



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Law Enforcement to Participate in Prescription Drug National "Take-Back" Initiative Collection on Saturday, October 29th, 2011

The Chemical Health Initiative of Goodhue County is pleased to announce local law enforcement participation in the upcoming Drug Enforcement Agency's (DEA) National "Take Back" Initiative Prescription Drug Collection Program. Police Departments from Red Wing, Cannon Falls, Zumbrota, and Lake City will each host a collection site that seeks to prevent increased prescription and over-the-counter medication abuse and theft by collecting unused, unneeded, or expired prescription drugs. There is no cost for the service, which is part of a national day to recognize the importance of keeping unused medication out of the hand of children and drug dealers, and to protect the environment.

This national event will take place on Saturday, October 29th, 2011, from 10 am until 2 pm at the following Goodhue County collection site locations:

Red Wing

Goodhue County Law Enforcement Center/Red Wing Police Department, 430 W. 6th Street, Red Wing, MN 55066

Hosted by the Red Wing Police Department

Cannon Falls

Cannon Falls Police Department, 918 River Road, Cannon Falls, MN 55009

Hosted by the Cannon Falls Police Department

Kenyon

Kenyon Police Department, 713 2nd Street, Kenyon, MN 55946

Hosted by the Kenyon Police Department

Goodhue

Goodhue City Hall, 405 North Broadway Street, Goodhue, MN 55027

Hosted by the Goodhue Police Department

Zumbrota

City Hall Police Department Lobby, 50 W. 2nd Street, Zumbrota, MN 55992

Hosted by the Zumbrota Police Department

Lake City

Collections at this site will be accepted from 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Police Department Lobby, 209 S. High Street, Lake City, MN 55041

Hosted by the Lake City Police Department

The DEA, in conjunction with state and local law enforcement agencies throughout the United States, conducted National Prescription Drug Take Back Days on Saturday, September 25, 2010 and April 25, 2011. This effort was a huge success in removing potentially dangerous prescription drugs, particularly controlled substances, from our nation's medicine cabinets. There were approximately 4,000 state and local law enforcement agencies throughout the nation that

participated in the event. All told, the American Public turned in more than 309 tons of pills, with Goodhue County collecting nearly 200 pounds of pills.

The National Take Back Initiative Day will provide a unified opportunity for the public to surrender expired, unwanted, or unused pharmaceutical substances and other medications to law enforcement officers for destruction since these substances in homes are a potential source that fuels drug abuse and are a risk to public health and safety. Everyone is encouraged to support the initiative and participate with local law enforcement in hosting this effort. Clean out those medicine cabinets. Controlled, non-controlled, and over-the-counter substances may be collected. No questions or requests for identification will be made. Participants may dispose of medication in its original container. All solid dosage pharmaceutical product and liquids in consumer containers will also be accepted. Liquid products, such as cough syrup, should remain sealed in their original container. Intra-venous solutions, injectibles, and syringes will NOT be accepted due to potential hazard posed by blood-borne pathogens.

Prescription drug abuse in the United States is increasing at an alarming rate. A majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, many do not know how to properly dispose their unused medicines, often discarding them in the trash or flushing them down the toilet-both potential safety and health hazards. This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue.

For more information about this initiative, call 651-385-6174 or 800-950-2142 or visit www.chi-goodhue.org. Information about the collection sites can be found on this website under "Collection Sites" as well as information on items that will NOT be accepted.

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