



MEDIA RELEASE

August 26, 2010

Prescription Medication Collection Program

There is a nationwide growing concern related to the abuse of prescription medication and our area is no exception. One of the easiest ways to obtain addictive drugs is in the household medicine cabinet. Please DO NOT keep old or unneeded medications in your home as this can lead to accidents. People sometimes get confused about which drugs to take, or take expired medication which can be ineffective, even dangerous. Disposing of old or expired medication by flushing or discarding in the trash is a public and environmental concern. This can lead to the drugs getting into the hands of children, addicts and being consumed by wildlife. Flushing medications has environmental concerns that includes the inability for sewage treatment plants to remove all of the drug compounds during the water treatment process while certain drugs kill beneficial bacteria responsible for breaking down waste in septic systems.

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is pleased to announce a prescription drug disposal program. Located inside the Sheriff's Office Headquarters lobby is a secured collection bin to which the public will have 24-hour access.

You may drop off all non-prescription over-the-counter medications, prescription medications and pet medications. You can bring in pills, liquids, ointments and lotions. Unfortunately what we CANNOT accept are syringes, inhalers of drugs in aerosol canisters or chemotherapy drugs either in intravenous liquid or oral form. Contact your pharmacist for assistance with those particular items.

Inquiries should be directed to Captain Daniel D. Alioto, Commander Bureau of Criminal Investigations Vice/Narcotics, at 301-475-4200 x1918.