



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SHERIFF'S OFFICE PARTNERS TO HOLD UNWANTED DRUG DROP OFF

[Lancaster, Ohio, May 10, 2010] Fairfield County Sheriff Dave Phalen advises that the Sheriff's Office, in cooperation with the Fairfield County Soil and Water Conservation District, is planning a Prescription Drug Collection Opportunity. In an effort to curtail the existing drug problems and some of the resulting water quality issues currently facing Fairfield County, the Sheriff's Office is partnering with the Soil and Water Conservation District, Lancaster Fairfield County Litter Prevention and Recycling, and Violet Township. The event will be held at the Violet Township Garage located at 490 N. Center St., Pickerington, OH on May 15, 2010 beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 12:00 noon.

This drug collection will give residents the opportunity to safely dispose of their outdated or no longer needed prescription medications, either their own personal medications or those of others. "This is an opportunity for our residents to safely dispose of unwanted or illegal drugs," stated Sheriff Phalen.

Pharmaceuticals are now being considered as possible candidates to be listed as contaminants when water quality checks are completed for local water supplies. According to Tony Vogel, Fairfield County Utilities Director, "This is because conventional water treatment does not remove drugs, hormones, etc. from water." Also, many opiate based medications are finding their way into the wrong hands. This is causing negative health circumstances to occur to those who take them. It also has led to an increase in crime in the county, especially burglaries.

Materials being accepted at our collection include prescription pills, capsules, liquids, creams, gels, ointments, patches, suppositories, powders, syringes, and IVs. No aerosol or inhalers will be accepted. We ask that you black out the name on the bottle or remove the label before dropping off any materials. If you discover other medication or other "street drugs" and are not sure of the origin, you may dispose of them with no questions asked.