

# *WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE PATTERSON TOWNSHIP NOW HAS A*

## **PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK BOX PROGRAM**

**A permanent prescription drug take-back box has been placed in the foyer at the Patterson Township Municipal Building and can be accessed Monday – Friday 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.**



### **HOW TO PREPARE ITEMS FOR DISPOSAL**

- All pharmaceutical drugs to be disposed must be placed in a sealed container such as the original bottle or zip-lock bag
- Liquid pharmaceuticals should remain in the original container
- Personal information should be removed or marked out with a permanent marker

### **YOU CAN DISPOSE OF:**

- Prescription and over-the-counter solid medications
- Tablets and capsules
- Pet medicines

### **YOU MAY NOT DROP OFF:**

- Intravenous solutions
- Injectables, syringes, and needles (i.e. EpiPens)\*; these need to be taken to a health care professional's office or to a hospital for disposal
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Compressed cylinders or aerosols (e.g., asthma inhalers)
- Iodine-containing medications
- Thermometers
- Alcohol & illicit drugs (i.e. marijuana, heroin, LSD, etc.)

## WHY YOU SHOULD PROPERLY DISPOSE OF UNWANTED PRESCRIPTIONS

- Prescription drugs involved in overdoses are almost all originally prescribed by physicians
- In the past 10 years, prescription drug abuse has quadrupled; it now results in more deaths than all illicit street drugs combined
- 2 percent of 12th graders have misused or abused prescription narcotics, five percent tranquilizers, and 10 percent stimulants (e.g. Adderall and Ritalin).
- Improper disposal of prescription drugs can create environmental hazards impacting groundwater, rivers, and harming wildlife.

The Pennsylvania Prescription Drug Take-Back Program is focused on alleviating the health and safety concerns from the diversion and abuse of prescription drugs by helping our citizens properly dispose of unused prescription medications. Many young people who abuse prescription drugs take them from medicine cabinets. Keeping unused opioids or other common drugs of abuse in a medicine cabinet is no longer safe or responsible.

Prescription drug misuse, abuse and overdose are growing concerns across the nation. According to a 2015 survey in Pennsylvania, 41.0% of prescription-drug-using students indicated taking the drugs from a family member living in their home, 41.8% indicated that a friend or family member gave them to the student, 26.9% indicated that they bought them from someone, 14.1% indicated they took them from someone not related to them, and 12.9% indicated they took them from relatives who were not living in their home.

The DDAP, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) and the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association (PDAA), has worked to facilitate the installation of secure, permanent prescription drug take-back boxes in communities throughout the state.