

PORT TOWNSEND POLICE DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

November 1, 2011

PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY

On October 29th the Port Townsend Police Department worked with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), the Jefferson County Community Network, and Jefferson County's Substance Abuse Advisory Board on the third national "Drug Take-Back Day".

31 people came to the Safeway Store in Port Townsend to turn in prescription and over-the-counter drugs for safe disposal. This amounted to a collection of 31 pounds of unwanted drugs. Needless to say the event was a success!

The Federal Government through the Drug Enforcement Administration has advocated this program for some time in an attempt to alleviate dangerous prescription narcotics and medications that are no longer being used and are susceptible to being misused or stolen. The program is designed to remove unwanted and expired prescription and over-the-counter medications out of homes and off of the street. Free and proper disposal helps protect the safety and well-being of Jefferson County residents and also prevents environmental damage to waterways and aquatic life.

According to the *2010 Washington Healthy Youth Survey*, about 1 in 10 Jefferson County 8th graders and 1 in 5 Jefferson County 10th graders reported ever using a pain killer to get high (based on reporting a location where they had gotten pain killers). *The Healthy Youth Survey* also reports that 8% of students in grades 10 and 12 used a prescription pain medication to get high in the past 30 days. Because these drugs are often readily available, teens who wouldn't otherwise touch illicit drugs might abuse prescription drugs. Proper and safe disposal prevents theft and other misuse of medications.

This National "Take-Back Day" is in addition to the ongoing Drug Take-Back Programs offered by the Port Townsend Police Department and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. For questions about the ongoing Drug Take-Back Programs, please contact the Port Townsend Police Department at 360-385-2322 or the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office at 360-385-3831.



Port Townsend Police Chief Conner Daily and Officer John Bick participate in the "Take-Back Day".



A community member brings in unwanted medications for proper disposal.