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185 POUNDS OF UNWANTED DRUGS COLLECTED

BARRINGTON – In collaboration with the US Drug Enforcement Agency, Barrington Police and the BAY Team collected unwanted medications on Saturday outside CVS Pharmacy on County Road. It was part of a nationwide effort to rid communities of excess prescription medications.

According to President Obama's Weekly Address 9/26/15:

“More Americans now die every year from drug overdoses than they do in car crashes. And most of those deaths aren't due to drugs like cocaine or heroin - but rather prescription drugs. In 2013 alone, overdoses from prescription pain medications killed more than 16,000 Americans. And most young people who begin misusing prescription drugs don't buy them in some dark alley - they get them from the medicine cabinet.

Many prescription pain medications belong to the same class of drugs as heroin. In fact, four in five heroin users started out by misusing prescription drugs. And over the course of just one year, between 2013 and 2014, we saw a 33% increase in the number of heroin users.

All of this takes a terrible toll on too many families, in too many communities, all across the country - big and small, urban and rural. It strains law enforcement and treatment programs. It costs all of us - in so many different ways.”

In addition to participating in National Prescription Drug Take Back Days every six months, Barrington has a permanent drug disposal box located at the Public Safety Complex on Federal Road. Here, residents can dispose of unwanted medications any day, any time. Medications should be placed in a clear plastic bag. No needles or liquids are accepted. The box was placed there by the BAY Team in 2012 as part of its efforts to reduce excess medications. Since that time, over 800 pounds has been collected.

The BAY Team, Barrington’s prevention coalition, is recognized nationally for its success in lowering youth prescription drug abuse by 85% over the past seven years. The coalition has a mission to promote a safe and healthy Barrington through communication and collaboration to prevent and decrease substance abuse. For more information about how you can help, please visit www.thebayteam.org

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