



Press Release

Lake County Sheriff's Office
www.sheriffdunlap.org

Daniel A. Dunlap
Sheriff

Press Release
December 8, 2010
Pharmaceutical Disposal

The Lake County Sheriff's Office has joined hands with the Lake County Health District, the Mentor Police Department, the Willoughby Hills Police Department, Lakeland Community College Police, and the Madison Township Police Department as a collection site where residents can bring their unwanted and expired prescriptions, cold/flu medications, pain relievers, pet medications, vitamins, creams, cough syrups, pills and prescription pain killers for safe disposal.

This joint effort is an attempt to address many concerns we all have with unused prescription and non-prescription medications in our homes. Today almost 7 million Americans are abusing controlled substances, a number far greater than those abusing illegal drugs such as cocaine and heroin. Prescription pain relievers are the new drug of choice vs marijuana, and facts make it clear that pain killers cause more overdose deaths than cocaine. Alarming is the fact that 1 in 10 high school seniors are abusing prescription pain killers. By removing these from our medicine cabinets we will reduce drug abuse and accidental misuse.

Why not flush them down the toilet as we were once told to do? Both prescription and non-prescription drugs are being found in our rivers, streams and ground water. They are contaminating our water supplies. Further, our waste water treatment plants and septic systems are not designed to remove such contaminants. We can reduce this exposure by taking our unused medications to the drop off centers at area law enforcement locations for their safe disposal and destruction.

To help maintain your privacy residents should remove or black out the personal information on pharmacy labels and leave the medicines in the original package or container. Residents are advised that absolutely no needles or syringes are permitted in these bins.

You can easily drop off your unused medications at the Lake County Sheriff's Office by pulling up in the space out front of our Office at 104 East Erie Street, in

Lake County Sheriff's Office 104 East Erie Street Painesville, Ohio 44077
Phone: 440.350.5517 Fax: 440.350.5590

Painesville, walking into our front lobby just steps away, and on your right side as you enter the lobby you will see the pharmaceutical drop box. Place the unused medications in the box and your work is done ... and it will take only a few moments to accomplish your work. You will note that the space out front has a sign that states for "Patrol Car Parking Only". However, for those dropping off unused medications we will permit your vehicle to park here to make it as easy as possible for you to participate in this program since it only takes a few minutes.

The Health District website states "The disposal hours for all the locations are convenient being Monday through Friday 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Saturday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Sunday from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM, the only exception is that there are no Sunday hours at Lakeland. Below is a list of all drop-off locations.

- Lake County Sheriff's Office
104 East Erie St. Painesville
- Mentor Police Department
8500 Civic Center Blvd. Mentor
- Willoughby Hills Police Department
35405 Chardon Rd. Willoughby Hills
- Madison Township Police Department
2065 Hubbard Rd. Madison
- Lakeland Community College Police Department
7700 Clocktower Dr., Building A, lower level Kirtland

You can reference more information on Drug Disposal at the General health District website at <http://www.lcghd.org/formattedtext.asp?IncludedPageID=14964>.

Daniel A. Dunlap
Sheriff of Lake County