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EVENT CALENDAR



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Medication Take-Back Box to be unveiled June 29 in Venice

Venice Police Department will unveil a new permanent drop box for disposal of medications at a ribbon-cutting event at 9 a.m. Friday, June 29, at its Venice headquarters, 1350 Ridgewood Ave.

"We are grateful to the support of the Venice Police Department in this potentially life-saving endeavor," said Pat Carney, chair of the Laurel/Osprey/Venice/Nokomis Community Health Action Team. (CHAT). "We can prevent unused medications from getting into the hands of people who misuse them. Safe disposal of medications will help protect our community and our environment."

The Medication Take-Back Box will be available 24/7. Medication turn-in is always anonymous. Prescription and over-the-counter solid-dosage medications such as tablets and capsules will be accepted.

Members of the Laurel/Osprey/Venice/Nokomis CHAT approached the Venice Police Department about having a medication take-back box at the department's facility. The Senior Outreach Committee of the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce (VACC) helped raise funding for the construction of the box. Seven VACC businesses contributed to make this possible. These include A Better Solution of Venice, Bella Vita Retirement Community, Contemporary Hearing, Home Instead Senior Care, Hospital Volunteers of Venice, Jacaranda Trace, and Venice Apothecary.

The CHAT works under the auspices of the Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP), a community-led effort to improve the health of Sarasota County residents and across the region. Health leaders from hospitals, health departments and substance abuse prevention coalitions in Sarasota, Charlotte, DeSoto and Manatee counties have been working together to combat prescription drug abuse and misuse through the Safe Rx: Campaign for Responsible Prescriptions.

There are two other Medication Take-Back Box locations in southern Sarasota County at the Sheriff's Office on State Road 776 in Venice and at the North Port Police Department at North Port City Hall.

For more information, call 941-486-2444 or visit www.SafeRxFlorida.org.