

Press Release

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MEDICATION DROP OFF BRINGS IN RECORD NUMBERS



Above is a small sampling of the medications collected at the Onalaska location

The Onalaska Police Department has been partnering with the La Crosse County Prevention Network, the County of La Crosse, Viterbo University, La Crosse County Household Hazardous Materials Program and the La Crosse Police Department to keep dangerous substances out of our ground water. November 5th was the third in a series of medication drop offs that allowed citizens to rid their medicine cabinets of unwanted and expired medications. This drop off set a record of over 1,200 pounds of medications collected.

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The drop off at the Onalaska Police Department collected 600 pounds of medications. Over 150 pounds of that total were controlled substances.

"We were busy from the time we opened until well after we shut down," said Onalaska Patrol Officer Jasson Jobe, "the results were amazing. That's over 150 pounds of controlled substances that could have ended up in the wrong hands or in our water supply. That was just what was collected at the Onalaska site. The La Crosse County location collected over 60 pounds and the Viterbo location collected over 40 and that's just the controlled substances. The final tally (controlled and non-controlled) was 1,279 pounds collected, that's just outstanding."

These medication drop offs are in response to the fear of improperly disposed of medications infiltrating the ground water and concern over the rising problem of prescription drug abuse which is fast on the rise in the United States. The Onalaska Police Department considers these medication drop offs as part of Project 365 which is a year-long crime prevention initiative. "Our Chief encourages officers to be proactive in their policing," said Officer Jobe, "dealing with a problem like medication disposal is one way of keeping prescription drug abuse from becoming an even bigger problem."

The Onalaska Police and their partners are planning to schedule future drop off days.

"It's obvious from the results that this is a needed program," said Jobe, "as long as there is a need we will continue to schedule these drop offs."