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Townsend Police to Participate in National Prescription Drug Take Back Day April 28, 2018 10AM-2PM



Townsend Police Chief Rick Bailey is pleased to join police departments from around the country in encouraging community members to bring expired or otherwise unneeded drugs to their drop-off location at 70 Brookline Street, Townsend MA 01469 on Saturday April 28, 10:00AM – 2:00PM.

“Disposing of unneeded prescription drugs helps to ensure that medicines do not fall into the wrong hands” stated Chief Bailey. While prescription medication is needed for many legitimate reasons, too often the left-over pills are used by others who do not need them. Easy access to drugs means that children or others with a substance use disorder can take pills from unsecured bottles without detection. Last October, community members turned in over 4,800 pills in four hours and nationally 456 tons of pills were collected.

In Massachusetts for the first time since 2010, opioid related deaths have dropped. While this is positive, there is still an epidemic and our work is far from over. In 2000, 379 people lost their lives and the MA Department of public health confirmed that 1,501 deaths occurred in 2017 showing a marked increase in the loss of lives (this number is pending and expected to rise based on toxicology results that are not yet complete). Six of every ten drug overdoses involve an opioid and each day more than 175 people die because of an opioid overdose. The National Center for Health Statistics, part of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported that deaths from opioids is now higher than deaths from breast cancer.

“We are doing everything we can to focus attention on substance use disorder” explained Chief Bailey. “We actively participate in the Community Outreach Initiative Network, the Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative, and at NM Cares events, but we need the help of the community too” he continued. Participating in the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is just one piece of the strategy. This year McNabb Pharmacy and Rite Aid are helping to get the message out by handing out flyers which will hopefully increase community awareness of the drop off event.

Community members can drop off pill form medications, however, liquids, asthma medicine, and needles are prohibited. The drop-off process is anonymous, you do not have to provide any information and you do not have to be from Townsend. To protect your identity, please remove any labels from pill bottles.

Please help do your part and drop of your unwanted prescription drugs during this event.

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