## Oldham County Sheriff's Office Community Services Unit Media Release

EST. KENTUCKY 1824

To: All Concerned

From: Deputy Michael L. Meece

**CC:** Sheriff Timothy R. Wakefield/Colonel Greg Smith

**Date:** 5/7/2024

Re: Media Release Regarding National Drug Take Back Program

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## <u>DEA Drug Take Back Event keeps dangerous drugs off our streets and out of</u> waterways.

In partnership with the DEA, Coalition for a Healthy Oldham County and Kroger LaGrange, the Oldham County Sheriff's Office and Oldham County Police Department conducted a drug take back program on April 27th as part of the National DEA Drug Take Back Day Initiative.

The locations of the events were the <u>LaGrange Fire Department Station 2, 3637 West Highway 146, the Oldham County Police Department, 1855 North Highway 393, and Kroger LaGrange, 2034 South Highway 53. The times were from 10:00 am <u>until 2:00pm</u>. This program was once again a success. With combined efforts of both agencies, Kroger LaGrange, and the community, three hundred and fifty one pounds of potentially highly addictive prescription drugs, including large quantities of prescription fentanyl, morphine, oxycontin, including thousands of pills, were turned in for proper disposal by concerned county residents. This continues to be one of the largest events to date in Oldham County. Any questions may be directed to the Oldham County Sheriff's Office at 222-9501, or the Oldham County Police at 222-1300.</u>

Reports indicate over 2000 Kentuckians lost their lives to a drug overdose last year. 90% of the overdose deaths involved opioids. If you or a loved one are struggling with addiction, call the KY HELP Call Center at 833-8KY-HELP (833-859-4357) to speak one-on-one with a specialist who can connect Kentuckians to treatment.

Medical costs associated with overdoses and rehabilitation are in the millions yearly. Additionally, our waterways are polluted daily from these potentially harmful drugs being flushed or improperly discarded.

If you have medications that you are not taking, they should be properly disposed of. Please help curb prescription medication abuse and help keep our waterways safe. Together we can all make a difference.