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## Letter: Dispose of prescription drugs safely

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By: **Tim Sletten, Red Wing**, The Republican Eagle

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To the Editor:

On Saturday, the Red Wing Police Department in collaboration with the Chemical Health Initiative of Goodhue County and other local law enforcement will participate in the National Prescription Drug Take Back Initiative.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the RWPDP will play host to a prescription drug turn-in program at the Goodhue County Law Enforcement Center, 430 W. Sixth St.

We will be collecting potentially dangerous expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs for destruction. Syringes and needles will not be accepted. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

The initiative has two main goals.

The first is to reduce the potential for the abuse of prescription medicines.

Many people are not aware that medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to theft, misuse and abuse.

Rates of prescription drug abuse in the United States are increasing at alarming rates, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet.

The second goal is to reduce the toxicity of waste entering our country's waterways and the amount of medical waste entering our country's landfills.

Many people just do not know how to properly dispose of their unused medicine, often flushing them down the toilet or throwing them away —both potential safety and health hazards.

As we launch this Prescription Drug Take Back campaign we will provide a safe way for Goodhue County residents to dispose of their unwanted prescription drugs while eliminating a major source of abused prescription drugs, and reducing the hazard they pose to our families and community in a safe, legal, and environmentally sound way.

For further information, contact me at 651-267-2610 or the Chemical Health Initiative at 651-385-3307, or visit [www.chi-goodhue.org](http://www.chi-goodhue.org).

Tim Sletten

Red Wing

Tim Sletten is Red Wing chief of police.