics arrived Maas was taken to St. Luke’s Hospital. While at the hospital Maas made statements such as how he had driven that stretch of Eatherton Road before after having some drinks without a problem.

His mother and father had arrived at the hospital and he told his mother that he had three or four beers at the baseball game and then two or three shots, all within an earshot of Officer Krumm who included the statements in his DWI report.

At 2:50am or 2-hours and 15-minutes after first being observed by Officer Krumm a blood sample was taken at the hospital which later was tested. It showed that Maas' BAC level was .11%.

In 2009 an order of protection was issued against Maas for one year by Judge Victoria McKee in connection with an Adult Stalking case.

On March 26, 2012 Maas was sentenced to serve 15 days in the Warren County jail as the result of 2009 traffic charges, where Maas originally pled guilty, was placed on probation and then had his probation revoked.

On January 6, 2010 Maas represented by a lawyer was fined \$260 for a seat belt violation resulting from a traffic charge issued by the Highway Patrol on August 31, 2009. This has to be an amended charge from a more serious charge since seatbelt violations are normally \$15 fines.

Maas was already on a 2-year probation term in the City of St. Louis for two counts of 3rd-Degree Assault and one count of Stalking stemming from an arrest on 06/24/11. He pled guilty to those charges and was sentenced on 11/28/12 or six months prior to pleading guilty to the Chesterfield charges.

On June 10, 2013 Chesterfield city prosecutor Tim "Never Convict Em" Englemeyer allowed Maas to plead guilty to a reduced charge from DWI to Careless and Impudent Driving. That resulted in a \$500 fine. The speeding charge was reduced to "Illegal Parking" with a \$250 fine. The case was in front of St. Louis County Associate Circuit Judge Dennis Smith.

Englemeyer followed his usual pattern of reducing charges against a person who was already on probation. Justice, Chesterfield style!

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF HEROIN AND MARIJUANA AND POSSESSION OF HEROIN AND MARIJUANA, PLUS NEARLY STRIKING CARS HEAD-ON ARE NOT GOOD ENOUGH REASONS FOR TIM ENGLEMEYER TO PROSECUTE.

Kristen Gibbs, 22, was observing weaving from the center lane to the right lane and then across the center line twice nearly striking other autos on Tuesday August 30, 2011 at 1:11am by Chesterfield Police Officer Todd Lantz.



Kristen Gibbs

Lantz had been behind Gibbs on Olive Blvd at West Drive. After stopping Gibbs' 2009 Honda CRV Truck Officer Lantz didn't have a chance to tell Gibbs, of 1402 Boxford Drive in Chesterfield, why he had stopped her. She told him!

She said she knew her car had one headlight out and that she had crossed the lane divider. Lantz told her he could smell some alcohol from inside the car and asked her if she had been drinking. She said some friends must of spilled something but she had not been drinking. She was correct.

Lantz had her perform some field sobriety tests, which she failed. She then took a field breath test that showed she had not been drinking. She was arrested for Driving While in a Drugged condition.

Prior to her car being towed officers found in a purse under the driver's seat, were a small spoon, a glass pipe with marijuana residue on it, several syringes and two small baggies. One of the syringes had an opaque residue. One of the baggies had a white powder.

At the police station Gibbs provided a urine sample. Gibbs admitted having smoked marijuana earlier in the evening and using heroin.

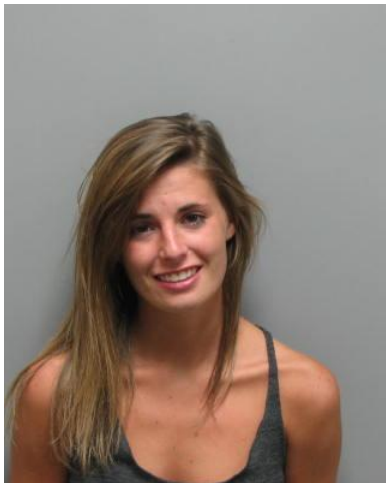
The lab results on the urine showed both marijuana and heroin present.

The County Prosecutor's Office declined to prosecute and charges were filed in city court. Gibb's attorney then had the cases moved before a County Judge.

