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PRESS RELEASE

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**TOWN OF CORTLANDT IS PARTICIPATING IN A TAKING BACK
UNWANTED PRESCRIPTION DRUGS DAY April 26, 2014 AT CORTLANDT
TOWN HALL.**

Cortlandt Manor, NY– On April 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Town of Cortlandt and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public its eighth opportunity in three years to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your pills for disposal to Cortlandt Town Hall, Conference Room 1 at 1 Heady Street, Cortlandt Manor, NY. (The DEA cannot accept liquids or needles or sharps, only pills or patches.) The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

Last October, Americans turned in 324 tons (over 647,000 pounds) of prescription drugs at over 4,114 sites operated by the DEA and its thousands of state and local law enforcement partners. When those results are combined with what was collected in its seven previous Take Back events, DEA and its partners have taken in over 3.4 million pounds—more than 1,700 tons—of pills.

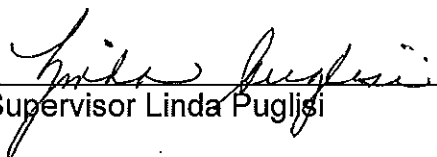
This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—both pose potential safety and health hazards.

DEA is in the process of approving new regulations that implement the Safe and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010, which amends the Controlled Substances Act to allow an "ultimate user" (that is, a patient or their family member or pet owner) of controlled substance medications to dispose of them by delivering them to entities authorized by the Attorney General to accept them. The Act also allows the Attorney General to authorize long term care facilities to dispose of their residents' controlled substances in certain instances.

IN ADDITION, the Cortlandt Town Hall will host a permanent medical drop box to offer our Town residents the opportunity to safely discard unwanted prescription drugs. The medical drop box will be located in the Purchasing Building on the Cortlandt Town Hall Campus at 1 Heady Street, Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567. The box will be available beginning on Friday, April 11, 2014. The hours of operation will be Monday – Friday from 9:00am – 3:30pm and will be monitored by the Westchester County Police only.

"When you think about the heroin epidemic that is plaguing our region, it's clear that medical drop boxes are an important step in the right direction. This problem is going to take a collective effort from many facets of our community to combat, from police, schools, government, and more. As a Town Board, we are committed to getting out in front of this issue in Cortlandt and I applaud our Supervisor, our Superintendents, and our County Police and the NYS Police for acting so deliberately and positively for our community." Councilman Seth Freach.

"We are pleased to be able along with the cooperation of the Westchester County Police to have this service available to our residents. Unfortunately, heroin has become an epidemic in our society that needs to be eradicated. It's a known fact that prescription drug abuse leads to heroin use, according to the experts. We are doing our part to help with this very serious problem and we thank our School Districts and all of our emergency services for their assistance." Supervisor Linda Puglisi



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