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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

CANAL WINCHESTER - City of Canal Winchester and Diley Ridge Medical Center in cooperation with the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office and the Drug Enforcement Agency, (DEA) have scheduled a prescription drug disposal event as part of The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. This event offers a venue for individuals who want to dispose any unwanted and unused prescription drugs in a safe manner. The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day event will be held on October 29th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Diley Ridge Medical Center parking lot.

More than seven million Americans currently abuse prescription drugs, according to the 2009 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Each day approximately 2,500 teens use prescription drugs to get high for the first time according to the Partnership for a Drug Free America.

"Studies show that prescription drug abuse is often tied to medications from family and friends, including those readily available in home medicine cabinets. It is important to have a method to dispose of unused medication in order to reduce prescription drug abuse." said Jodi Wilson, President and Chief Operating Officer, of Diley Ridge Medical Center

Flushing prescription drugs are an environmental and safety concern for every community. "There is growing concern of the impact of pharmaceuticals in wastewater and how they affect the fish and wildlife in the streams and rivers in the areas where we live. This unused prescription collection effort goes a long way in raising public awareness towards this issue, as well as helping to take some of the vast amounts of unused medications out of our landfills" said Steven Smith, Manager of Water Reclamation for City of Canal Winchester

"Prescription drug abuse over the years has become more wide spread and it's time we start doing more to protect our children and grandchildren from prescription drugs and the Fairfield County Sheriff's Department is pleased to be a part of this program" said Jerry Perrigo, Chief Deputy Fairfield County Sheriff's Office.

"We hope everyone in the area will take advantage of this opportunity to dispose of their expired and unwanted medications" said Mayor Michael Ebert.

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