

District Continues Successful Initiative to Reduce Harmful Flushing of Pharmaceutical Waste

Great Neck Water Pollution Control District Provides Free Non- Narcotic Pharmaceutical Disposal Kits to Residents

Great Neck, NY (June 23, 2016) – The Great Neck Water Pollution Control District (GNWPCD) is renewing a successful initiative to reduce the harmful flushing of pharmaceutical waste in an effort to protect the environment and reduce groundwater infiltration. For decades, the Department of Environmental Conservation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency advocated disposing unused pharmaceuticals by flushing them down the toilet. However, Great Neck residents rely solely on groundwater for their drinking water supply and Long Island’s water filtration facilities are not equipped to filter out pharmaceutical compounds. As an additional service to the taxpayer, the GNWPCD is providing free pharmaceutical disposal kits at District Headquarters, 236 East Shore Road, Great Neck, NY 11023.

“The District is pleased to announce it will be renewing last year’s successful initiative to install this service for our taxpayers,” said GNWPCD Superintendent Christopher Murphy. “By offering an easy solution to, and spreading awareness of, the harmful effects of flushing pharmaceuticals, we hope residents will join us in protecting our environment and water supply.”

The pharmaceutical disposal kits offered for free by the GNWPCD provide Great Neck residents the opportunity to dispose of unused medications in their original containers, including legally held Schedule II, III, IV, and V controlled drugs and narcotics. Liquid medications up to four ounces must be placed in sealed plastic bags before inclusion in the disposal kits. GNWPCD kits are not intended for Schedule I controlled substances, needles, syringes, lancets, injection pens, chemotherapy waste or other medical waste. All kits should be mailed to Sharps Compliance at 1544 N.E. Loop, Carthage, Texas 75633. For more information about drug schedules, please refer to the Drug Enforcement Agency website at www.dea.gov/druginfo/ds.shtml.

About the GNWPCD

The Great Neck Water Pollution Control District (GNWPCD) is a special commissioner-run district within the Town of North Hempstead. The GNWPCD has provided sewage services for the Great Neck area since 1914, and currently serves more than 25,000 residents and businesses in the villages of Great Neck, Saddle Rock, Kensington, and those parts of Thomaston and Great Neck Plaza east of Middle Neck Road; as well as all unincorporated areas north of the Long Island Rail Road and a part of Manhasset. The GNWPCD's mission is to protect our bay, the environment and the health of our society.

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