On July 11, 2013 city prosecutor Tim Englemeyer despite having solid lab results showing that Gibbs was under the influence of marijuana and heroin while driving, reduced the DUID charge to Careless Driving. She pled guilty and was fined \$350. The Improper Lane Usage was reduced to "Illegal parking with a \$150 fine. The drug charges were reduced to "Littering" with a \$225. Judge Dennis Smith went along with the plea deal. Gibbs had no probation period or drug rehab facing her. Chesterfield Justice prevailed...she paid fines for "Illegal Parking" and "Littering" and walked away from DUID and Drug Possession charges.

Katie Zurweller had decided on May 24, 2012 shortly before 2am to drive around a large "Road Closed" sign and several orange barrels across the road on Country Ridge Road west of Baxter Road. She then managed to high center her 2008 Chevrolet Aveo on a slab of concrete and a section of gravel.

Officer Laura Obermeyer on patrol spotted the car with the engine running and Zurweller behind the wheel and another female in the passenger seat. When Zurweller got out of the car her balance was unsure, she was speaking rapidly and her breath reeked of the smell of intoxicants.



Katie Zurweller

Zurweller denied having anything to drink and said she and the passenger were on their way home from Tani Sushi in Clayton. She said she drove past the "Road Closed" sign, the orange barrels in the road, onto the gravel, around construction equipment because her boyfriend has done it before.

After Zurweller failed a battery of field sobriety tests Officer Obermeyer arrested her for DWI and placed her in the police car. Officer Obermeyer reported that after the arrest Zurweller's behavior dramatically changed and she began to go from crying to be angry to yelling profanities and being argumentative.

Prior to towing her car a search was conducted and marijuana smoking devices were found.

At the police station Zurweller refused to take a breath test. She was booked for DWI and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and was released after posting a \$500 bond.

Four days prior to a year from the date of arrest, Zurweller appeared before St. Louis County Associate Circuit Judge Dennis Smith. She pled guilty to DWI and was placed on a 2-year Suspended Imposition of Sentence (no record) probation term. Tim Englemeyer reduced the drug charge to "littering" and Zurweller was fined \$450.

She left the courthouse with no points or violations on her driving record, despite driving while intoxicated, refusing to take a breath test, driving past "Road Closed" signs and driving off a paved road. Once again...Justice...Chesterfield style!

CHESTERFIELD PROSECUTOR AND JUDGE PLAY MAGICIANS AND MAKE DRUNK DRIVER CAUGHT AT DWI CHECKPOINT DISAPPEAR: On July 19, 2013 **Molly Benson, 29, a Chesterfield area teacher** with the Parkway School District living in O'Fallon Missouri was stopped at a Highway Patrol/St. Louis County PD and Chesterfield PD DWI checkpoint on I-64 at Boone's Crossing.





Molly Benson

On 1:45am on Friday night/Saturday morning July 20, 2013 Officer Stumpf contacted Molly Benson, who was driving a 2009 Honda Civic that was stopped at the checkpoint. Benson appeared to have been drinking and admitted that she had “a few drinks” with friends.

She failed field sobriety tests and was arrested. At the station a breath test showed her BAC level to be .138%.

She was cited for DWI and released on a bond.

Benson later appeared in Chesterfield City Court. City attorney Tim Englemeyer clearly did not want a DWI conviction to spoil his record of letting people off. He reduced to the charge to Careless and Impudent Driving. There was nothing in Officer Stumpf’s report that Benson did anything in a careless and impudent manner. However, he did establish that she was driving a car while drunk.

Of course Judge Rick “Let em Loose” Brunk had no problem with the deal. Benson pled guilty to a 2-point C&I violation and was fined \$500 including court costs.

DRIVER INVOLVED IN CRASH INTO WALL, CLAIMED WIFE HAD DROPPED HIM OFF: “Attention Wal Mart Shoppers...will the drunk driver who just crashed into our rear wall please meet the police officer by his truck.” Well that is what should have been said, but it wasn’t. However the store PA was used to catch a drunk driver.

On July 22, 2013 at about 12:43 in the afternoon several employees of the Jiffy Lube located at the rear of the Wal-Mart witnessed a driver of a Ford F-150 backing up and pulling forward and finally crashing into a wall. The driver got out of the truck drinking from a can of Budweiser. He looked at his truck and then walked into Wal Mart.

