



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Valerie Lough
P: 937-324-7300
E: vlough@springfieldohio.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Drug Take-Back Day Set for Oct. 26

SPRINGFIELD, OH (Oct. 2, 2019) — A Drug Take-Back Day is scheduled this month, and officials will be on hand to collect outdated and unused medications for safe disposal, no questions asked. The Springfield Police Division and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration will sponsor the effort to collect medications at the police sub-station located at 17 W. Johnny Lytle Ave. from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, October 26.

It will be the 18th time in nine years that the initiative to prevent pill abuse and theft will be carried out.

“This is a safe way to dispose of expired, unused and unwanted medications,” said Sgt. Tom Selner, Springfield Police Division. “Medications should never be thrown in the trash or flushed down the toilet. After medications are collected during Drug Take-Back Day, they will be properly destroyed.”

Last fall Americans turned in nearly 460 tons (more than 900,000 pounds) of prescription drugs at more than 5,800 sites operated by the DEA and almost 4,800 of its state and local law enforcement partners. Overall, in its 16 previous Take Back events, DEA and its partners have taken in almost 11 million pounds—nearly 5,500 tons—of pills.

The 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. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s National Survey on Drug Use and Health shows year after year that the majority of misused and abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including someone else’s medication being stolen 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.