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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 11/ 11/2014

PUTNAM COUNTY, TN – **Pharmaceutical Drug Disposal Bin Installed at Putnam County Sheriff's Office**

In partnership with the Power of Putnam and the District Attorney's Office, the Putnam County Sheriff's Office has installed a pharmaceutical drug disposal bin in their lobby for Putnam County residents to properly dispose of used or unwanted medication.

"We are pleased to partner with the Power of Putnam and the District Attorney's Office on this important program," said Sheriff Eddie Farris. "With rising abuse of controlled substances within the County, especially prescription pain medications, it is important that we provide Putnam County residents with a safe and viable disposal option to keep drugs out of our water and off the streets. This is one way that we can help make our community a safer place to live."

National statistics suggest that nearly 90 percent of Americans improperly dispose of outdated or unwanted prescription and over-the-counter drugs. According to Bryant C. Dunaway, Office of the District Attorney General, "the abuse and misuse of prescription medications is an important issue to both the District Attorney's Office and local law enforcement. Having these drug disposal receptacles is one way to provide an avenue to get rid of excess medications in our community."

Items accepted include:

- Prescriptions
- Over the counter medications
- Pet medications
- Medicated ointment, lotions or drops
- Liquid medications (in leak-proof containers)
- Inhalers
- Pills in any packaging (glass bottles, plastic containers, plastic bags, etc.)

Items not accepted include:

- Illegal drugs & narcotics (although police will accept these items if placed in the containers)
- Sharps/needles
- Blood sugar equipment
- Thermometers
- IV bags
- Bloody or infectious waste
- Personal care products (shampoo, lotions, etc)

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For more information on the types of pharmaceutical drugs, creams, ointments and pills that can be dropped off at the drug disposal bin, look at <http://www.awarerox.org/get-local/tennessee/drug-disposal-information> or visit the Putnam County Sheriff's Office and read the list of items posted on the front of the bin.

The Putnam County Sheriff's Office, District Attorney General's Office and Power of Putnam are planning several pharmaceutical collection events throughout the county each year. These events will highlight the importance of the proper disposal of prescription drugs in a timely and responsible manner.

"Power of Putnam is delighted to partner with the Sheriff's Office in this worthwhile and effective method of making our community safer," said Executive Director Bill Gibson.

Power of Putnam (POP) is a coalition of educators and other community leaders who are concerned about the issue of substance abuse in Putnam County. POP seeks to unite the community in the development and implementation of strategies to prevent and lessen the progression of substance abuse, particularly underage drinking. We seek to support the efforts of other community agencies and fill the gap in services to address the problem.

For more information on the pharmaceutical disposal bin program or to schedule a drug collection event in your community, please contact the Putnam County Sheriff's Office at (931) 528-8484.

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