



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Partnership Announces Local Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on September 25, 2010 at the Roanoke Civic Center.

ROANOKE, VA – The Roanoke Police Department, Roanoke Area Youth Substance Abuse Coalition (RAYSAC) and the Western Virginia Water Authority are partnering to collect expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs for destruction on Saturday, September 25th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Roanoke Civic Center. The public is invited to bring unused or unwanted medications to this free and anonymous event that is part of the nationwide September 25 prescription drug “Take-Back” program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice’s Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) that seeks to prevent increased pill and abuse theft.

This initiative addresses vital public safety and public health issues. Many Americans 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. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In fact, seven of the 10 most commonly abused drugs by teenagers are prescription medications.

In addition, many Americans do not know how to properly dispose of their unused medicine, often flushing them down the toilet or throwing them away – both potential safety and health hazards. Flushing medications down the drain results in trace amounts of pharmaceuticals showing up in our nations waterways.

By working together to provide a free, secure place to dispose of unwanted medications, the Roanoke Police, RAYSAC and the Western Virginia Water Authority are helping prevent drug abuse, protecting our valley’s waterways and making our communities safer.

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