



St. Johns County Sheriff's Office

"Taking Care of People"

ST. JOHNS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE TO HOST COUNTY WIDE DRUG TAKE BACK EVENT WITH AREA LAW ENFORCEMENT

Hundreds of pounds of drugs expected to be collected during the event

February 8, 2018

ST. AUGUSTINE – The St. Johns County Sheriff's Office and Operation Medicine Cabinet is participating in National Prescription Drug Take Back Day with its first annual county wide event. They will be partnering with area law enforcement agencies as well as the National Guard and the US Drug Enforcement Agency to collect unused medications for proper disposal. The St. Augustine Police Department and the St. Augustine Beach Police Department will be participating as well.

The county wide Prescription Drug Take Back event will be held on April 28, 2018 from 10am – 2pm at various locations throughout St. Johns County, including the city of St. Augustine as well as St. Augustine Beach. The locations will be listed on the agency website and social media accounts. They will include:

- St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, 4015 Lewis Speedway, St. Augustine, Florida 32084
- St. Augustine Beach Police Department, 2300 A1A S, St. Augustine, Florida, 32080
- St Augustine Police Department, 151 King Street, St. Augustine, Florida 32084
- Memorial Emergency Center – Julington Creek, 42 Doctors Village Drive, St. Johns, Florida, 32259
- Flagler Hospital, 400 Health Park Blvd, St Augustine, Florida 32084
- Pedro Menendez High School, 600 FL-206, St. Augustine, Florida, 32086
- Al Wilke Park and Community, 6140 S Main St, Hastings, Florida 32145
- Nocatee Welcome Center, 245 Nocatee Center Way, Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida 32081

Only solid medicines may be turned in. No liquids or nuclear medications (chemotherapy) will be accepted. Injectables or needles will be accepted only at Memorial Emergency Center and Flagler Hospital where they can be properly disposed of.

When prescription drugs and narcotics are flushed down the drain, it puts the water in Florida's Aquifer's at risk. Operation Medicine Cabinet collection operations not only combats environmental pollution but also keeps unwanted and unused drugs off our streets. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high--more Americans currently abuse prescription drugs than the number of those using cocaine, hallucinogens, and heroin *combined*, according to the most recent National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

Most of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet, according to surveys of users.

Helping people to dispose of potentially harmful prescription drugs is just one way St Johns County Sheriff's Office is working to reduce the addiction and overdose deaths plaguing this county due to opioid medications.

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