

BOWLING GREEN POLICE DIVISION
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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

Date: November 3, 2011
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THE WOOD COUNTY HOSPITAL FOUNDATION, WOOD COUNTY ALCOHOL, DRUG AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BOARD, WOOD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND BOWLING GREEN POLICE DIVISION PARTNER TO PROVIDE FOR COMMUNITY DRUG TAKE-BACK INITIATIVE

Bowling Green (November 3, 2011) – On November 7, 2011 The Wood County Hospital, The Wood County Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services Board, The Wood County Sheriff's Office and the Bowling Green Police Division partner to provide the public the ongoing opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted pharmaceutical drugs. Materials will be collected by Bowling Green Police Division and Wood County Sheriff's Office personnel. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

Due to restrictions on processes of disposal, receiving representatives cannot accept liquids, plastics, glass, bio-hazards, radioactive waste, syringes, drug paraphernalia or other medical waste.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—both pose potential safety and health hazards.

Secure drop boxes are located in the lobby area on the first floor of the Bowling Green Police Division at 175 West Wooster Street and in the lobby area of the Wood County Sheriff's Office at 1960 East Gypsy Lane Road. The drop boxes will be accessible to the public via access to the lobby area and will remain under continuous video surveillance. When citizens utilize the drop boxes to turn in pharmaceuticals, no documentation is required by the citizen or by agency personnel. Destruction of materials will follow normal Bowling Green Police Division procedures.

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Bowling Green Police Division is to improve the quality of life in the city's neighborhoods, to involve the community in decisions which directly affect them and to provide the necessary services identified by the community as important.