

For Immediate Release: April 28, 2015  
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### ***Local Drug Take Back Day A Success***

In spite of the rain and cold temperatures, residents kept deputies from the Sheriff's Office busy with a steady stream of cars dropping off unused and unwanted drugs. Sheriff's employees collected over 108 pounds of medication that was dropped off at the Union County Sheriff's Office this past Saturday, April 25, 2015.

In addition to the local drop off site, the Villages of Plain City and Richwood hosted their first ever Drug Take Back Day. Residents of those communities were able to drive through at the Pleasant Valley Fire Department in Plain City and the Richwood Police Department in Richwood to drop off medications. Countywide, a total of 159 pounds of unused or unwanted medications were collected at the three locations.

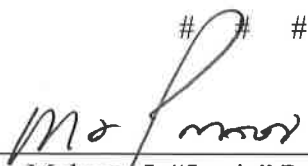
"We have received wonderful support from our partners in this program", said Sheriff Jamie Patton. "Volunteers from the Union County Drug Coalition were on site at all three locations Saturday to assist with the Drug Take Back initiative. In addition, Memorial Hospital, which has been a partner for several years now, helped get the word out in our community about this event", concluded Patton.

This is the first year that law enforcement agencies across the country were responsible for all of the advertising, expenses, logistics and disposal of all drugs collected during the take back event. Prior to this year, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) advertised the event on a national level and assisted by collecting the drugs at each site and disposing of them. Locally, each agency is now responsible for the proper disposal of the drugs collected. "We are working on a plan to properly dispose of the pills that were collected", said Sheriff Patton.

In addition to the help provided by the Union County Drug Coalition and Memorial Hospital, fire fighters from the Jerome Township Fire Department, Pleasant Valley Fire District, and officers from the Richwood and Plain City Police Department's, and members of the Sheriff's Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) group assisted at the three take back locations.

The next National Drug Take Back day is scheduled the fall of 2015. Sheriff Patton would like to remind residents they can drop off unwanted or unused medications at any time throughout the year at one of three drop boxes located at the Plain City Police Department, The Richwood Police Department, or the Union County Sheriff's Office.

Approval: \_\_\_\_\_

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Malcun J. "Jamie" Patton  
Sheriff - Union County