



Community Awareness

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY

Saturday, September 26, 2015

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**WHEAT RIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT PARTNERS WITH
LUTHERAN MEDICAL CENTER/SCL HEALTH AND THE DEA
FOR NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY**

Wheat Ridge, Colorado ~ The Wheat Ridge Police Department has partnered with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Lutheran Medical Center/SCL Health, and other government, law enforcement, community and public health agencies for, ***National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day***.

This nationwide initiative seeks to prevent increased pill abuse and theft. Members of the DEA, Lutheran Medical Center/SCL Health and the Wheat Ridge Police Department will be collecting for destruction, potentially dangerous, expired, unused, and unwanted **prescription and over the counter drugs**. Items that cannot be accepted include mercury (thermometers), oxygen containers, chemotherapy/radioactive substances, pressurized canisters, sharps/syringes and illicit drugs.

The Wheat Ridge collection site will be located at the main entrance driveway to **Lutheran Medical Center/SCL Health, 8300 W. 38th Avenue, on Saturday, September 26, 2015 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. According to the DEA, many Americans are not aware that medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are increasing at alarming rates, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, many Americans do not properly dispose of their unused medicine, often flushing them down the toilet or throwing them away – both potential safety and health hazards.

This service is free and completely anonymous. Citizens can put all pills into a single bag and bring them to the collection site if there is concern about privacy.

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According to the 2008 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, the non-medical use of prescription drugs ranks second only to marijuana as the most prevalent category of drug abuse in the United States. The survey also notes that more Americans currently abuse prescription drugs than those abusing cocaine, hallucinogens, and heroin combined.

“The Wheat Ridge Police Department is excited about the opportunity to participate and partner with these organizations in *Drug Take-Back Day* again this year”, said Wheat Ridge Police Chief Dan Brennan. “This collaborative partnership offers a service to our citizens and provides them an opportunity to get rid of old and unused prescriptions in a manner that ensures these drugs are not used or abused by others. This effort also helps keep our environment and waterways safe. I encourage everyone who has unused or old prescriptions to take advantage of this event.”

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“Exceptional People Providing Exceptional Service”
Wheat Ridge Police