

## Drug Take-Back Program

The Ridgefield Police Department, under the initiative of (Retired) Captain Scharf, installed a drop-off box in the lobby of Headquarters for residents to safely dispose of unused, expired or unwanted prescription drugs. This program has been favorably received by the Community and large quantities of drugs have been deposited in the box which are eventually incinerated. The drop-off box may be accessed 24 hours a day, Sunday through Saturday, and any pill container, or prescription liquid medication that is tightly sealed, can be placed into the drop box. The program has a three-fold purpose:

- 1) **Reduce drug abuse:** Prescription drug abuse is the fastest growing drug problem in our society. The abuse of medicines often results in medical emergencies or fatal overdoses. Most abusers of medicines, including youths, get the drugs from a friend or relative - not a drug dealer. The take-back program gets potentially dangerous leftover drugs out of our homes and away from our children.
- 2) **Reduce accidental poisoning:** Unwanted medicines left in our homes endanger our children, seniors and pets who do not comprehend the ramifications of taking the drug. Poisoning from prescription **and over-the-counter medicines** occur frequently and the take-back program plays an important part in keeping everyone safe in the home.
- 3) **Reduce Adverse Effects on the Environment:** The course of action to dispose of unwanted, unused or expired drugs was to flush them in the toilet or mix them with kitty litter and throw them in the garbage. Flushing medications sends them directly into our waters, harming the environment, which has been a prominent issue brought to the public's attention by environmentalists. Throwing the drugs out in the garbage poses the possibility of someone finding and using them and also does not guarantee that they will not damage the environment in the course of their disposal.

The Drug Take-Back Program is the only secure and environmentally sound way to dispose of leftover and expired medications. The Ridgefield Police Department hopes that the residents of Ridgefield continue to use this program to keep our Community safe.