

NEWS RELEASE

Vernon Police Department taking back unwanted prescription drugs April 28 at Walgreens Pharmacy, 188 Union St., Vernon

Vernon, CT – On Saturday, April 28, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Vernon Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration will give the public its 15th opportunity in 7 years to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Additional partners in this event include Walgreens Pharmacy, the Vernon ROCKS Coalition and the North Central District Health Department. Bring your pills for disposal to Walgreens Pharmacy at 188 Union Street, Vernon-Rockville. (The DEA cannot accept liquids or needles or sharps, only pills or patches.) The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

Last October our local site collected 167 pounds of prescription drugs. Nationally, 912,000 pounds were turned in at more than 5,300 sites across the US.

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. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health shows year after year that the majority of misused and abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including someone else's medication being stolen 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.

For more information about the disposal of prescription drugs or about the October 28 Take Back Day event, go to www.DEATakeBack.com or www.vernonrockset.org.



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