

Two Oneida Co. pharmacies now accept unwanted pills

Area residents with leftover or expired pills can now drop them off at two Oneida County pharmacies for disposal free of charge.



COMMENT

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By Observer-Dispatch

Posted Mar. 7, 2016 at 11:02 PM

Area residents with leftover or expired pills can now drop them off at two Oneida County pharmacies for disposal free of charge.

Both U&I Pharmacy in Vernon and Garro Drugs in Utica will accept unwanted prescription and over-the-counter drugs as part of a pilot program through the Product Stewardship Institute and the New York Product Stewardship Council.

"As a pharmacy owner, I recognize the need for convenient locations where county residents can safely dispose of their unwanted and expired medications," said U&I owner Kristine Richardson in a release. "Not only are we providing an important service to the community, but our business also benefits from increased customer loyalty and community awareness."

When disposed of in the trash or flushed down drains, medications risk contaminating waterways and drinking water. When left in the home, they may be found by children or people who want to abuse the drugs.

A new law signed by the governor last fall allows for a drug collection program using places such as pharmacies, long-term care facilities and narcotic treatment programs.

The program will use pre-paid mail-back envelopes and locked collection receptacles inside the pharmacies. It also includes two pharmacies in Lewis County.

Garro Drugs is located at 704 Bleecker Street in Utica. U&I Pharmacy is located at 5236 West Seneca St., Vernon.