

12 POUNDS OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS IN LATEST PILL DROP CAMPAIGN

Recently the Towns County Sheriff's Office, in conjunction with the Appalachian Drug Task Force (ADTF), held a "pill drop" at Fred's Pharmacy in Hiawassee. This is an annual event and is a coordinated effort with all four sheriff's offices within the Enotah Judicial Circuit. Towns, Union, Lumpkin and White counties participated in the event.

A total of 130 pounds of prescription pills were turned in to be destroyed in the four county area. These be could medications that were out of date, unused or excess pills people have found in their homes, medicines someone no longer needs, or any medications a person wishes to dispose of.

In the past, many people simply flushed the medications down the drain, or threw them in the trash. This practice was found to be a problem however, with traces of medicines eventually making it to water sources, and also people desperate for drugs have been known to go through other people's trash. By bringing in pills of any kind to the pill drop, people can be assured that medications will be safely disposed of with no harm to the environment and no chance of someone else gaining access to them.

Prescription pills are the number one cause of death in many areas of the country for certain age groups. They are much more difficult to detect by law enforcement and therefore easier to abuse. However, any medication prescribed to one person may prove fatal to another. Also, mixing any drug with either another drug or alcohol increases risk of death. For this reason, the Towns County Sheriff's Office and the ADTF advise all citizens to steer clear of any medication that was not prescribed particularly to them, and to educate young people on the dangers of this type drug.

This latest pill drop-in resulted in 12 pounds of pills being turned in at the Towns County site. Sheriff Clinton wanted to thank the citizens who participated in this program and to encourage everyone to be on the lookout for the notices this time next year, in hopes that we can remove some of these potentially deadly drugs from our county.

If you have pills in your home you know longer need, or find some you have questions about, you do not have to wait until next year to turn them in. You can call the Sheriff's Office at 706-896-4444 and a deputy will come to your residence to get them and turn them in to the ADTF, or you can simply drop them off at the Detention Center located at 4070 Hwy 339, Young Harris, GA.