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Orland Park Police Collecting No Longer Needed Rx and OTC Medications



The Village of Orland Park Police Department is again coordinating a cooperative effort with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to support the National Prescription Take-Back Initiative on Saturday, September 26, 2015.

The public is invited to turn in expired, unwanted or unused pharmaceutical controlled substances and over the counter medications to law enforcement officers for destruction.

These unused drugs are a potential source of supply for illegal consumption and pose an unacceptable risk to public health and safety. This effort will also bring

national focus to the issue of pharmaceutical controlled substance abuse.

"The Village of Orland Park is glad to participate in the well-publicized national take back twice a year, giving people more reminders to go through their medicine cabinets to get rid of what they don't need," said Orland Park Mayor Dan McLaughlin. "We have a great response each time we collect and this program ensures the safe disposal of prescription drugs, preventing them from getting into the wrong hands."

On Saturday, September 26, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., area residents may bring no longer needed prescription drugs to the Orland Park Police Station, 15100 South Ravinia Avenue. The confidential and anonymous service is free of charge.

Syringes, sharps, needles, glass containers, any type of liquids or illegal drugs will not be accepted.

"This public service helps residents keep their medicine cabinets safe," said Trustee Dan Calandriello, chair of the village's Public Safety Committee. "Residents can turn in the drugs they no longer need and have peace of mind that they're out of their homes and will be safely disposed of."

According to the 2010 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, "Americans currently abuse prescription drugs more than the number of those using cocaine, hallucinogens, heroin, and inhalants combined." In a published article on January 13, 2012, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has identified prescription drug abuse as the fastest growing drug problem in the United States. Since 2003, more overdose deaths have involved prescription drugs than heroin and cocaine combined.

"The Village of Orland Park has been on the forefront of battling illegal drug use within the community and the region," said Police Chief Tim McCarthy. "We invite and encourage everyone to clean out their medicine cabinets and get rid of unneeded drugs," the chief said.

The DEA reports that more than four million pounds or more than two thousand tons of prescription medications have been removed from circulation since its National Take Back Days began.

The Orland Park Police Department's ongoing collection enables residents to turn in unwanted prescription medications at the Orland Park Police Station, 15100 South Ravinia Avenue, Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Medications are not accepted at the police station on holidays. Liquid drugs, aerosol medications and hypodermic needles and syringes are not accepted. There is no charge to participate and all disposals are confidential and anonymous.

Instructions for how to safely dispose of sharps or syringes are available by calling Waste Management at 1-800-796-9696.

The Orland Park Police Department will continue its week day collection and will continue to participate in the national drug take back days, held nationwide twice a year. For more information, call 708-349-4111.