

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MARLBORO TOWNSHIP POLICE TAKING BACK UNWANTED PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Police will Pick Up Medications from Residents Physically Unable to Drop-Off

MARLBORO TOWNSHIP, NJ (September 27, 2017) – On October 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Marlboro Township Division of Police and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public its 14th opportunity in 7 years to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your pills for disposal to the Justice Center (Marlboro Police Department) located in the Marlboro Municipal Complex at 1979 Township Drive. Upon request, Marlboro Police will arrange to pick up medications for disposal from residents who are physically unable to bring medications to the drop off site.

Chief Bruce Hall stated, “Removing unwanted drugs from a home is a public safety issue. Many of our seniors are unable to get to a drop box location. Additionally, more than 11 percent of teens have admitted to abusing prescription drugs and government agencies estimate that 70% get their pills from relatives or friends. Because of conditions associated with aging, grandparents frequently have a supply of drugs.” He continued, “For that reason we are asking residents that are physically unable to drop off their pills to call us and we will come get them.”

Last April, Americans turned in 450 tons (over 900,000 pounds) of prescription drugs at almost 5,500 sites operated by the DEA and more than 4,200 of its state and local law enforcement partners. Overall, in its 13 previous Take Back events, DEA and its partners have taken in over 8.1 million pounds—more than 4,050 tons—of pills.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—both pose potential safety and health hazards.

In 2012, Mayor Jonathan Hornik, in association with the Marlboro Township Police Department, the New Jersey Attorney General’s office and the State Division of Consumer Affairs, announced the inauguration of a permanently installed box, part of “Project Medicine Drop”.

Throughout the year, residents can drop off their unwanted, unused or expired medications in a locked box in the lobby of the Police Department. The box resembles a mailbox and is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

To preserve privacy, remove personal information from the prescription bottles. Liquids, needles or sharps are not permitted. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

For more information, to arrange a medication pickup, or questions about the October 28 Take Back Day event call Marlboro Police Det. Sgt. Jay Fox at 732-536-0100 ext. 1640.

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