While we're gone....

Tips for disposing of unwanted medications and sharps

Drop off unwanted or expired prescription and other drugs at these safe medication disposal sites:

- Prescription drugs, including controlled substances, can be dropped off 24/7 in a bin in the Glenview Police Department lobby (east side of 2500 East Lake Avenue). NO sharps or liquids please. The Cook County Sheriff's Office Prescription Drug Take-Back Program also has a bin at the Skokie Courthouse, 5600 Old Orchard Road.
- Bins at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's O'Brien facility at 3500 Howard St., Skokie, are accessible 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week.
- Bins at Walgreens Drug stores at 780 Waukegan Road, Deerfield; 9000 N. Greenwood Avenue, Niles; and 1701 E. Kensington Road, Mount Prospect.

Safe options for home needle disposal:

- Medical sharps may be placed in either a medical sharps container purchased from a pharmacy or health care provider, or in a heavy-plastic or metal container.
- Household containers, such as plastic detergent bottles, can be used if they are puncture-proof with a tight-fitting lid. Refrain from using a clear or glass container.
- Do not overfill the containers.
- Use heavy duty tape to secure the lid to the container and the words "Do Not Recycle" are written on the container with a permanent marker.
- The container can be placed safely with household garbage for disposal. Never place the container in the recycle bin.
- Please keep the containers out of reach of children and pets.

Online resources

Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County swancc.org
Go Green Glenview glenview.il.us/Pages/Go-Green-Glenview
Safe Needle Disposal safeneedledisposal.org
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency epa.illinois.gov/topics/waste-management/waste-disposal/medication-disposal