



## Office of Ross County Sheriff

**GEORGE W. LAVENDER, JR., SHERIFF**

ROSS COUNTY-CHILLICOTHE  
LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER  
28 NORTH PAINT STREET  
CHILLICOTHE, OHIO 45601

**Emergency.....911**  
Service Calls.....773-1185  
Civil Division & Records..773-1186  
Sheriff .....773-1186  
Jail & Jail Records .....773-1187  
Detective Bureau .....773-1188  
Fax .....(740) 773-1248

## News Release

06/14/2013

**Sheriff Lavender reports that his office was dispatched to Chestnut Street in Adelphi on 06/13/2013 at approximately 6:30 p.m. in reference to a welfare check on 51 year old Bernie Rossiter of Chestnut Street. The concerned neighbor said they feared Mr. Rossiter might be being abused. The neighbor also said they were suspicious of drug activity in the residence.**

**Deputies arrived at the residence and made contact with Mr. Rossiter. Mr. Rossiter claimed that he was fine and showed no signs of physical abuse. While at the residence conducting the welfare check deputies detected a strong chemical odor coming from the residence and saw materials inside the residence consistent with the manufacture of methamphetamines.**

**At this time deputies secured the scene and contacted the U.S. 23 Major Crimes Task Force. A search warrant was obtained for the residence.**

**The Ross County Sheriff's Office and agents from the Task Force executed the warrant and were able to collect several pieces of evidence to be processed and sent to B.C.I.&I for laboratory testing.**

**Colerain Township Volunteer Fire Department was on the scene and assisted with clean up and disposal.**

**Mr. Rossiter was arrested and charged with Permitting Drug Abuse along with 35 year old Michael D. Gierhart of Laurelville who was at the residence during the search warrant. Mr. Gierhart was found to be in possession of a Controlled Substance and charged with such. Both were transported to the Ross County Jail pending their arraignment.**

**Additional charges are pending lab results in this incident.**

**Sheriff Lavender would like to recognize the efforts of the neighbors in the area as well as his deputy who was the first responder on the scene who made the discovery of the drug activity possible.**

**Sheriff Lavender also wants to thank all of the agencies involved in the search and cleanup of the scene for their continued cooperation and efforts to keep the community safer.**

**Sheriff Lavender continues to encourage neighbors to report any suspicious activity to the Sheriff's Office at 740-773-1185 or Southern Ohio Crime Stoppers at 740.773.TIPS (local) or 1-800-222-TIPS**