



News Release

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Mazomanie Police Department to Host MedDrop Box

Safe Communities program adds six new boxes in time for National Take Back Day – April 28

As of April 28, Dane County residents will have 10 locations to get rid of potentially dangerous expired, unused or unwanted medicine. Poisoning deaths are now Dane County's number one cause of injury-related death, killing more Dane County residents than automobile crashes. Pain medications, when used incorrectly, can be especially fatal.

The City of Madison-Dane County Poison Summit that met in January identified expanding access to MedDrop boxes as a key strategy to reduce access to drugs. "I'm glad to see such swift action on one of the summit's key strategies," says Dane County Executive Joe Parisi. "This expansion means every citizen is just minutes from a MedDrop location," says Parisi.

The Mazomanie MedDrop box is located at the Mazomanie Police Department, 133 Crescent Street. It will be open Saturday, April 28th for the on National Prescription Take Back Day, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. After that hours will vary* and will be posted a month at a time on the village's website at www.villageofmazomanie.com.

Safe Communities' MedDrop boxes offer residents a year-round place to get rid of unwanted medicines. "We are pleased to be able to partner to offer a solution for what's become a both a public safety and public health issue," says Dane County Sheriff Dave Mahoney.

"Forgotten medications can be especially dangerous," says Cheryl Wittke, Executive Director of Safe Communities. "We urge everyone to clean out all places they store medications – bathroom medicine cabinets, closets, night stands, and kitchen cupboards.

"Deaths and hospitalizations from heroin are grabbing headlines, but prescription medicines are responsible for nearly half a million emergency room visits a year," says Wittke. Other findings in a recent Public Health-Madison and Dane County report:

- Two thirds of all poisonings are a result of the misuse of prescription, over-the-counter and illicit drugs
- Middle-aged adults have the highest prescription painkiller overdose rates
- More than 6 % of teens (12-18 years) in Dane County reported non-medical use of prescription drugs
- Poisoning hospitalization rates were high for 15-19 year olds
- Unused medications are sometimes taken in error by older adults

All medicines collected by MedDrop are kept out of the community water stream because they are incinerated and not flushed as previously recommended.

In addition to **Mazomanie**, Safe Communities' MedDrop boxes will available in:

- **Cambridge**
- **Deerfield**
- **Madison West District**
- **McFarland and**
- **Waunakee.**

MedDrop boxes are currently located at police departments in **Fitchburg, Madison East District, Middleton and Sun Prairie**. Federal regulations currently require that take back boxes be located at municipality police departments.

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Directions and hours of all the MedDrop boxes are listed on the Safe Communities website:
www.safercommunity.net.

*MedDrop is a service of [Safe Communities](#), a local public/private partnership that sustains joint action by area agencies, businesses, and neighborhoods to **SAVE LIVES**, prevent injuries and make our community safer. For more information go to SaferCommunity.net*

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*Note to Editor:

Please see the [Mazomanie Event Calendar](#) for dates.