

Stratford Police Department News Release

For Immediate Release: Police Prescription Drug Take Back

Medication Drop Box Opens at Stratford Police Department

Stratford, Connecticut (October 1, 2013) – Mayor John A. Harkins announced that, “effective October 19, 2013, Stratford residents can now safely and properly dispose of their unused, unwanted, or expired medications without endangering the environment or water supplies.” Thanks to a grant from State of Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, a medication drop box has been installed in the lobby of the Stratford Police Department at 900 Longbrook Avenue.

Police Chief Patrick Ridenhour said, “Unused medications left in the home are a growing concern and pose serious risks to health and safety if they end up in the wrong hands. Young people have reported that it is easy to get prescription medications from parents’ medicine cabinets.” The Partnerships For Success Coalition has been working closely with the Stratford Police Department to give Stratford residents an easy way to keep their medicine chests clean,” added Sean Kennedy, PFS Coalition Chair.

There is growing evidence that medications flushed down the drain endanger the aquatic environment and wildlife. Conservation Administrator Brian Carey noted, “The more that is learned about the effects of drugs entering the environment through the municipal waste water system, the more it becomes imperative people are aware about the proper disposal methods prescription drugs, over-the-counter medication, and medications for pets.”

Medications can be dropped off at police headquarters any time, day or night. The following items are accepted: prescription patches, medications, and ointments; over-the-counter medications and ointments; vitamins, medication samples; and pet medications. The follow items are not accepted: hydrogen peroxide, inhalers, thermometers, needles (sharps), aerosol cans, hazardous waste, and business/professional waste.

Stratford Health Director, Andrea L. Boissevain, urges residents to, “to help keep excess prescription and over-the-counter medications out the hands of youth though proper and safe disposal.” For more information, call the Stratford Dispatch Center at 203.385.4100.



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