

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARIJUANA AND STOLEN ATV SEIZED

On 10/01/09, the Marion County Sheriff's Office received a tip of possible drug activity in and around the Village of Martel. Detectives with the MARMET-METRICH Drug Task Force responded to the area to investigate the tip. The investigation led detectives to two addresses, 3946 ½ South Drive, Martel and 7575 Linn Hipsher Road, Caledonia, Ohio.

Detectives located one marijuana plant at the residence on South Drive. Detectives then located six additional marijuana plants at the residence on Linn Hipsher Road. Also located at the residence on Linn Hipsher Road was an ATV believed to be stolen out of Montgomery County, Ohio.

Detectives searched a corn field in Morrow County where it was reported there may be additional marijuana plants growing but none were located on this date. The Morrow County Sheriff's Office reported finding approximately ninety marijuana plants in this same area in the past few weeks.

The MARMET-METRICH Drug Task Force was assisted by additional deputies of the Marion County Sheriff's Office. The investigation is ongoing regarding the stolen ATV. Charges of Possession of Marijuana will be submitted to the Law Director's Office on 31 year old Carl Phillips of 3946 ½ South Drive Martel, Ohio. Charges of Receiving Stolen Property and Possession of Marijuana will be submitted to the Marion County Prosecutor's Office on 27 year old Chris Lawhun of 7575 Linn Hipsher Rd.

METRICH is a ten county decentralized task force in North Central Ohio whose mission is to improve the quality of life for the citizens we serve by reducing the availability of illegal drugs and weapons through proactive enforcement efforts. The success of METRICH is a tribute to the cooperation and support within the Law Enforcement Community in the METRICH region and to those citizens who have chosen to improve the quality of life in their communities by assisting METRICH in reporting suspicious activity and valuable information.

**Citizens may report suspicious activity to the crime hot lines at:
1-800-589-DARE and www.METRICH.com**

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