Officer Todd Lantz responded to the call and requested that the owner of the truck be paged by name. A few minutes later **Robert Edward Logsdon**, 59, of 232 Lehigh Meadows in Chesterfield appeared with a shopping cart.

Officer Lantz contacted Logsdon and explained there had been a reported accident. Officer Lantz reported that Logsdon claimed his wife had dropped him off. At which time Officer Lantz played the "witness card" and told Logsdon that there were numerous witnesses to the accident and to him leaving the truck drinking a beer. At that point Logsdon quit trying to transfer the blame to his wife and admitted he had been driving the truck. He also stated that he had "two beers" before the accident.



Chesterfield resident Robert Edward Logsdon

When asked why he didn't report the damage to WalMart's wall to someone at WalMart, Logsdon claimed he did and pointed to a Jiffy Lube employee. The employee denied this had occurred and several other employees supported his statement. Eventually a WalMart security video confirmed this as it recorded the accident and Logsdon walking away.

Logsdon then failed several field sobriety tests, was arrested and transported to the police station. A hour after the accident had occurred. Logsdon took a breath test that showed his BAC level to be .10%

Once city prosecutor Tim Englemeyer and Judge Rick "Let m' Loose" Brunk got through with Logsdon he didn't have a record of any of this. Apparently driving drunk through a crowded shopping center at noon is not a big deal to these guys.

On September 24, 2013 Logsdon pled guilty to DWI and was given a “no-record: Suspended Imposition of Sentence 2-year probation. He also was not fined, but did have to attend a DWI school and a victim’s impact session.

This is pretty good for a guy who left the scene of an accident and failed to report it and then tried to blame it on his wife. Once again Chesterfield Justice via Englemeyer and Brunk prevails.

THE THIEF...THREE YEARS AFTER THE CRIME: ON October 11, 2010 shortly after the Dillard’s store at Chesterfield Mall opened for the day a trio of thieves, one male and two females entered the store. Within a few minutes store security watched them conceal and exit the store with \$444 worth of designer women’s jeans. Security officers were unable to intercept them before they exited the store. However the video of the suspects were shared with police databases and other Dillard’s stores.

Six months later in April of 2011 Officer Obermeyer of the Chesterfield PD was contacted by a County Police assign assigned to South County. That officer identified the male thief from the Dillard theft at Chesterfield Mall as **Michael L. Williams**, 39, of North County.

On 09/18/11 a summons was issued to Williams for Stealing Under \$500.

It was almost two years before Williams was before Judge Brunk on in June of 2013. For some odd reason Williams’ attorney, Patrick Kilgore of Clayton moved the case that was in front of the easiest judge around...to the Circuit Court. On August 15, 2013 Williams pled guilty in front of Assoc. Circuit Judge Dennis Smith. At some point Williams had spent 10 days or longer in jail waiting to post bond or appear before Smith. Judge Smith accepted the plea and gave Smith, an active professional shoplifter hitting malls all over St. Louis County credit for time served and released him.

REMEMBER THIS GUY? This time he was high on drugs and backed into car at gas pumps: We wrote about **Alex Layton** in the Town and Country section of Part 1 of this newsletter. That time he was high on three different drugs including marijuana while he drove from Hampton Avenue in St. Louis west on I-64 on a front tire rim of his car. That offense occurred a month after he was convicted on this one.



Layton was at the Mobil on the Run gas station/convenience store/car wash at 17195 Chesterfield Airport Road on Saturday morning February 25, 2012 at 9:42am. He was inside the store the same time Sgt. Dunn of the Chesterfield Police Department was there.

Dunn watched Layton stagger and stumble out of the store and get into the driver's seat of a Chevrolet Blazer SUV. At that time Sgt. Dunn was contacted by off-duty Sgt. Weiss. Weiss told Dunn he had witnessed Layton back his Chevy Blazer into a vehicle at the gas pumps. Dunn then pulled behind Layton's Chevy and contacted him.

Dunn reported that he found Layton to be confused and disoriented.

