



**The City of
Hopewell, Virginia**

Hopewell Police Department
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MEDIA RELEASE

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THE HOPEWELL POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN 3rd NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK INITIATIVE

[Hopewell, VA] – On October 29, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., as part of The 3rd National Prescription Drug Take Back initiative, the Hopewell Police Department, in conjunction with 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. As part of the initiative, The Hopewell Police Department is asking citizens to bring their medications for disposal to the Hopewell Police Department's collection site located at 300 N. Main St. Hopewell, VA 23860. The service is being provided free and anonymous with 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.

In 2010, Congress passed the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act, 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. The DEA has begun drafting regulations to implement the Act.

For additional details regarding this event, as well as, other collection site locations, please contact Captain Gabriel "Billy" Costanzo, at #804-541-2285 or visit www.DEA.gov.