# Police, HBPW and DEA Unwanted and expired prescription drug drop off is Saturday, April 27 - FREE and Anonymous

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**Saturday, April 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** the Holland Department of Public Safety (HDPS), The Holland Board of Public Works (HBPW) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public another opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your medications for curb side, drive up disposal to the rear parking lot of 89 W 8th Street (behind the Holland District Court) which is most easily accessed from 7th street just west of River Avenue at Holland Police Facility. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, 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, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—both pose potential safety and health hazards.

Four days after the first event, Congress passed the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010, which amends the Controlled Substances Act to allow an “ultimate user” of controlled substance medications to dispose of them by delivering them to entities authorized by the Attorney General to accept them. The Act also allows the Attorney General to authorize long term care facilities to dispose of their residents’ controlled substances in certain instances. DEA is drafting regulations to implement the Act. Until new regulations are in place, local law enforcement agencies like HDPS and the DEA will continue to hold prescription drug take-back events every few months.

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