



**Powell**

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## Powell Police Department Taking Part in Drug Take-Back Day

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*Powell, OH.* The Powell Police Department will be taking part in the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) National Drug Take-Back Day on April 30. Between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. that day, the public will have another opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous unused, unwanted or expired prescription drugs. Medications may be brought to the police department parking lot (47 Hall St.) for safe disposal. This service will be provided at no cost and with no questions asked. Pills must be removed from bottles and should be placed in plastic bags before arrival in the parking lot. Empty pill bottles, liquids, intravenous solutions and syringes will not be accepted.

"This provides our residents with an opportunity to empty out their medicine cabinets and properly dispose of those drugs that they don't need anymore or that have expired," said Police Chief Gary Vest. "This includes any prescription drugs that contain controlled substances."

Last September, Americans turned in 242,000 pounds – 121 tons – of prescription drugs at nearly 4,100 sites operated by the DEA and more than 3,000 state and local law enforcement partners, including the Powell Police Department.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the numbers of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines — flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash — both pose potential safety and health hazards.

Four days after last fall's event, Congress passed the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010, which amends the Controlled Substances Act to allow an "ultimate user" of controlled substance medications to dispose of them by delivering them to entities authorized by the Attorney General to accept them. The Act also allows the Attorney General to authorize long-term care facilities to dispose of their residents' controlled substances in certain instances. The DEA has begun drafting regulations to implement the Act.

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