

Going Green in Londonderry

LPD to Accept Unwanted Household Drugs 24/7

In recent years the Londonderry Police Department has collected hundreds of pounds of prescription drugs as part of periodic National Drug Take-Back Days, according to Captain Chris Gandia.

Due to the Community's strong support for this initiative and greater drug disposal opportunities, within the next two months the LPD will be installing a permanent drop-off box in their lobby for the safe, convenient and proper disposal of prescription and over the counter drugs.

The LPD's new drug drop-box will be accessible 24/7 and make it easy for residents to rid their homes of expired, unused or unwanted drugs of all kinds--as important a home safety activity as changing batteries in your smoke detectors to guard against fire.

Gov. Maggie Hassan, speaking for the National Governors Association, said recently, *"Combating the heroin and opioid crisis is an all-hands-on-deck moment, and we must also partner with the private sector, from manufacturers to pharmacies and health-care providers, to find solutions and change the way we treat pain in America."*

Leftover meds are a public safety risk that can lead to accidental poisoning, overdose and abuse. Not everyone understands that pharmacy drugs can be just as dangerous and addictive as street drugs if taken without a prescription. Most abused prescription drugs come from family and friends.

- 1 in 5 teens admit to abusing prescription drugs
- 1 in 10 teens admit to abusing OTC cough medicine

Every day in the U.S. some 2,500 teens abuse a pharmacy drug for the first time. Some kids try pain meds just to get high, while others abuse attention deficit drugs as a study aid. While most parents don't discuss drug abuse with their kids, research has shown that those who learn about the risks are half as likely to experiment.

Moreover, drugs discarded in the trash can be retrieved and abused. If flushed down the toilet they threaten our ground water. Proper disposal can save lives and protect the environment. Remember "What's in your wallet?" How about: *What's in your medicine cabinet?*

The LPD's Drug Take-Back Program will enable us to clean up our collection of household drugs and make sure we're not part of the problem. Look for police department press release in the very near future.

~ Courtesy of Londonderry's Solid Waste and Environment Committee and the LPD. ~