

Sweep nets 17 drug suspects

Authorities located and arrested 17 people on felony indictments for drug trafficking and other felony charges Thursday.

The METRICH Enforcement Unit had 16 people under indictment -- nine in Mansfield, six in Shelby and one in Crestline -- and were able to round up all but two with the help of the Richland County division of the Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force, ASORT and Mansfield, Ashland and Shelby police departments.

"They did an outstanding job," METRICH Commander Lt. Ken Coontz said.

METRICH also searched a residence at 341 S. Main St. which had been part of a three-week investigation stemming from citizen complaints to city police. Authorities found drug paraphernalia, stolen items and evidence of trafficking. Charges are pending in that incident, according to a press release.

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