



NEWAYGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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MEDIA RELEASE:

October 20, 2011

The Newaygo County Sheriff's Office, and Prosecuting Attorney's Office is pleased to announce the implementation of a "prescription drop off program" in the County. The program was started by the Drug Enforcement Agency which holds a one day event each year nationwide. With two such events nationwide they have collected more than 309 tons of unused pills. The program in Newaygo County will allow for residents to drop off prescription drugs 24/7 at the Sheriff's Office, Newaygo Police Department, White Cloud Police Department, Grant Police Department, Fremont Police Department, and Hesperia Police Department. The boxes will be installed this week in all agencies with the projected start date of October 29th.

The purpose behind this program is to remove harmful prescriptions from homes and prevent drug abuse and the risk of accidental overdose or theft. Another benefit is to prevent these prescriptions from being disposed of in ways that can harm our water systems. The best way to dispose of these medications is to have them dropped of at a secure site and then have them incinerated.

Due to many prescriptions being controlled substances, the collection, transport and disposal of these drugs must be done by law enforcement. The Police departments are asked to house a secure disposal box in their facilities where the public can drop off controlled substances. These drugs are taken without property receipts or any other questions. Prescription bottles can be blackened out, or the labels removed for confidentiality. The program is not designed for collection of materials from medical offices, health care agencies etc., (no needles or IV bags). This is for residential material only and Medical waste cannot be accepted through this program. The steel type box allows for citizens to place the medications in the drop box without being able to get them back out (similar to a mailbox). Once the box is full, the Sheriff's Office will dispose of the drugs in the same way we typically dispose of illegal drugs.

Any questions about this program can be directed to Deputy Phil Green, or Lt. Chad Palmiter at 231-689-7303.

Chad E. Palmiter, Lieutenant

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide leadership for our community, to prevent unlawful activity, ensure individual rights, and promote a safe and secure environment.
Help a kid say NO to drugs!