

**VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE  
REPORT FOR THE VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 13, 2012 AGENDA**

SUBJECT:	TYPE:	SUBMITTED BY:
Prescription Drug Disposal	Resolution Ordinance Motion ✓ Discussion Only	David Fieldman Village Manager

**SYNOPSIS**

At the request of Commissioner Neustadt, a report for discussion under New Business has been prepared regarding the availability of drop off facilities for prescription drugs

**STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT**

The goals for 2011-2018 identified *Exceptional Municipal Services*.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

N/A.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends publicizing the RxBox program.

**BACKGROUND**

At the request of Commissioner Neustadt, Village staff investigated providing prescription drug drop-off and disposal at the Police Department. The service, called RxBox, is an Illinois EPA program administered by the DuPage County Health Department. Staff contacted DuPage County and found that the IEPA does not have funding for expansion and is not currently considering additional participating local governments. There are several nearby collection locations, including the Lisle, Oak Brook and Lemont Police Departments, as well as the DuPage County Sheriff's Office in Wheaton. A full list of RxBox locations is provided in the attached flyer and more information is available here: <http://www.dupagehealth.org/rxbox>.

At the direction of the Village Council, staff will request to be placed on the waiting list. Should the Village join, there are some costs associated with the program, including the initial purchase of the box (approximately \$200) and staff time for emptying the box, securely storing the drugs until collection by the County (approximately every three months), and transporting the drugs to the County-designated collection site.

Staff also investigated other disposal options. The DuPage Household Hazardous Waste Facility, located at Naperville's Fire Station #4, collects unused medication each at its regular collection on Saturdays and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Additionally, Walgreens Pharmacy sells a medication disposal envelope for \$3.99 that must be mailed to an approved facility. Information is available here: [http://www.walgreens.com/topic/sr/sr\\_community\\_safe\\_medication\\_disposal.jsp](http://www.walgreens.com/topic/sr/sr_community_safe_medication_disposal.jsp). Finally, staff contacted Good Samaritan Hospital; the hospital no longer maintains a pharmacy. Good Samaritan

refers pharmacy customers to Douglas-Main Pharmacy, which does not provide prescription drug disposal.

**ATTACHMENT**

DuPage County Health Department RxBox flyer



# Disposing Meds Safely

## The Problem:

Unused medication is a risk to families, the community and our environment.



The **Solution** is  
**Simple...**

### The Problem

Nationally, regionally and even locally there has been growing concern about what we all do with the medicines that are left over in our cabinets. We take medication for so many reasons - for minor injuries, the occasional headache, back or muscle pain, to help relieve cold symptoms, for our high blood pressure or cholesterol. Over-the-counter medication, prescriptions, ointments and liquids....we often have medications that may be expired or no longer needed.

### Unused Medications

- 30% to 80% of patients do not finish commonly prescribed medications.
- Always take medications as prescribed by your doctor or according to their labels.
- Fewer unneeded medications around the house reduce confusion and mistakes that can happen when taking daily medications.

### Risks of Poisoning

- Accidental poisoning is the second leading cause of unintentional injury death in the U.S. It is second only to motor vehicle accidents.
- Children, even when well-supervised, are exploratory and curious, they often have lots of opportunities to get into medicines in purses, cabinets and counter tops.

### Teen Drug Abuse

- The number of teens trying prescription drugs to get high is now equal to the number of teens who are trying marijuana.
- One in five teens nationwide has abused prescription pain medication. One in 10 has abused cough medication.

### Our Environment

- Whether they are put in the trash or in our water-supplies, medications may pollute or have risks to our environment.
- Even though our drinking water is safe, low levels of pharmaceuticals have been recently found in drinking water of 24 U.S. cities.
- Studies are being done to help understand what impact these contaminants may have on our environment and our water supplies. In the mean time we know that we can reduce any potential risks by seeking out safe disposal methods.

## Disposing Meds Safely

Bring your expired and unused medications to an RxBOX location that is convenient for you. The medications will then be incinerated in collaboration with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency using state-of-the-art technology.

The medications will not be reused in any way.

## Disposal Recommendations

- Bring household medication including over-the-counter, prescription medications, ointments and liquid medications that are expired or unused.
- Also drop off asthma inhalers and glass (mercury) thermometers.
- You can bring medications as they are in their original containers or, for spill-free disposal, place the pills or liquid medication bottles in a zipper top plastic bag.



- Cross off any personal information on the label to reduce concerns about personal identification information.

## Items NOT Accepted

- Sharps or needles
- Radioactive medicines
- Any other medical waste
- Household chemical waste; these items need to be disposed of using other methods.

Household hazardous waste (HHW) can be disposed of at the HHW facility in Naperville.

For more information call (630) 420-4190 or go to [www.naperville.il.us](http://www.naperville.il.us) to see the items they are able to accept.



*Everyone, Everywhere, Everyday*



# The Solution is Simple...

Reduce the amount of unused and expired medications in our households and dispose of them in a way that is the safest for our environment.



## RxBOX Locations

### Addison Police Department

1 Friendship Plaza, Addison, IL 60101

### Bloomington Police Department

2015 Bloomington Road, Bloomington, IL 60108

### Burr Ridge Police Department

7660 S. County Line Rd # 1, Burr Ridge, IL 60527

### Carol Stream Police Department

500 N. Gary Avenue, Carol Stream, IL 60188

### DuPage County Sheriff

501 N. County Farm Road, Wheaton, IL 60187

### Glendale Heights Police Department

300 Civic Plaza, Glendale Heights, IL 60139

### Lemont Police Department

416 Main Street, Lemont, IL 60439

### Lisle Police Department

5040 Lincoln Avenue, Lisle, IL 60532

### Oak Brook Police Department

1200 Oak Brook Road, Oak Brook, IL 60521

### Schaumburg Police Department

1000 W. Schaumburg Road, Schaumburg, IL 60194

### Wheaton Police Department

900 W. Liberty Drive, Wheaton, IL 60187

### Wood Dale Police Department

404 N. Wood Dale Road, Wood Dale, IL 60191