Dunn doing what most good police sergeants would do, he called Patrolman Ken Quach to the scene and dumped the mess into his lap. Officer Quach also found Layton to be under the influence of something. He did not smell intoxicants and Layton said he had not been drinking.

Officer Quach asked Layton what day it was and what time it was. Layton responded that it was Thursday afternoon at 5pm. Quach asked Layton if he knew where he was. Layton said he did. He said he was in St. Charles.

Layton badly failed a number of field sobriety tests and was arrested for Driving While Intoxicated of Alcohol or Drugs.

At the police station Layton took a breath test that show no alcohol in his system. He agreed to give a urine sample.

That urine sample later tested positive for a high level of marijuana and Xanan (Benzodiazepines) in Layton's urine.

He had been cited for DWI, Improper Backing and No Proof of Insurance.

On September 10, 2012 prosecutor Englemeyer and Judge "Let m' Loose' Brunk worked their magic. Layton pled guilty to DWI, but was placed on a no-record Suspended Imposition of Sentence without a fine. He was required to make a donation to a police/firefighters' charity.

The moving violation of Improper Backing was reduced to "Illegal Parking" and he was fined \$225. The No Proof of Insurance Charge was dismissed.

A month later he was arrested for driving 10 miles on I-64 on just three tires while under the influence of drugs. He did not bother to report this probation violation to the Chesterfield Court. The court found out about it when I told them in December of 2013.

Brett Cervantes: We obtained court case information on three different arrests involving the son of the former mayor of St. Louis, A.J. Cervantes as part of this series. However the cases were so outrageous that we featured them in a stand alone piece that was in our November 7, 2013 Ex-Alderman Newsletter 103 and in our November 7 Unapproved Chesterfield Newsletter 49. The actual police reports can be accessed on our website.

http://www.johnhoffmann.net/ex_newsletter_103.pdf

http://www.johnhoffmann.net/chesterfield_49.pdf



Brett Cervantes

Chesterfield Mug Shot Town and Country Mug Shot

HOW TO FIX THE SYSTEM:

TRANSPARANCY: Elected officials of city councils and boards of aldermen are always talking about how they want to make local government “transparent.” Then they allow the municipal court in their city to hide DWI dispositions and make it very difficult for the public to monitor courts.

Chesterfield is very frustrating. You can go to court, but Judge Brunk calls up lawyers and defendants and whispers so they public has no idea what was being said. Then you go to the Court Clerk and asked to review random DWI court files since it is impossible to follow them in open court, only to have her refuse access and say she will only provide viewing of specific files.

Chesterfield and Town and Country along with most other municipalities need to join all the circuit and associate circuit courts plus a number of municipal courts in Missouri and put case files on Case.net which allows the public, lawyers and cops to follow court cases from beginning to need. If the system is good enough for the circuit court it ought to be good enough for the municipal courts, which technically fall under the circuit courts.

If the cities and towns in St. Louis County will not start making their dockets transparent, the Circuit Court needs to order them to do it and start posting their activity on case.net.

THE CITY COUNCIL REFUSES TO PROTECT RESIDENTS: By keeping Tim Englemeyer and Judge Brunk in office the Chesterfield City Council is completely failing to protect the health safety and welfare of the city’s residents. Only Nancy Greenwood earlier in 2013 voted against reappointing Englemeyer.



Nancy Greenwood

Englemeyer and Brunk offer to allow councilpersons to observe goings on at municipal court. Of course the councilpersons are not given a front row seat, because they would not be able to hear anything. No, instead they get to sit next to the judge so they can hear the whispering. Courts are not supposed to be like this. They are supposed to be open for public review.



MOTHERS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVERS: I keep writing this and maybe one day it might happen. MADD needs to quit handing out awards to cops for arresting drunk drivers and start seriously monitoring local courts and hand out awards to the good ones and hold press conferences about the bad ones. The cops seem to be doing a good job of finding drunk drivers. The courts are doing a terrible job of punishing and keeping them off the streets. There needs to be regular and consistent review of how our courts handle drunk driving cases.

CARTOONS:

No designated driver when out partying?





"The test calls for a pirouette, sir. Arabesques don't really tell us enough."

AllPosters



"That was a great job of crawling the white line.
Now let's try walking it."

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