



City of Yakima

NEWS RELEASE

Subject: Free Prescription Drug Disposal and Document Shredding
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Free Prescription Drug Disposal and Document Shredding Event on Saturday

Building on a successful partnership established last fall, Upper Valley and Lower Valley law enforcement agencies and businesses are teaming up again to help people get rid of unwanted prescription drugs and personal documents for free on Saturday, April 27th.

As part of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's ("DEA") National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day, drop off sites in Yakima and Sunnyside will be open on April 27th. The drop off sites will accept outdated, unused, or unwanted prescription drugs from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm and will take and shred old bank statements, credit card records, bills, and other financial or personal documents from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm as part of an effort to prevent identity theft.

The **Yakima** drop off site will be at the Solarity Credit Union branch located at **401 Tieton Drive**. In **Sunnyside**, the drop off site will be the Sunnyside Justice Center, **401 Homer Street**.

Yakima County Crime Stoppers, the Yakima and Sunnyside police departments, CI Shred, and Leonard Rickey Investment Advisors have partnered to put on the event.

After the last DEA National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day in September 2012, local groups got together to hold a similar event about a month later that also incorporated personal document shredding. Based on that success, organizers decided to duplicate the combined "Shred/Med" drop off sites. The DEA conducted its first National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day in 2010 to both curb the misuse of prescription drugs and to reduce the number of prescription drugs improperly disposed of by being flushed down the toilet or thrown out with the trash.

"Having people bring prescription drugs that they no longer use or no longer want to a drop off site is a much better alternative than getting rid of them any other way," said City of Yakima Wastewater Division Environmental Compliance Officer Holly Myers. "The drop off sites provide a free, anonymous, no-questions-asked option to dispose of old pills and medicines safely."

"Getting rid of old personal documents is an easy and practical way to avoid becoming a victim of identity theft," said Yakima County Crime Stoppers President Dave Purcell. "By bringing their documents to one of our drop off sites, people can be assured that they will be shredded and disposed of properly."

The drop off sites will accept up to two banker boxes or three shopping bags of personal documents per person. There is no limit to the amount of prescription medications that can be dropped off at the Yakima and Sunnyside locations.

Both the DEA website - http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/ - and the Yakima County Crime Stoppers website - <http://www.crimestoppersyakco.org/custom.aspx?p=8> - have more information about the April 27th event.