

CITY OF OTTAWA
301 West Madison Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: April 29, 2009

RE: P2D2 Prescription Pill and Drug Disposal Program

Mayor Bob Eschbach announces that the City of Ottawa will unveil LaSalle County's first drug disposal box at the Ottawa Police Station on Friday, May 1, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. The drug drop off box is part of a new county-wide Prescription Pill and Drug Disposal Program (known as LaSalle P2D2) and is a coordinated effort of the Ottawa Police Department, Illinois Valley Community Hospital, Ottawa Regional Hospital and Healthcare Center, and local participating pharmacies.

Until recently, consumers have been instructed to dispose of pharmaceuticals by flushing them down the drain or throwing them in the trash. It is the belief that both of these methods of disposal are not environmentally sound practices. Waste water treatment plants are not designed to remove any of these chemicals. Pharmaceuticals that are put into our landfill can leach into the surrounding soil and aquifer, or be contained in the leachate from the waste which ends up at the local waste water treatment plants. "The old adage "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" is very appropriate," said Police Captain Brent Roalson, who leads the Ottawa effort.

The LaSalle County effort was spearheaded by the Ottawa Police Department and Illinois Valley Community Hospital through its clinical pharmacist, Jennifer Sines. According to Sines, the program is modeled after the Prescription Pill and Drug Disposal Program started as a collaborative effort between pharmacies, officials, and Pontiac Township High School students in Mr. Ritter's Ecology class and Mr. Bohm's Illinois Studies class. The purpose is to educate the public about the harm done to the environment due to the current prescription and non-prescription drug disposal practices and to provide them with an alternative way that ensures the quality of our water for future generations. For more information on this program visit www.P2D2program.org.

Unused prescriptions for controlled substances such as pain killers, anti-anxiety pills, sleepings pills, etc., MUST be taken to the Ottawa Police Department drop box. All other unused prescriptions medications can be taken to one of other medication drop sites at Ottawa Regional Hospital, Medi-RX, and Schott's Pharmacy in Marseilles. All drugs dropped off at these sites will be incinerated at an appropriate facility. Citizens should black out names on prescription bottles with a black marker.