

The Henderson County Sheriff's Office will be conducting Operation Medicine Drop at four area Ingles stores on Saturday March the 20<sup>th</sup> from 10:00a.m. until 2:00p.m. Operation Medicine Drop is a free public service that provides a safe method to rid medicine cabinets of expired or unneeded prescription or over the counter drugs that tend to stockpile over the years in private homes.

Many significant problems are associated with unused and expired drugs in the home. Accidental poisoning from ingestion of drugs among children often occurs in homes where medicine is readily available. It is estimated that about 40% of poisoning among children occurs in the home of grandparents.

Deputies will be located outside in front of the Ingles stores located on Highland Lake Road, the Ingles store in Etowah on Hwy 64 West, the Ingles in Fletcher on Hwy 25 North, and the Ingles store located on Hwy 64 East at Howard Gap Road.

"We had a similar operation last year and the community really turned out to support the effort. Many people were surprised at the amount of medications that they had inadvertently stockpiled around their homes and were very relieved to have a safe method for disposing of it all. Our officers have a protocol to follow to safely collect and dispose of these items. We always enjoy the interaction with the public that these operations allow. We also appreciate Mr. Ingles for supporting this effort again this year." said Sheriff Davis.

The Fletcher Police Department will be supporting Operation Medicine Drop along with our deputies at the Fletcher Ingles on US 25 North.