

# PRESS RELEASE

**METRICH Enforcement Unit**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **METRICH DRUG UNIT ENDS 12 (MONTH) DRUG “STING” OPERATION**

On Monday, December 21, 2009, the Seneca County Drug Task Force METRICH Enforcement Unit, consisting of the Fostoria Police Department, Tiffin Police Department, Seneca County Sheriff’s Office, the Seneca County Prosecutor’s Office, along with additional Officers from the Fostoria Police Department, Seneca County Sheriff’s Office and Tiffin Police Department, executed arrest warrants on numerous drug traffickers throughout Seneca County, Ohio.

The Seneca County Drug Task Force METRICH Enforcement Unit had concluded a twelve month drug investigation resulting with the Seneca County Grand Jury issuing multiple count drug trafficking and drug possession indictments on approximately seventeen suspects throughout Seneca County, Ohio.

Officers and agents from various Law Enforcement Agencies spent Monday tracking down some of the drug suspects throughout Seneca County. Eleven of the seventeen suspects were apprehended and are presently incarcerated at the Seneca and Wood County Jails waiting further prosecution.

The investigation involved the sales of heroin, marihuana, cocaine, Ecstasy and prescription medication throughout Seneca County, Ohio. Several of the indictments also included specifications of some of the sales being conducted within 100 feet of juveniles and in the vicinity of area schools.

“This is the conclusion of just one of several open investigations that our unit is presently working on and there are still several suspects who still remain at large.....Det. Matt D. Armstrong, Fostoria Police Department/Seneca County Drug Task Force said.”

“Our county has been seeing an increase in pharmaceutical and heroin related deaths amongst our younger population, this is the first stages of an ongoing investigation addressing some of the persons responsible for distributing drugs, including prescription

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](http://www.METRICH.com)**

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drugs, throughout our county. Our unit will continue with these investigations to also address the persons involved in irresponsibly dispensing prescription drugs in our community, as well.....Det. Charles W. Boyer, Unit Coordinator.”

Arrested were:

Robert Ward.....42 YOA (Fostoria, Ohio)  
Robert Bauman.....46 YOA (Fostoria, Ohio)  
Amy Blackford.....38 YOA (Fostoria, Ohio)  
Jessica Dyer.....24 YOA (Fostoria, Ohio)  
Claude Reed.....29 YOA (Fostoria, Ohio)  
Richard Soals.....63 YOA (Fostoria, Ohio)  
Brenda Baxter.....52 YOA (Fostoria, Ohio)  
Marquis Smith.....34 YOA (Toledo, Ohio)  
Donna Jones.....50 YOA (Attica, Ohio)  
Pete Haslinger.....34 YOA (Tiffin, Ohio)  
David Stults.....30 YOA (Tiffin, Ohio)

“This is just a small portion of what we have been seeing throughout the county involving prescription drug abuse and other related drugs. It’s simple, you sell your prescription drugs, you go to jail, period.....Det. Donald R. Joseph, Seneca County Sheriff’s Office/Seneca County Drug Task Force – METRICH.”

“I would like to commend our local drug unit’s efforts who were all instrumental in this investigation and it’s great to continue to see the accomplishments resulting from the relationship between the Task Force Agents and local Law Enforcement”, Captain Bill Echelberry (Seneca County Sheriff’s Office) said.

Seneca County, OH, December 21 2009....CWB

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