

## Drugs and guns focus of six local search warrants in 3 days

### Lexington, Mansfield sites lead to seizures, arrests

By MARK CAUDILL  
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MANSFIELD -- Drugs and guns were the subjects of six search warrants served by local authorities in three days.

The city police department's Major Crimes Unit performed two searches Wednesday and two more Thursday, while the METRICH Enforcement Unit served one warrant each Thursday and Friday.

"We had some planned. They had some planned," METRICH Commander Lt. Dino Sgambellone said. "Increasingly, you're going to find that the police are going to focus on gun-related crime to reduce violence in the community."

Police Capt. Michele Webb said Detective Eric Bosko was behind search warrants served simultaneously Wednesday at 80 Greenwood Ave. and 23 W. Main St. in Lexington.

At the Greenwood Avenue residence, police seized 147 grams of suspected crack cocaine and arrested Herbert Taylor, 39, of the address, for felony heroin trafficking. He reportedly had 12 bindles of heroin hidden in his groin area.

"We did not locate the weapon we were actually looking for," Webb said.

A search warrant the next day at 886 Springmill St. turned up 92 stolen items, including a shotgun. Charges are pending.

Also Thursday, police returned to 569 McPherson St., where Joshua Baker, 22, had accidentally shot himself in the thigh with a sawed-off shotgun Monday morning. At that time, police recovered suspected heroin and several needles. When they went back with a search warrant, they seized spoons with residue, syringes and magazines, but no weapons.

METRICH hit the residence at 530 Bailey Drive with its first search warrant Thursday.

"The occupant was not home, but we recovered what appears to be a stolen gun, suspected cocaine, drug paraphernalia and stolen financial documents," Sgambellone said.

A Friday raid at 20 W. Williams Ave. produced a .45-caliber gun reported stolen in 2004. Fred Manns Jr., 32, was arrested for felony receiving stolen property.

Webb admitted authorities don't often serve so many search warrants in such close proximity.

"We're always in contact with METRICH," she said. "This kind of fell into place. It's pretty unusual."

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