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PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 22 IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

NORRISTOWN, Pa.—Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and the law enforcement professionals of the Police Chiefs Association of Montgomery County announce the annual prescription drug Take Back Day, scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 22 at 31 locations throughout Montgomery County.

This fall's Take Back Day—which coincides with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency's nationwide Take Back Day—is a chance for Montgomery County residents to clean out their medicine cabinets of unwanted, unused and expired prescription medications and dispose of them easily in a safe, environmentally friendly manner. Ridding homes of these medications is an important step in combatting the growing opioid and heroin epidemic, which often begins with prescription medicines taken from a home medicine cabinet.

During the spring Montgomery County Take Back Day in April, a record 5,637.8 pounds of unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medications—nearly three tons—were collected that day through resident drop-offs and by police departments emptying the permanent MedReturn boxes that collect unwanted medicines throughout the year.

“Collecting a record amount of unwanted medications is gratifying in that we are getting those drugs out of medicine cabinets and safely disposed of. But as I helped collect bag after bag of pills and capsules last April, it was apparent that there are far too many prescriptions being written in the first place, especially prescriptions for dangerous opioids that are fueling the escalating overdose epidemic gripping Montgomery County and our country,” said Steele. “It’s a very serious problem requiring concerted effort on many fronts. Collecting unwanted medications is just one of many ways the DA’s Office and Montgomery County law enforcement are working together to combat the devastating effects of increasing drug abuse.”

Take Back Day participating sites will be staffed by police officers, Montgomery County Detectives, members of the DA’s Office and community volunteers. The sites will accept prescription and over-the-counter tablets and capsules, liquid

medications, inhalers, creams and ointments, nasal sprays and pet medications. Intravenous medicines, injectable solutions and needles are not accepted. Prescription medicines can be in their original prescription bottles or they can be placed in plastic bags.

The staffed Take Back Day locations for Oct. 22 are:

- Abington Township Police Department, 1166 Old York Road, Abington, PA 19001
- Conshohocken Borough Police Department, 400 Fayette St., Conshohocken, PA 19428
- Douglass Township Police Department, 1320 E. Philadelphia Ave., Gilbertsville, PA 19525
- East Norriton Township Police Department, 2501 Stanbridge St., East Norriton, PA 19401
- Hatboro Police Department, 414 S. York Road, Hatboro, PA 19040
- Hatfield Township Administration Building, 1950 School Road, Hatfield, PA 19440
- Jenkintown Borough Police Department, 700 Summit Ave., Jenkintown, PA 19046
- Limerick Township Police Department, 646 W. Ridge Pike, Limerick, PA 19468
- Lower Merion Police Department, 71 E. Lancaster Ave., Ardmore, PA 19003
- Lower Pottsgrove Township Community Building, 844 N. Keim St., Pottstown, PA 19464
- Lower Providence Police Department, 100 Parklane Drive, Eagleville, PA 19403
- Marlborough Township Police Department, 6040 Upper Ridge Road, Green Lane, PA 18054
- Montgomery Township Community & Recreation Center, 1030 Horsham Road, Montgomeryville, PA 18936
- New Hanover Township Police Department, 2943 N. Charlotte St., Gilbertsville, PA 19525
- Norristown Police Department, 235 E. Airy St., Norristown, PA 19401
- North Wales Borough Police Department, 300 School St., North Wales, PA 19454
- Pottstown Police Department, 100 E. High St., Pottstown, PA 19464
- Rockledge Borough Police Department, 1 Park Ave., Rockledge, PA 19046
- Royersford Police Department, 300 Main St., Royersford, PA 19468
- Souderton Borough Police Department, 31 West Summit St., Souderton, PA 18964
- Springfield Township Police at the Flourtown Fire Company, 1526 Bethlehem Pike, Flourtown, PA 19031
- Towamencin Township Police Department, 1090 Troxel Road, Lansdale, PA 19446
- Upper Dublin Township Police Department, 801 Loch Alsh Ave., Fort Washington, PA 19034
- Upper Merion Township Police Department, 175 West Valley Forge Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406
- Upper Perk Police, 88 W. Sixth St., Pennsburg, PA 18073
- Upper Pottsgrove Police Department, 1420 Heather Place, Pottstown, PA 19464
- Upper Providence Police Department, 1286 Black Rock Road, Oaks, PA 19456
- West Conshohocken Borough Hall, 112 Ford St., West Conshohocken, PA 19428
- West Norriton Township Police Department, 1630 W. Marshall St., Jeffersonville, PA 19403
- West Pottsgrove Police Department, 980 N. Grosstown Road, Stowe, PA 19464
- Whitmarsh Police Department, 616 E. Germantown Pike, Lafayette Hill, PA 19444

Unwanted medications can be dropped off and disposed of throughout the year at approximately 50 permanent Prescription Drug Disposal Boxes located at nearly every police department in Montgomery County, the county courthouse and two medical facilities. Many of the MedReturn boxes are sponsored by Pennsylvania American Water in an effort to help keep our water supply safe. The complete list of locations can be found at www.montcopa.org/da.

Since the prescription medication disposal program began in 2010, more than 22,000 pounds of unwanted, unneeded and expired medications have been collected and safely destroyed.

Approved for release:

Kevin R. Steele