

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEDALIA POLICE, BOTHWELL PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY

Operation Medicine Cabinet scheduled for April 30

SEDALIA, MO – It's time for a spring cleaning of those medicine cabinets.

Bothwell Regional Health Center and the Sedalia Police Department are joining forces again for Operation Medicine Cabinet, to be held in conjunction with the Drug Enforcement Agency's National Drug Take-Back Day on April 30.

Operation Medicine Cabinet gives the public an opportunity to properly dispose of old or unused medications. The medications will be collected from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 30, at the Bothwell Education Center, East 14th Street and South Ingram Avenue.

Individuals can drop off their unused prescription or over-the-counter medications for proper destruction by the DEA. The goals of Operation Medicine Cabinet are to get unused medications off the streets, away from those who may abuse them, and to provide an environmentally safe way to dispose of the drugs.

"We are happy to partner with Bothwell on a third Operation Medicine Cabinet to coincide with the DEA's national event," said interim Sedalia Police Chief Larry Ward. "A national study has shown more than 7 million Americans abuse prescription drugs, and they are getting a majority of those drugs from family and friends, including the home medicine cabinet. Opportunities such as this can limit access locally to those drugs."

Improper disposal of medications by throwing them in the garbage or washing them down a drain can lead to contamination of drinking water. A 2008 Associated Press investigation revealed traces of pharmaceuticals in the drinking water supply of 41 million Americans.

"We continue to receive inquiries from the public about the medication collection," said Bothwell Community Outreach Coordinator Sarah Nail. "This event is about providing a service to the community."

Bothwell and the Police Department have hosted two previous collection events which resulted in the removal of more than 500 pounds of medications from households throughout Pettis County. The DEA's first nationwide take-back day in September resulted in the collection of 121 tons of prescription drugs at nearly 4,100 sites.

Operation Medicine Cabinet is for personal prescriptions, not for the collection of commercial quantities. Medications dropped off at the collection event should be in their original packages when possible. The Sedalia Police Department maintains custody of all medications collected.

Call 827-9138 for more information.

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