



## PRESS RELEASE

April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Less than two months after its installation, the Paradise Valley Police Department's prescription drug drop off box door has been open for business literally non-stop! It has collected over 78 pounds of medication - that's over one pound of unused or expired medication per day. Each properly disposed of item reduces contamination in our water system, alleviates potential for accidental overdose or ingestion of outdated or incorrect medication. It is medication kept away from kids, teenagers or those susceptible to becoming prescription medication addicts.

As a reminder, please do not flush medications down the drain or just throw them away in the trash. The police department's lobby is open 24/7 for proper medication disposal. Please take advantage of this free service!



**The Town of Paradise Valley now has a permanent prescription drug collection unit.**

Citizens looking to dispose of excess and expired prescription and over-the-counter medications can now visit the safe and secure permanent drop off location at the Paradise Valley Police Department, located at 6433 E. Lincoln Dr., Paradise Valley, AZ 85253.

The Paradise Valley Police Department has recognized the need for such a program and has established a permanent prescription drug collection program in order to reduce the supply of drugs that can potentially harm teens and adults.

According to the 2011 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), more than six million Americans abuse prescription drugs. Among youth who are 12 to 17 years old, 7.4 percent report non-medical use of prescription drugs in the past year.

Properly disposing of excess drugs is everyone's responsibility as a matter of public safety. More than 70 percent of young people who are abusing prescription pain medication actually get them from friends or family, this statistic also includes raiding the family medicine cabinet. Now Paradise Valley residents won't have to wait for a specific take-back day to clean out their medicine cabinets.

The program will be presented to the Town Council on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014, and the collection container will then be open to the public on Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> in the police department lobby. Anybody can drop off prescriptions drugs in the container at anytime day or night, no questions asked.

The Paradise Valley Police Department is committed to providing a safe, secure and environmentally friendly way to collect unwanted or expired household medication; including prescriptions, over-the-counter drugs and unused pharmaceuticals.

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