

Dare for D.A.R.E. | RESTAURANT OWNER ISSUES DRUG COLLECTION CHALLENGE

BY SARAH WOJCIK
swojcik@candgnews.com

SHELBY TOWNSHIP — A local restaurant owner issued a challenge that if the Shelby Township Police Department could collect 100 pounds of prescription medications this month, he would donate \$1,000 to its Drug Abuse Resistance Education program.

The challenge came as a result of the Police Department's 167-pound prescription medication takeaway during the township's annual hazardous household waste collection event April 30.

On average, the Police Department collects approximately 50 pounds of unused prescription medications in a drop box in its lobby monthly. The drop box is accessible 24/7 at 52530 Van Dyke Ave., south of 24 Mile Road.

Dominic Bellacastro, owner of Da Francesco's Italian Cuisine and Taverna, issued the 100-pound challenge in conjunction with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency's National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. In 2015, the nationwide initiative collected 350 tons of prescription drugs.

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

an honor to support Shelby Township families when we get a chance," Bellacastro said.

Officer Leslie Heisler, the Police Department's D.A.R.E. officer and Facebook coordinator, expressed gratitude to the community for the successful prescription drug collection April 30 on Facebook.

See DRUGS on page 13A



Photo provided by Brad Bates

Shelby Township officer Albert O'Neil oversees the collection of 167 pounds of prescription drugs during the township's annual hazardous household waste collection event April 30.



Regency Park Shopping Center

1968 25 Mile Road

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Drugs

from page 4A

“That’s 167 pounds of drugs that might have otherwise fallen into the wrong hands or been misused or abused,” she wrote. “Way to go, Team Shelby!”

Township Supervisor Rick Stathakis said prescription pills could cause irreparable harm to the community’s youth.

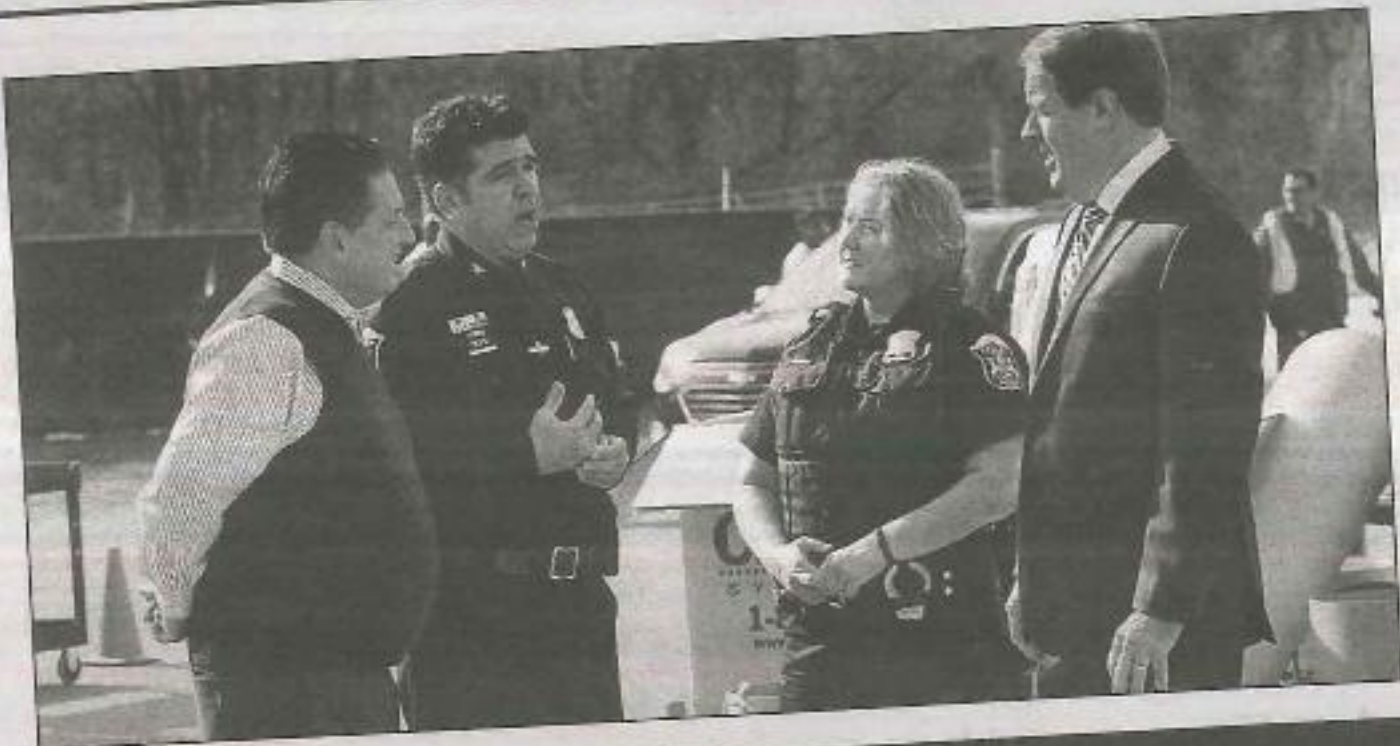
“If you have any unused, expired or unwanted prescriptions, please bring them into our police station,” Stathakis said.

Disposal of pharmaceutical controlled substances, such as hydrocodone, is regulated by

the DEA and must be done according to specific standards. The most common form of disposing of pharmaceutical controlled substances is incineration.

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

Call Staff Writer Sarah Wojcik at (586) 498-1029.



From left, restaurateur Dominic Bel-lacastro, Shelby Township Police Chief Robert Shelide, officer Leslie Heisler and Township Supervisor Rick Stathakis discuss the police’s prescription drug take-back program during the township’s annual hazardous household waste collection event April 30.

Photo provided by Brad Bates

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