

## **Mobile Area Water & Sewer System (MAWSS) News Advisory**

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Contact: Barbara Shaw, Public Affairs Mgr., 694-3113 or bshaw@mawss.com

### **MAWSS Joins Effort to Promote Operation Medicine Cabinet**



*Mobile County Sheriff Sam Cochran and Myer's Water Treatment Plant Mgr. Derik Anderson, a member of Mobile United's Public Safety Committee, show off the new drug disposal site located at the Tillman's Corner Sheriff's office. Operation Medicine Cabinet is the environmentally safe way to dispose of unused, unwanted or expired medication.*

**Mobile Area Water & Sewer System (MAWSS)** is partnering with the Mobile County Sheriff's Office, City of Mobile Police Department and other community organizations to promote Operation Medicine Cabinet, locations where you can safely dispose of unused, unwanted or expired drugs.

According to local law enforcement officials prescription and over the counter (OTC) medications are fast becoming a dangerous part of teenage gatherings. “Pharm Parties” are more common as kids experiment and use prescription and OTC drugs to get high. The most immediate source of prescription and OTC drugs for teenagers is their parent’s medicine cabinet or the medicine cabinets of friends.

Operation Medicine Cabinet provides an environmentally safe way to dispose of unwanted medications to keep them out of teen hands. A drop off location is available 24 hours a day at the Mobile County Sheriff’s Office, 5808 Hwy 90 West in Theodore. The first Tuesday of the month, you can take the medications to Mobile Police Headquarters at 2460 Government St. The drop off at Police Headquarters is open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

The idea for the program came from Mobile United’s Public Safety Committee of which Myers WTP manager Derik Anderson is a member. He highlighted the environmental benefits to area waters of educating the public not to flush medications down the toilet or sink. Trace amounts of pharmaceuticals and personal care products have been detected in surface waters in Europe and the U.S. Some of these substances are coming from households where the drugs are being flushed or washed down the drain.

“This will be helpful to MAWSS to get this information to the public,” said Anderson. “We don’t have problems with our drinking water, but these substances are showing up in creeks and rivers where waste water treatment plants discharge their effluents.”

MAWSS will share the information with customers as part of its continuing mission to protect area waters.

“The best way to keep area waters safe is to protect them at the source,” said Barbara Shaw, Public Affairs Manager for Mobile Area Water & Sewer System. “Operation Medicine Cabinet offers an environmentally safe way to dispose of unused, unwanted and expired medications. We encourage and promote the program’s use.”

For more information on the program, visit [www.mawss.com/medicynecabinet.html](http://www.mawss.com/medicynecabinet.html) or [www.teamsheriff.org/operationmedicynecabinet](http://www.teamsheriff.org/operationmedicynecabinet) .