

NEWS

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RELEASE

For Immediate Release – October 18, 2011 at 10:00a.m.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN ONEIDA COUNTY ARE TAKING BACK UNWANTED PRESCRIPTION DRUGS OCTOBER 29, 2011 AT SEVERAL AREA LOCATIONS

[Oneida County, WI] – On October 29, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Three Lakes Police Department, the Rhinelander Police Department, the Minocqua Police Department and the Oneida County Sheriff's Office in conjunction with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public another opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your medications for disposal to one of the following sites between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.:

Rhinelander Police Department
Three Lakes Town Hall
Nokomis Town Hall

Minocqua Police Department will also be sponsoring a collection site at the Marshfield Clinic entrance from 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For information, please contact the Minocqua Police Department.

LIQUIDS, INJECTABLES, AND CANCER MEDICATIONS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED.

The service is free and anonymous; no questions asked.

This is the Third National Take Back Initiative. The previous two collection efforts resulted in numerous drugs being destroyed. In April 2011, there were 142 collection sites and 124 agencies participated including the Rhinelander Police Department, the Oneida County Sheriff's Office, the Three Lakes Police Department and the Minocqua Police Department.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, 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. In addition, Americans are now

advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—both pose potential safety and health hazards.

If you have any questions, please contact Detective Smoczyk (Oneida County Sheriff's Office), Detective Pudlowski (Rhinelanders Police Department) or Chief Lea (Three Lakes Police Department).

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