

NEWS RELEASE

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April 21, 2021



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SUFFOLK POLICE DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

SUFFOLK, VA (April 21, 2021) The Suffolk Police Department is participating in the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, April 24, 2021.

The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day addresses a crucial public safety and public health issue. According to the 2019 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 9.7 million people misused prescription pain relievers, 4.9 million people misused prescription stimulants, and 5.9 million people misused prescription tranquilizers or sedatives in 2019. The survey also showed that a majority of misused prescription drugs were obtained from family and friends, often from the home medicine cabinet.

The Suffolk Police Department previously received a donation from CVS Pharmacy for drug boxes that are available for citizens of Suffolk to bring in their unwanted, expired medication for proper disposal. A drug box is located at Suffolk Police Headquarters, 111 Henley Place, and is available 24 hours a day.

CVS Pharmacy has been providing these drug boxes to Police Departments across the country. Tom Davis, Vice President, Professional Services at CVS Health, has previously said, "CVS Pharmacy is dedicated to collaborating with organizations like

The Partnership for Drug-Free Kids and local law enforcement to prevent the abuse of unwanted and expired medication. The installment of drug collection units is part of our ongoing commitment to prevent drug abuse and help people in the communities we serve on their path to better health."

No personal information is required for drop-off. The drug box can accept prescription and over-the-counter tablets and capsules, liquid medications, inhalers, creams and ointments, nasal sprays and pet medications. Not accepted are intravenous and injectable solutions, as well as needles. Prescription medicines can be in their original prescription bottles with the label removed, or can be placed in plastic bags.

Ridding medicine cabinets of these medications is an important step in combatting the opioid and heroin epidemic, which often begins with prescription medicines taken from a home medicine cabinet. It is also a way to make sure our water supply remains safe and healthy by keeping unwanted medicines from being flushed into the water supply or disposed of through trash collections.

Suffolk citizens don't need to wait for that day to dispose of unwanted, expired and unused prescription drugs, as they have the opportunity to dispose of them in a safe and environmentally friendly way all year long.

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