

SHELBY TOWNSHIP/UTICA

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Police, township issue 'prescription drug take-back challenge'

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A local restaurant and the Shelby Township Police Department have set up a challenge for the month of May based on the results of recent drug take-backs.

The Shelby Township Police Department, in cooperation with the Drug Enforcement Agency, collected 167 pounds of unused prescription medications on April 30 as part of the 2016 Household Hazardous Waste Collection event.

"That's 167 pounds of drugs that might have otherwise fallen into the wrong hands or been misused or abuse," Shelby Township D.A.R.E. Officer Leslie

Heisler said on the department's Facebook page.

According to township officials, Shelby Township's collection on April 30 was part of a yearlong effort to get unused, expired or unwanted prescription drugs off the streets.

"These drugs are the quickest route for our young people to ultimately end up abusing poisons like heroin, so it's paramount we get them off the streets when they have outlived their usefulness as a medicine," Shelby Township Police Chief Robert Shelide said.

According to Shelide, unused, expired or unwanted prescription medication can be deposited 24/7 in a drop box located in the lobby of the Shelby Township Police De-

partment, 52530 Van Dyke.

"By dropping off this medication at our station, you are ensuring against the potential for abuse by family members and loved ones," Shelide said.

Typically, the STPD collects approximately 50 pounds of discarded medications in its lobby collection box each month. However, if the community doubles the monthly collection to 100 pounds during the month of May, Da Francesco's Italian Cuisine and Taverna on Van Dyke has agreed to pledge \$1,000 to support the Police Department's drug education program.

"For more than 20 years, the Shelby Township community has supported the Da Francesco's family, so it's



Dominic Bellacastro, owner of Da Francesco's Italian Cuisine and Taverna; Police Chief Robert Shelide; D.A.R.E. Officer Leslie Heisler; and Supervisor Richard Stathakis discuss Shelby Township's "prescription drug take-back challenge."

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an honor to support Shelby Township families when we get a chance," Da Francesco's owner Dominic Bellacastro said.

According to the DEA, only ultimate users may dispose of pharmaceutical controlled substances. An ultimate user, which includes

a household member of the person or pet that was prescribed the medication, may transfer pharmaceutical controlled substances to authorized collectors or law enforcement via a collection receptacle, mail-back package, or take-back event.

If someone dies while in lawful possession of pharmaceutical controlled substances, any person lawfully entitled to dispose of the decedent's property may dispose of the substances. A long-term care facility may dispose of a current or former resident's pharmaceutical controlled substances.

Once they've been properly disposed of, pharma-

ceutical controlled substance are securely stored or transferred until rendered non-retrievable. They may not be resold, donated, repacked or re-dispensed. Currently, the most common method of rendering pharmaceutical controlled substances non-retrievable is incineration.

"Everyone hears about the high profile drug busts our law enforcement agencies make, but each of us can take similar steps in our own homes," Township Supervisor Richard Stathakis said. "If you have any unused, expired or unwanted prescriptions, please bring them into our police station."


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