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# Prescription Drug Take-Back for Saturday

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The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's 16th National Prescription Drug Take Back Day will be held Saturday from 10 a.m to 2 p.m., with new permanent boxes set around Walker County to collect medications.

Individuals can drop off expired or unused prescription drugs at 50 collection sites throughout Alabama.

In Walker County, five permanent boxes were set up, thanks to the Prevention Program from the Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center (NAMHC).

The five participating locations are Jasper City Police Department, 1610 Alabama Ave.; Walker County Sheriff's Department, 2001 Second Ave., Jasper; Carbon Hill Police Department, 170 Second Ave. NW; Sumiton Police Department, 416 State St.; and Bowie's Pharmacy, 5100 Curry Highway, Jasper.

The boxes are locked, and deliveries are confidential. Participants are encouraged to remove labels or black-out information beforehand.

The boxes were funded through the SPF-Rx grant from the Alabama State Department of Mental Health. Walker County is one of four counties in the state given funding through this initiative, according to a press release from NAMHC.

Saturday will mark the 16th DEA National Prescription Drug Take-Back. The first event in Alabama was held in 2010. A total of about 66,805 pounds of unwanted, unused or expired drugs have been removed and disposed of safely, according to a recent press release from the office of state Attorney General Steve Marshall.

"Prescription Drug Take-Back is a valuable public service that protects our children, our homes and our environment," Marshall said. "As a long-time prosecutor, I have too often witnessed the tragic results caused by the availability of dangerous controlled substances. When prescription drugs are left in our homes, children and teenagers may be poisoned or fall prey to drug abuse and addiction.

"Your old medications can be a lure to criminals looking for drugs to use or sell. On Saturday, Oct. 27, please take the opportunity to remove these hazards by bringing prescription drugs that are out-of-date or no longer needed to collection sites for their safe and proper disposal."

A listing of sites may be found through a search at [www.DEATakeBack.com](http://www.DEATakeBack.com).



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