



*SHAUN GOLDEN/ SHERIFF*

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **SHERIFF SHAUN GOLDEN IS URGING RESIDENTS TO CLEAN OUT THEIR MEDICINE CABINETS AS PART OF NATIONAL TAKE BACK INITIATIVE**

**Freehold:** Sheriff Shaun Golden is pleased to announce that the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office will be participating in National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on April 26, 2014. That's the day to dispose of unused, unwanted and expired medicine. The statewide event, spearheaded by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) New Jersey Division, raises awareness of prescription drug abuse.

The drop off location for the sheriff's office will be at 50 East Main Street, Freehold from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., where a sheriff's officer will be present. All medications should be disposed of in the drop off box provided by the DEA. The program is anonymous and no questions will be asked of participants.

"The Monmouth County Sheriff's Office is dedicated to this effort which helps reduce the prescription drugs that are readily available to our children," said Sheriff Shaun Golden. "Prescription drugs are considered a gateway drug to other serious and dangerous street drugs, such as heroin, which is a growing problem in Monmouth County. The program enables us to get our unwanted, unused and expired medicine out of our homes and to law enforcement agencies for proper disposal."

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According to the DEA, the goal of the program is to allow residents to deliver these medications to law enforcement officials who can dispose of the medications in a safe and non-hazardous manner, preventing them from falling into the hands of youths or into our communities.

“It is important that the public become aware of the growing problem of prescription drug abuse among teens,” said Assemblywoman Mary Pat Angelini, Executive Director - Prevention First. “I commend the sheriff’s office for its participation to this program, since it’s vital that unused, unwanted and expired drugs in medicine cabinets do not end up in the wrong hands.”

In addition to participating in National Take Back Initiative, the sheriff’s office has a permanent collection site, located at the back entrance to the Monmouth County Sheriff’s Office, which residents can utilize Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:00 pm.

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