

THE NEWS IN BRIEF



ALMOST A TON of pharmaceutical drugs were collected last week in the third Project Rx event designed to help keep expired and unused medications out of the Reedy River water system.

The drive-through collection event was held at 25 locations in the area; three collection points were set up in Greenville County where volunteers, police and representatives of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration were on hand to collect the medications and safely dispose of them.

In Greenville County about 595 pounds of drugs were collected.

Most of the drugs collected were pills, organizers said, but there were also unused pet medications, ointments and powdered drugs collected.

Residents who flush or pour unused drugs down the drain contaminate the water supply since Renewable Water Resources' (ReWa) treatment cannot remove them from wastewater before it is returned to the Reedy.

Some of the pharmaceutical drugs have tremendously adverse affects on wildlife.

ReWa is the lead agency involved in the Project Rx taskforce. Other partners include the Drug Enforcement Administration, St. Francis Health System, the Greenville Sheriff's Office, Greenville Family Partnership and Greenville Tech.

The event is held twice a year at locations in the ReWa service area.