



NEW BERN POLICE DEPARTMENT
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City of New Bern

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New Bern, North Carolina

Three Centuries of North Carolina Heritage

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PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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MEDICATION DROP OFF NETS THOUSANDS OF PILLS

A collaboration between the New Bern Police Department, MADD, the Coastal Coalition for Substance Abuse Prevention and the Neuse Riverkeeper Foundation to collect unused and expired doses of medication was a huge success. The anonymous “**Pills can Kill**” drop off was held Saturday, Nov. 14, 2009 at local Food Lion stores, and an estimated 60,000 pills were collected.

The medications will be transported to an off-site facility for proper disposal of waste materials.

The sponsoring groups recognize the growing problem of prescription drug abuse and planned the event as a way for citizens to turn in unused, expired or unwanted medications for safe and proper disposal. According to a number of studies and published reports from the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the intentional abuse of prescription drugs to alter brain activity is a growing concern, and is especially prevalent in teenagers. Among youth aged 12 to 17, prescription medications are the second most abused drug following marijuana.

Parents should to talk with their children about the dangers of prescription drug abuse and all citizens are reminded to properly dispose of any old and unused medications.

The organizations behind the pill drop plan to hold another event in the spring of 2010.

The New Bern Police Department is committed to Community Policing. Citizens are encouraged to become a “**Partner in Policing,**” by reporting suspected illegal activity to the New Bern Police Department’s **TIPS** line at **(252) 636-5034** or the Craven County Crime Stoppers line at 633-5141.

For additional information, please contact Beth Stevenson, Public Information Officer at the New Bern Police Department at (252) 672-4211.

Frank Palombo, Chief of Police

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