

# Medication Drop Boxes Proving Successful

*Additional locations to be available this Saturday  
as part of National Drug Take Back Day*

*Poughkeepsie, NY...* National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day is Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. Prescription drug use, misuse and abuse is now a public health crisis in Dutchess County, with more overdose hospitalizations and deaths than ever before.

Dutchess County Acting Commissioner of Health Dr. Kari Reiber and Commissioner of Mental Hygiene Dr. Kenneth M. Glatt encourage residents to take advantage of additional medication drop off opportunities and remind them of several permanent locations throughout Dutchess County that are available everyday. Medications can be dropped off free of charge. It is completely anonymous and no questions are asked.

According to a 2011 National Survey on Drug Use and Health conducted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, more than 70 percent of people who abuse prescription pain relievers get them through friends or relatives, often by simply raiding their medicine cabinet. Medication disposal sites offer residents a safe and responsible way to ensure medications are properly disposed of and are not subject to misuse.

In April of this year, Dutchess County STOP-DWI Program coordinated four prescription medication disposal drop boxes at locations throughout the county (a drop box had also been previously established at the New York State Police Troop K Headquarters in Salt Point.) These medication disposal sites offer residents places to anonymously dispose of unused and unwanted prescription medications and controlled substances.

The permanent medication drop boxes are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week in the following locations\*:

- **Dutchess County Sheriff's Office** at 150 North Hamilton Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
- **NYS Police - Troop K** at 2541 Route 44, Salt Point, NY 12578
- **East Fishkill Police Department** at 2468 Route 52, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533
- **Hyde Park Police Department** at 3 Cardinal Road, Hyde Park, NY 12538
- **Red Hook Police Department** \* at 7467 South Broadway, Red Hook, NY 12571

*\*Available daily from 8am to midnight.*

Since these drop boxes were established in April, more than 600 lbs of medications have been collected and destroyed. Additionally, the Dutchess County Resource Recovery Agency (DCRRA) offers medication disposal at its Sand Dock Road location in the Town of Poughkeepsie during its Hazardous Household Waste Disposal events. The next event will be held on November 2, 2013 (for more information visit [www.dcrra.org](http://www.dcrra.org)). Over 330 pounds of medication have been collected at the DCRRA's event so far this year, bringing overall medication disposal to nearly 1,000 lbs so far this year.

This Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, there will be several additional locations available as part of National Drug Take Back Day. These locations are coordinated by local law enforcement agencies and the Council on Addiction, Prevention and Education (CAPE) of Dutchess County. Those one day drop off locations will be available from 10am to 2pm at the following sites:

- **Town of Fishkill Police Department** at Route 52 in the Town of Fishkill
- **Poughkeepsie Galleria with the Town of Poughkeepsie Police** 2001 South Road in the Town of Poughkeepsie
- **Public Safety Building with the City of Poughkeepsie Police** 505 Main Street in the City of Poughkeepsie
- **Village of Rhinebeck Police Department** 14 Center Street in the Village of Rhinebeck

Dutchess County Legislature Assistant Majority Leader Angela Flesland, who also serves on the STOP-DWI Board, said, "Medication drop off locations are an important component to getting unneeded medication out of homes. We are very pleased by the success so far and encourage residents to continue to use these locations. While highlighting the medication days are important, there is no need to wait if you have medicine in your home. Dispose of it properly right away to prevent it from getting in the wrong hands."

Dutchess County Government is working to address this important issue. A special subcommittee of the Health & Human Service Cabinet, including the Departments of Health, Mental Hygiene and Community and Family Services as well as the Dutchess County STOP-DWI program, will be issuing a report later this year. The report will outline a recommended coordinated and comprehensive countywide effort to address prescription drug abuse in Dutchess County in collaboration with partner community agencies.

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