

Town of Somers Unveils Rx Drug Drop Box at Police Station

Working as a community to prevent drug abuse.

Somers, CT- The Town of Somers unveiled its new Prescription Drug Drop Box at a ceremony attend by Somers Town and School Officials, Law Enforcement members and Somers School Students on April 8, 2015 at the Somers Police Department Resident State Troopers Office at 451 Main Street, Somers CT.

In a call to action to prevent drug abuse in their local communities First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini, Selectman Kathleen Devlin and Somers Police Lt. Jose Claudio participated in the Connecticut Council of Municipalities (CCM) Drug Abuse Prevention Working Group. The group began in June 2014 and worked with a wide network of participants including other mayors and first selectmen, law enforcement and CT State officials and mental health professionals and administrators to come up with a list of items for consideration by the CT legislature as well as some things that could be implemented within individual communities.

One key item that Pellegrini, Devlin and Claudio honed in on was the thought that drug abuse is a community problem and thus requires community involvement to prevent such abuse. America's 12 to 17 year olds have made prescription drugs the number one substance of abuse for their age group, and much of that supply is unwittingly coming from the medicine cabinets of their parents, grandparents, and friends. Increasingly more adults recognize the need to remove these substances from the home and legally and safely turn them over to law enforcement for proper destruction. The group decided to actively seek to install a Prescription Drug Drop Box after hearing of the success other towns had and looking at the large amounts of prescription medication being collected in other areas. According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy, next to marijuana, the most common abused drugs are Prescription Medications.

By working with Somers Comes Together, a unique group comprised of Somers students representing Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), school and town officials, faith based community leaders and community experts in mental health and drug abuse, support for such an effort was gained. ERASE (East of the River Action for Substance Abuse Elimination) who works with our community on the local prevention council, agreed to provide the funds in order to purchase the drug drop box.

Since the Drug Drop Box was installed, in December of 2014, the police department has collected over 60lbs of unwanted prescription drugs. An amazing result, when considering the box has not been publically advertised until now.

The drop box is available in the lobby of the police department/resident state trooper's office. Anyone can drop off prescription medication. There are no questions asked and identification is not required. Residents are encouraged to call ahead (860-749-4955) or stop by whenever an officer is at the station.