



## TEMPLE TERRACE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### ***‘OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET’ COMING TO TEMPLE TERRACE***

(TEMPLE TERRACE, FL – 8/6/10) – The Temple Terrace Police Department is partnering with other area law-enforcement agencies this month for *Operation Medicine Cabinet*, a program aimed at encouraging residents to properly dispose of unwanted prescription medications.

The event is Saturday, Aug. 21, 2010 from 8 a.m. to noon at participating Sweetbay Supermarket locations in Hillsborough County. Residents may bring old, expired and unused prescription medicines to the store, where law-enforcement officers will collect them and make sure they are disposed of properly.

Old, unused medications present concerns for the community and law enforcement, police say. Tossing old medicine in the garbage, for example, can impact the safety of pets and other animals. There also is growing trend among teenagers and young adults of abusing pharmaceutical drugs.

Environmental contamination is another concern. Most wastewater treatment plants aren't designed to filter out medicines when they're flushed down the sink or toilet. In some areas of the county, fish have tested positive for medication toxicity. That's why police are working with homeowners to make sure old medicines are disposed of properly, said Lt. Bernard Seeley of the Temple Terrace Police Department.

Here are the locations for Operation Medicine Cabinet, and participating law-enforcement agencies:

- \* Temple Terrace Police Department – Sweetbay, 8837 N. 56<sup>th</sup> St., Temple Terrace.
- \* Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office – Sweetbay, 5320 Ehrlich Road, Tampa.
- \* Tampa Police Department, Sweetbay, 2525 N. Dale Mabry Highway, Tampa.

Program sponsors include Sweetbay Supermarket, Home Instead Senior Care and the Hillsborough County Ant-Drug Alliance.

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