



KENTWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT

THOMAS G. HILLEN | CHIEF OF POLICE

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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KENTWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT TAKING BACK UNWANTED PRESCRIPTION DRUGS ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2017

Kentwood, Michigan – On Saturday, October 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Kentwood Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration will give the public its 14th opportunity in 7 years to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your pills for disposal to Kentwood Police Department at 4742 Walma Ave SE Kentwood, MI 49512. (The DEA cannot accept liquids, needles or other sharp objects, only pills or patches.) The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. Last April, Americans turned in 450 tons (900,000 pounds) of prescription drugs at almost 5,500 sites operated by the DEA and more than 4,200 of its state and local law enforcement partners. Overall, in its 13 previous Take Back events, DEA and its partners have taken in over 8.1 million pounds—more than 4,050 tons—of pills. 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. For more information about the disposal of prescription drugs or about the Take Back Day event, please contact Vicki Highland at highlandv@ci.kentwood.mi.us or 616-656-6571.