

## **Town Agencies to Participate in Nationwide Prescription Drug “Take-Back” Day**

On April 30, the Glastonbury Police, Health, and Youth & Family Departments, in cooperation with the federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), are again hosting the nationwide prescription drug “Take Back” initiative that seeks to prevent increased pill abuse, theft, and environmental problems. Expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs will be collected on Saturday, April 30, from 10 a.m. to 2p.m. at the Riverfront Community Center, 300 Welles Street. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Many residents 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.

In addition, unused medicine that is improperly disposed of, such as by flushing down the drain, can result in contamination of groundwater and surface water, as conventional wastewater treatment often is incapable of removing such pharmaceutical products.

At last year’s event 133.1 pounds of drugs were collected, placing Glastonbury as one of the top ten towns out of 45 participating. Overall, 5048.14 pounds of drugs were collected in Connecticut.

During this nationwide event, collection sites will be established in numerous communities in Connecticut and elsewhere. A listing of participating communities can be found at [www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov). Questions regarding Glastonbury’s effort may be addressed to the Health Department 860-652-7534.