



RIVER VALE POLICE DEPARTMENT DETECTIVE BUREAU

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

To: All News Media
From: Detective Sergeant John J. DeVoe on behalf of Chief Michael McCann
Date: April 26, 2013
Attached: RVPD-PMD [Image], Photo credit to Sergeant Gary Blumenthal (River Vale Police)

Contact: Detective Sergeant John J. DeVoe, Public Information Officer
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RIVER VALE PD DESIGNATED AS A PERMANENT “PROJECT MEDICINE DROP” SITE BECOMING ONE OF ONLY 30 SUCH SITES THROUGHOUT NEW JERSEY

The River Vale Police Department has been designated as a permanent site for the collection of unused, expired and unwanted prescription medications. River Vale Police worked in conjunction with the Drug Enforcement Administration and the New Jersey Department of Consumer Affairs to establish this program, making them one of only 30 permanent sites in all of New Jersey.

River Vale Police Chief Michael J. McCann stated, “Prescription drug abuse is fast becoming an alarming issue in New Jersey and beyond. I am proud that the River Vale Police Department is able to offer area residents a method to help combat this problem.”

The problem of prescription drug abuse in New Jersey is one of the highest in the nation. Statistics collected through the Partnership at Drug Free America has determined that approximately 5,500 Americans start to misuse prescription painkillers every day and it is estimated that 40 lives per day are lost due to overdoses of prescription medications. Between 2003 and 2007, Bergen County’s northeast region had the highest level of Oxycodone use in the county, according to a report by the National Forensic Laboratory Information System. Furthermore, over 80% of Bergen County Juvenile Officers surveyed cited illegal use of prescription pills as one of Bergen County’s most significant substance abuse problems among 18-25 year olds. Scientists have also expressed concerns about the effects of medications being released into waterway systems by flushing them down the toilet or the sink.

“Project Medicine Drop” is available to all consumers in New Jersey and the drop-off sites allow the individual to safely, securely and anonymously dispose of their medications 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

For safety reasons, Project Medicine Drop can accept only solid medications such as pills, patches, inhalers and similar objects. The boxes cannot accept liquids, medical waste, or syringes. To learn more about the safe storage and disposal of medications, as well as other initiatives, visit www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov/meddrop.

The River Vale Police Department is located at 334 Rivervale Road, River Vale, NJ 07675.

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* A portion of the information contained in this Press Release was supplied by N.J. Division of Consumer Affairs