

Sheriff



Larry Ashley, Okaloosa County Sheriff

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PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK INITIATIVE HUGE SUCCESS

More than 161 pounds of unused, expired, and unwanted prescription drugs were turned in in Okaloosa County today during a Prescription Drug Take Back Initiative involving the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, Drug Enforcement Administration, Okaloosa Anti-Drug Coalition, and Okaloosa County Wal-Marts. The one-day nationwide effort between local and federal law enforcement is designed to provide the public a place to voluntarily surrender pharmaceutically controlled substances and other medications for destruction.

Many people do not feel comfortable throwing their unused prescriptions away and flush them down the toilet, however this is causing problems with water supplies and soil contamination. The University of California (San Francisco) School of Pharmacy has noted that a recent study has shown 80 percent of US streams contain small amounts of human medicines, sewage systems cannot remove these medicines from water that are released into lakes, rivers or oceans. Fish and other aquatic animals have shown adverse effects from medicines in the water, and even very small amounts of medicine have been found in drinking water.

Last year, the nationwide initiative was extremely successful and resulted in the collection of over 121 tons of unused and unwanted prescription drugs from over 4,000 sites, with 4 ½ tons collected from 141 sites in Florida.

Okaloosa County collection sites were set up in the parking lots of each of the four Wal-Marts in Okaloosa County with "drive thru" tents to simply drive up and drop off unwanted medications for the public's convenience.

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office thanks all those who participated.

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The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office is accredited by the
Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation.

"The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate"

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