

Unused prescription drugs, used hypodermic needles can be brought to drug stores

Written by Marty Randall

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Thanks to a recently-formed partnership of several Scott County drug stores, the Scott County Sheriff's Department and the Southeastern Indiana Solid Waste District (SISWD), people with unused prescription drugs and used hypodermic needles now have a safe way to dispose of those items.

Residents can now bring their unused prescriptions for both narcotic and non-narcotic substances and all used "sharps," such as hypodermic needles, to participating stores which are Austin Pharmacy, Hancock's Drug Store and the Medical Arts Pharmacy. Austin Pharmacy is located at the northwest corner of the U.S. Highway 31/State Road 256 intersection. Hancock's Drug Store is at Coonie's Corner at the intersection of State Road 56 (West McClain Avenue) and North Bond Street in Scottsburg. The Medical Arts Pharmacy is in the Medical Arts Building on U.S. Highway 31 North in front of Orscheln Farm and Home. Pharmacists involved with the program include Jason Ashcraft, John Craig, Ron West, Evan West and Steve Johnson.

Staffs there will accept the items during normal store hours and place them in secured containers being distributed this week by SISWD. Those containers will be collected by the Sheriff's Department and turned over to SISWD.

Co-organizers Kelly Railing, owner/operator of Austin Pharmacy, and Lisa Lizenby, jail matron and administrative assistant at the Scott County Security Center, developed the idea in conjunction with SISWD Director Aaron Bell. "We felt there had to be a way that people could rid themselves of unwanted and unused prescription drugs and used needles any time of the week that they'd like. Through Mr. Bell, we were able to come up with this system which should prove convenient for those who want to get rid of these items but don't want to contaminate the environment or expose someone collecting trash to injury," explained Lizenby.

All such medicines and needles must be handed to the on-duty pharmacist, it was noted.

She expressed gratitude toward the three participating pharmacies and SISWD for developing the disposal system.

Unused medicines should never be flushed or washed down the drain because of residual effects on local drinking water. Additionally, unused medicines left unsecured in homes can – and have – proved harmful to curious children and pets. It's part of SISWD's mission to lead in proper disposal of waste materials. SISWD is committed to investigating and offering new opportunities for such disposal to residents of the seven counties the district serves. More information about SISWD and programs it offers can be obtained by calling toll-free at 1-800-997-4793 or visiting the website at www.siswd.com.