

# News Release

METRICH Enforcement Unit  
30 North Diamond Street  
Mansfield, Ohio 44902

Chief Jason Bammann  
Project Director



**For Immediate Release**

**No # 4**

**Date: 04/03/2026**

**Contact: Lt. Steve Blust**  
(419) 755-9677 Fax:(419) 522-7546

**Subject: METRICH Bridge Operation**

On April 1, 2026, the METRICH Enforcement Unit along with the Mansfield Police Department, Richland County Sheriff Office, Bellville Police Department & the Ohio State Highway Patrol partnered with the Richland County Prosecutors office, Catalyst Life Services, Richland County Mental Health & Recovery & Recovery Ohio.

The goal of this initiative was to saturate areas within Richland County with Law Enforcement to interdict criminal activity and enhance safety. To focus on high volume traffic stops in areas of reported drug activity while having resources readily available to assist if someone is encountered who is suffering from substance use disorder.

METRICH Lt. Steve Blust advised that the operation was a success and thanked the area Law Enforcement agencies that participated and all the other collaborating agencies that assisted. Similar events were conducted throughout the various jurisdictions within the METRICH region as well.

METRICH Lt. Steve Blust stated the collaboration between the Richland County law enforcement agencies and the METRICH Enforcement Unit continues to have a positive impact on removing illegal drugs coming into the Richland County communities, while getting the proper help to those in need.

The METRICH Enforcement Unit encourages citizens to continue to be proactive by reporting suspected drug activity. Citizens can call the METRICH Crime Tip Hotline at 419-52-CRIME (419-522-7463) or the Task Force line at 419-755-9728 & METRICH App

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:  
419-522-7463 and [www.METRICH.com](http://www.METRICH.com)**





## Drug Interdiction with Prevention/Treatment Outreach Event

Interdiction	Total
Traffic Stops Initiated	132
Citations Issued	26
Felony Arrest (Non-Drug Related)	0
Felony Arrest (Drug Related)	4
Misdemeanor Arrest (Non-Drug Related)	6
Misdemeanor Arrest (Drug Related)	4
Search Warrants	0
Cases (Drug Related)	4
Cases (Non-Drug Related)	6
Guns Seized	0
Warrants	12
QRT Contacts	6
Connected to Treatment	6
Narcan Distributed	4
Devices Examined	0
Search Authorization	10

Drugs Seized	Grams/Unit Dose
Methamphetamine	8
Marijuana Thc oil (24gms)	116
Fentanyl	1
Cocaine	3
Crack	2
Heroin	
RX Pills	
Counterfeit Pills	

Outreach	Amount
Outreach Referrals	4

**Highlights:** April 1,2026 (Richland County)

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