

COLUMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Press Release

SHERIFF DAVID P. Bartlett

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: July 9th, 2014

Joint Press Release: The Hudson Police Department and the Columbia County Sheriff's Office announce permanent Med-Return Boxes installed.

Those looking to get rid of their unused, unwanted, or expired medications can now visit one of the new permanent drop box locations at the Hudson Police Station located at 423 Warren Street, in the City of Hudson, or at the Columbia County Public Safety Building, located at 85 Industrial Tract in the Town of Greenport. Both Med-Return Boxes were purchased with funds provided by Catholic Charities Prevention Program.

Abuse of prescription drugs is a major problem throughout the United States. These disposal boxes will help keep excess prescription and over the counter medications out of the hands of youth and substance abusers. The disposal boxes will also help to reduce environmental contamination by keeping unused or unwanted medications out of our landfills and water systems. The Med-Return Boxes will be accessible to the public twenty-four hours a day and there is no paperwork required. The Hudson Police Department and the Columbia County Sheriff's Office will store the collected medications in a secure area, and turn them over to federal authorities for proper disposal.

At both Med-Return Box locations, all prescription and over the counter medications, vitamins, pet medications, medicated ointments, and liquid medications in leak-proof containers will be accepted. Items that cannot be discarded at the drop box locations include thermometers, syringes, IV bags, bloody or infectious waste, and aerosol cans or inhalers.

The Hudson Police Department and the Columbia County Sheriff's Office have been working closely with the Columbia Greene Prescription Drug Task Force. The task force consists of multiple agencies from both Columbia and Greene Counties who have been working together in a collaborated effort to reduce prescription drug abuse.