

# Medicine disposal day offered in Basking Ridge

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**BERNARDS TWP.** An opportunity to dispose of unused, unwanted and expired medicine will be offered by township police this month.

An “Operation Take Back New Jersey” local collection will be hosted by township police from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 29, at police headquarters at 1 Collyer Lane.

The initiative is open to all residents.

This statewide effort, with the majority of New Jersey police departments participating, is being spearheaded by the Drug Enforcement Administration’s (DEA) New Jersey Division, the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General, and the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police.

Residents looking for information on the program and local collection sites should visit [www.operationtakebacknj.com](http://www.operationtakebacknj.com).

“This year, we are very excited about the continued support brought on by Operation Take Back New Jersey, and we hope all citizens will take time to eliminate any and all medicines that are not suitable for proper medical use,” said police Captain Edward Byrnes. “The more public attention we bring to this issue, the more we trust that people will become educated on the dangers of prescription drug abuse.”

Studies by Monitoring the Future, University of Michigan, between 1997 and 2007, showed that treatment admissions for prescription painkillers increased more than 400 percent. In addition, between 2004 and 2008, the number of visits to hospital emergency departments involving the non-medical use of narcotic painkillers increased 111 percent.

The proper disposal of unwanted medication is seen as a step to reduce this nation-wide problem.