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County Executive



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WAUKESHA COUNTY TO HOLD PRESCRIPTION DRUG COLLECTION THIS SATURDAY

WAUKESHA, Wis. –Waukesha County will be holding a prescription drug collection this Saturday, April 26, 2014 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The collection, which is the sixth for the Waukesha County Drug Free Communities (DFC) Coalition, is an effort to prevent prescription drug abuse and accidental poisonings in Waukesha County as well as help protect local waterways.

In recent years, Waukesha County’s Metro Drug Unit has seen an increase in the number of teenagers abusing prescribed pharmaceuticals.

“The high that individuals get from the prescription drugs are similar to that of Heroin making it a direct gateway to that drug,” said Captain Frank McElderry, Commander of the Waukesha County Metro Drug Unit. “Many people don’t understand the dangers of using the prescription drugs recreationally, believing that the drugs are safe and not addictive because they are prescribed by a doctor.”

McElderry said that removing the unused and unwanted drugs from your home is an important first step in preventing abuse.

“Educating the teenagers and their parents is very important,” McElderry said. “Unfortunately, most parents are either unaware or in denial about their teenager’s vulnerability and exposure to the intentional abuse of prescribed medicines. The prescription drug collection program is an important and proactive step to prevent future abuse.”

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“Waukesha County Prescription Drug Collection,” continued ...

Eight sites countywide have been designated for the collection on Saturday:

- Brookfield:** Brookfield Recycling Center
- Menomonee Falls:** Community Memorial Hospital
- Mukwonago:** D.N. Greenwald Center
- Muskego:** Muskego Police Department
- New Berlin:** Moorland Reserve Health Center
- Oconomowoc:** Oconomowoc Memorial Hospital
- Pewaukee:** Waukesha County Technical College
- Waukesha:** Waukesha State Bank, Downtown Office

Residents are encouraged to bring their unwanted and unused medications, in their original containers, to any one of the eight locations on Saturday. Prescription medications, over the counter medications, ointments, sprays, inhalers, creams, vials, herbals and pet medications will all be accepted by pharmacists on the day of the event. Residents are asked not to bring biohazardous material, sharps, mercury, personal hygiene products and household hazardous waste.

The program is free-of-charge due to a partnership with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) ProHealth Care and donations from community organizations, businesses and individuals. If you would like to join us in this effort and make a donation to the program, please contact Joe Muchka at jmuchka@arcouncil.net.

For more information on the Waukesha County collection, including addresses and directions for the locations, Waukesha County residents are encouraged to visit www.waukeshacounty.gov/drugcollection.

The DFC program is a federal effort to reduce youth substance use and abuse of drugs and alcohol. The coalition represents a number of partnering agencies including schools, healthcare professionals, law enforcement, media, parents, youth, state and local agencies and civic and volunteer groups. For more information on the coalition visit www.waukeshacounty.gov/dfc.

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