



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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SAFELY DISPOSE OF UNUSED, EXPIRED OR UNWANTED MEDICATIONS

The New Bern Police Department in collaboration with MADD, the Coastal Coalition for Substance Abuse Prevention and the Neuse Riverkeeper Foundation are sponsoring a free and anonymous drug disposal program this Saturday, Nov. 14, 2009 at local Food Lion stores.

The groups collectively recognize the growing problem of prescription drug abuse and are offering citizens the opportunity to anonymously turn in unused, expired or unwanted medications for safe and proper disposal. The **"Pills can Kill,"** campaign will take place between 10 am and 2 pm at the Food Lion stores in New Bern located on Glenburnie Road and MLK King Jr. Boulevard. A third location will be at the Food Lion on Bridge Town Boulevard/Hwy 55 in Bridgeton.

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. The most abused and easily accessible drugs are pain medications commonly found in medicine cabinets across the country.

The sponsoring organizations of the pill-drop encourage parents to talk with their children about the dangers of prescription drug abuse and remind all citizens to properly dispose of any old and unused medications.

Police officers and volunteers from CCSAP, MADD and the NRF will be on hand at each of the three locations to assist citizens as they turn in any unwanted medications.

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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