

# SHELBY TOWNSHIP PRESS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Shelby Township, STPD issues month-long Prescription Drug Take-Back Challenge

Following a successful collection event as part of the 2016 Household Hazardous Waste Collection event April 30, the Shelby Township Police Department and Da Francesco's Italian Cuisine and Taverna are working to ensure safer streets and medicine cabinets around the community.

In conjunction with the Drug Enforcement Agency and National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day, Shelby township police collected 167 pounds of unused prescription medications April 30. Shelby Township's collection was part of a nationwide initiative that tipped the scales at more than 350 tons of unused, expired, or unwanted drugs collected in 2015.

"That's 167 pounds of drugs that might have otherwise fallen into the wrong hands or been misused or abused," Shelby Township D.A.R.E. Officer Leslie Heisler said on the department's Facebook page. "Way to go, Team Shelby!"

The collection April 30 was a part of a yearlong effort to get unused, expired, or unwanted prescription drugs off the street as STPD offers a 24/7 drop box at its headquarters at 52530 Van Dyke Ave.

"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 Rick Stathakis said. "If you have any unused, expired, or unwanted prescriptions, please bring them into our police station. These pills can cause irreparable harm to our youths and need to be disposed of by our trained law enforcement professionals."

Typically STPD, collects approximately 50 pounds of these discarded medications in its lobby collection box. For the month of May, though, if the community doubles that monthly collection to 100 pounds, Da Francesco's Italian Cuisine and Taverna will pledge \$1000 to support the STPD Drug Education program.

"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," Da Francesco's owner Dominic Bellacastro sad.

Disposal of pharmaceutical controlled substances such as Hydrocodone is regulated by the DEA and must be done according to specific standards.

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 pharmaceutical controlled substances; and a long-term-care facility may dispose of a current or former resident's pharmaceutical controlled substances.

Once they've been properly disposed of, pharmaceutical controlled substances are securely stored or transferred until rendered non-retrievable. They may not be re-sold, donated, repackaged, or re-dispensed. Currently, the most common method of rendering pharmaceutical controlled substances non-retrievable 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."

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