

Rochester psychiatrist who drove into river also probed man's death

By [Phil Fairbanks](#) | News Staff Reporter on September 15, 2014 - 11:58 AM

William Lewek is a Rochester psychiatrist at the center of a bizarre case of a dead man found buried in his backyard.

Sunday morning, Lewek, 62, added a new twist to the story when his car went down an embankment and into the Niagara River off Grand Island.

Erie County Sheriff's deputies say Lewak, who is out on bail while facing charges, was traveling at an "unreasonable" speed when his car went down a 40-foot hill off East River Road just north of the South Grand Island Bridge.

Authorities say the car stopped before entering the water but Lewek got out and reportedly walked into the river.

The psychiatrist is facing criminal charges in Rochester that center around the discovery of the dead body of Matthew Straton in his back yard. He allegedly told police that Straton, 32, died in his home.

Rescuers credited fisherman Bill Bender of Amherst, who spotted Lewek from his boat and called 911, while two others went to Lewek's aid. Lewek was taken to Erie County Medical Center, where he was in stable condition, officials said.

The investigation is continuing.