

The Intelligencer.

WHEELING, W.VA. — FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2022

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Police: Drug Take-Back Event Makes Community Safer

By **SHELLEY HANSON**
Staff Writer

WHEELING — In an effort to prevent accidental overdoses or abuse of drugs, a Prescription Take-Back Day is slated for April 30 in Wheeling at two locations.

Between 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. people can drop off their unwanted, unused or expired medications at the Elm Grove Pharmacy, 102 E. Bethlehem Blvd., or Kroger, 200 Mount de Chantal Road, Wheeling.

The drugs will be safely disposed of thanks to the Com-

DROP-OFF INFO

- Prescription Take Back Day is set for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 30 at **Elm Grove Pharmacy**, 102 E. Bethlehem Blvd., or **Kroger**, 200 Mount de Chantal Road, Wheeling.

munity Impact Coalition and its partners: Youth Services System, Cardinal Health, the Wheeling Police Department, Ohio County Sheriff's Department and the city of Wheeling.

No needles, inhalers or liq-

uids will be taken during the collection, said Wheeling Police Department Sgt. Rob Safreed, who has worked as a detective with the department since 2015.

Safreed said after the drugs are collected the Drug Enforcement Agency takes them and disposes of them. He noted he is not sure exactly how the DEA disposes of the drugs, but he believes they are incinerated.

"This is a good way for people to get rid of old prescription drugs that can be abused, like opioids, so they don't fall into the hands of people who abuse

them," Safreed said.

Safreed said the Wheeling Police Department typically mans the Kroger site, while the Ohio County Sheriff's Department will be at the Elm Grove Pharmacy. He noted the take backs usually experience a good turnout each year.

"It's a good community event," he said. "Kroger is a fantastic partner. They usually have a pharmacist out there to answer people's questions. They're a great sponsor and good community partner."

Some people may believe it

is easier to just flush their medications down the toilet, but scientific studies have shown that traces of some medications have been found in rivers, creeks and streams.

Safreed added people don't have to wait for a take back day to get rid of unwanted drugs. The Wheeling Police Department takes drugs at its headquarters at the City Building, 1500 Chapline St., on a regular basis. People can ask the department's front desk for assistance and an officer will come out to help.