

HANOVER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 20, 2019

Drug Take-Back to Be Held Saturday, October 26, 2019

HANOVER, Va. – On Saturday, October 26, 2019, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Hanover County Sheriff's Office, in cooperation with Ashland Police Department and Hanover County Public Works, will be conducting a **Prescription Drug Take-Back Day**. This event is sponsored by the *Drug Enforcement Administration- Office of Diversion Control*. The **Mechanicsville Solid Waste Center, 7427 Verdi Ln, Mechanicsville, VA 23116**, and the **Ashland Police Department, 601 England St, Ashland, VA 23005**, have been established as collection sites.

This provides the public its 18th opportunity in nine years to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your pills for disposal (Sites cannot accept liquids, needles or sharps, only pills or patches). The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

Last fall Americans turned in nearly 469 tons (more than 937,000 pounds) of prescription drugs at nearly 6,300 sites operated by the DEA and almost 5,000 of its state and local law enforcement partners. Overall, in its 17 previous Take Back events, DEA and its partners have taken in more than 11.8 million pounds—approximately 5,900 tons—of pills.

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 United States are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health shows year after year that the majority of misused and abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including someone else's medication being stolen 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.

For more information about the disposal of prescription drugs or about the October 26 Take Back Day event, go to www.DEATakeBack.com.

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"CONTINUING TO BE A PART OF, NOT APART FROM, THE COMMUNITY"