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News media calls to David Hass at (630) 682-7979, ext. 7374.

RxBOX allows DuPage County residents to properly dispose of expired and unused prescription drugs

DuPage County residents are now able to properly dispose of expired or unused prescription drugs by dropping them off in permanent prescription collection boxes within police departments in numerous DuPage County communities.

The program is called RxBox and has already been started in some communities.

Participating communities and their police departments include Addison, Bloomingdale, Burr Ridge, Carol Stream, DuPage County Sheriff, Glendale Heights, Lemont, Lisle, Oak Brook, Schaumburg, Wheaton and Wood Dale. Naperville will continue its own medication collection program through its household hazardous waste collection facility.

There is no charge to drop off your prescription drugs. Residents may drop off medications at any participating police department.

“DuPage County residents may not be aware that improperly disposing of prescription or over-the-counter drugs, such as dumping them down a drain or flushing them down a toilet, contributes to pharmaceuticals being found in water supplies or waterways,” said Robert J. Schillerstrom, chairman of the DuPage County Board.

“This disposal campaign will help save our water and land,” Schillerstrom added.

“The easiest place for youth to acquire drugs is in the medicine cabinets of their own homes,” said DuPage County Sheriff John Zaruba. He continued, “Pharmaceuticals are the most abused, misappropriated, stolen drugs and our goal is to dispose of them properly so that they stay out of the hands of our children.”

“The water supplies in DuPage County communities are safe and meet or exceed all safety standards as established by state and federal Environmental Protection Agencies,” said Linda Kurzawa (District 6), President of the DuPage County Board of Health.

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Jeff Redick (District 2), Chairman of the County Board Environmental Committee, said, “This new prescription disposal program is intended to reduce any pharmaceutical threat to water supplies or waterways.”

The prescription drugs will be periodically removed from the drop boxes and transported for safe incineration as part of a program provided by the state EPA.

Photo caption

DuPage County Board Chairman Robert J. Schillerstrom, center, and DuPage County Sheriff John Zaruba, right, examine the new RxBOX in the lobby of the sheriff’s administration building in Wheaton. Unused and unneeded medications may be dropped off there or in 12 other DuPage County locations. At left is County Board member Linda Kurzawa (District 6), President of the DuPage County Board of Health.

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