

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Groton Police Department to Hold Ribbon Cutting for Prescription Drug Drop Box

The Groton Adolescent Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (GASP) and the City of Groton Police Department are pleased to announce that there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday, June 20 at 3:30 p.m. at the City of Groton Police Department to celebrate the new prescription drug drop box. Police Chief Bruno Giulini, Mayor Marian Galbraith and Director of Health Baker Salisbury will be in attendance.

The GASP Coalition, a program of Ledge Light Health District, purchased the drop box with local prevention funding from the Southeastern Regional Action Council.

Residents will now be able to stop at the City of Groton Police department 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to drop off prescription drugs.

Prescription and over-the-counter medications, patches, ointments, vitamins, sample medications and pet medications will be accepted at the prescription drug drop box.

The following will **not** be accepted at the drop box: lotions or liquids, aerosol cans, inhalers, hydrogen peroxide, thermometers, needles or other sharp objects and medication from businesses or clinics.

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.

“The Groton Adolescent Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition has surveyed youth five times over the last ten years. Those surveys have shown a slow, steady increase in unauthorized prescription drug use,” said Ledge Light Health District Program Coordinator Michelle Hamilton. In the 2010 Groton Youth Survey, over 21% of 11th and 12th graders admitted to abusing prescription pain medications—a 4% increase since 2008 and 5% higher than the regional average. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet.

Typical methods for disposing unused medicines, such as flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash pose potential safety and health hazards. The safest way to dispose of medications is through a DEA-approved drop box or a local Prescription Drug Take-Back Event.

The Town of Groton Police Department will also have a prescription drug drop box available soon.

For more information about the ribbon cutting or the drop box, please contact Michelle Hamilton at 860-448-4882 ext. 305 or mhamilton@ledgelighthd.org

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The GASP Coalition is funded through the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) and the Southeastern Regional Action Council (SERAC). The coalition is an initiative of Ledge Light Health District, a local health department that serves Groton, Ledyard, East Lyme, New London and Waterford. For more information on the GASP Coalition contact Michelle Hamilton at (860) 448-4882 ext. 305.