



Office of Selectmen
Town of Moultonborough
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Press Release - For Immediate Release

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Prescription & Non-Prescription Drug Return an Every Day Event in Moultonborough

With the addition of a MedReturn drop box in the lobby of the Town's Public Safety Building, citizens can now drop off unwanted and expired prescription or non-prescription drugs during open lobby hours. Those hours are generally every day from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The program is anonymous and no questions or requests for identification are made. The drugs are regularly removed from the box by police personnel and properly disposed of.

Up until this time the Town has only been able to have such collections as part of the federal Drug Enforcement Administration's National Take Back Initiative. In the four events under that program well over 100 pounds of prescription and non-prescription drugs were collected by the Town. It is hoped that regular access to this new approved disposal facility in the Town will encourage many more people to participate in this effort on a regular basis.

Police Chief Leonard J. Wetherbee said, "This initiative addresses vital public safety and health issues. Medicines that languish in home medicine cabinets are highly susceptible to 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 the home medicine cabinet."

In order to offer this program the Town had to obtain the approval of the federal Drug Enforcement Administration and the NH Attorney General by showing compliance with the Police Station Permanent Drop Box standards. Chairman of the SelectBoard, Mr. Joel Mudgett, said "This effort to protect our groundwater from contamination from the drugs being flushed down the toilet or thrown in the trash, and our residents from access to inappropriate drugs took several years. I commend the staff for their patience in getting this through the many steps of approval."

All solid and liquid dosage pharmaceutical products, in their consumer containers, are accepted. Containers with liquids should be tightly closed and placed into an intact sealed plastic bag to protect from spillage. Intravenous solutions, aerosols, inhalers, syringes (which are accepted at the Transfer Station) or illegal substances such as marijuana or methamphetamine cannot be accepted

Questions about this effort may be directed to Sgt. Scott J. Fulton at 603.476.2400 or sfulton@moultonboroughnh.gov. Information about how to dispose of medical sharps is available at www.moultonboroughnh.gov (Click on Departments and Boards, then Public Works and then the Transfer Station link.)