

Niagara County expanding drug disposal program



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Niagara Falls Police Department Crime Scene Officer Jason G. Sykes demonstrates the drug drop-off box in 2014.

The pharmaceutical drug drop off box location in the front area of the Niagara Falls Police Department headquarters on Main Street.

Niagara County will add three sites for disposal of pharmaceuticals around the county in response to concerns about prescription drugs ending up in the wrong hands.

Sites will now be located at:

- Lewiston Police Department, 4059 Creek Road
- Niagara Falls Police Department, 1295 Main St.
- Niagara County Sheriff's Office, 5526 Niagara St. Ext., Town of Lockport
- North Tonawanda Police Department, 216 Payne Ave.
- Town of Niagara Police Department, 7105 Lockport Road
- Middleport Police Department, 12 Main St.

The drop-off containers are sealed metal boxes similar to a mailbox, donated by Covanta Niagara. The Covanta Energy-from-Waste facility will safely destroy and convert the collected medications into clean energy at no cost to Niagara County.

"Niagara County is watching the resurgence of drug abuse closely, and with our present national opioid crisis, it is clear that eliminating prescription narcotics from circulation must be a priority," said Niagara County Legislature Majority Leader Randy R. Bradt, R-North Tonawanda. "This provides a secure, legal disposal alternative for prescription drugs that keeps them out of the waste stream and off the streets."

County and state leaders will formally dedicate the drop-off point in North Tonawanda at 10 a.m. Wednesday. The other two new sites are in the Town of Niagara and Middleport.

State Sen. Rob Ortt, R-North Tonawanda, the co-chair of the Senate Joint Task Force on Heroin and Opioid Addiction, will be on hand for the ceremony.

A key state leader in the fight against opioids, who will join the county in dedicating the North Tonawanda site, praised the decision to add the drop-off boxes.

"Prescription drug abuse is cutting across all demographics to affect people of all ages, ethnicities, geographic regions, and social classes," he said. "Prevention is critically important. These prescription drop-off boxes will keep unwanted drugs out of the wrong hands, and help to curb this growing epidemic."