

## **Press Release**

### **Muscogee County Sheriff's Office**

#### **Drug Take Back Program**

**April 29, 2017 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Location: CVS 1367 Double Churches Road. Columbus, Georgia**

On Saturday, April 29, 2017, the Muscogee County Sheriff's Office, along with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), will provide the community an opportunity to turn-in expired, unused, or unwanted prescription medications and other pills they may possess in their home. This turn-in program provides a safe and secure means of disposing of potentially dangerous medications.

Deputies will be on site to collect and secure medications turned-in. This service is free and anonymous. No questions asked!!

The Sheriff's Office has been a partner in this program for the last seven years. Last year alone, Americans turned-in over 730,000 pounds of prescription medications at 5,200 sites around the country. Nationwide, since inception, this program between the DEA and over 4,000 state and local law enforcement partners, resulted in the recovery of over 7.1 million pounds of medications.

Given the rates of prescription drug abuse, accidental poisonings, and overdoses nationwide, this program addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Studies have indicated a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including those taken from home medicine cabinets.

We encourage everyone to take advantage of this safe and secure drug turn-in program to dispose of unused and unwanted medications, as opposed to flushing them down a toilet, or throwing them in the trash; both of which, pose safety and health hazards.