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For Immediate Release

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Great Neck Water Pollution Control District Invites Residents to Shed the Meds *Great Neck Residents Can Drop Off Pharmaceutical Waste in District Drive-Thru on September 17, 2017*

Great Neck, N.Y. – (August, 2017) – Great Neck residents are urged to take advantage of a free medical disposal drive-thru on September 17, 2017, the Great Neck Water Pollution Control District (GNWPCD) announced today. In partnership with Reach Out America, Great Neck Breast Cancer Coalition, North Shore Action, Nassau County Police, Northwell Health and the Boy Scouts, the GNWPCD will be accepting expired and unused medication, ensuring they are disposed of safely. The event is part of a GNWPCD-led effort to reduce the harmful flushing of pharmaceutical waste and protect the environment.

“For decades, the Department of Environmental Conservation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency advocated disposing unused pharmaceuticals by flushing them down the toilet,” said Commissioner Jerry Landsberg. “However, Great Neck residents rely solely on groundwater for our drinking water supply, and Long Island’s water filtration facilities are not equipped to filter out pharmaceutical compounds.”

“During this time when drug abuse is having such a detrimental effect on so many of our residents, a great way to properly and safely discard these pharmaceuticals will be at the Great Neck Water Pollution Control District Take Back on September 17th,” said Acting Commissioner of Police Patrick Ryder.

On September 17, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., residents will be able to drop off unused medication from the comfort of their cars at 236 East Shore Road in Great Neck. Visitors should enter the District from the East Shore Road entrance and exit onto Vista Hill Road.

“Northwell Health is to be seen as stewards of our local environment, it is necessary to stop the practice of disposing of pharmaceutical waste by pouring this waste down the drain or toileting prescription drugs.,” said Northwell Health Office of Procurement Assistant Vice President Donald Opahls.

“Reach Out America is supporting this event because proper disposal of unused pharmaceuticals is a critical part of protecting our local environment, a core mission of our organization since its beginning,” said Reach Out America President Rita Hall.

“In this day and age, who doesn't have half bottles of stimulants, opioid pain killers, depressants or other prescription pills in their medicine cabinet? Here is the chance to do the smart thing and get rid of them responsibly,” said North Shore Action Co-Founder Veronica Lurvey.

Unused medications should be in their original containers, including legally held Schedule II, III, IV and V controlled drugs and narcotics. Liquid medications should be placed in sealed plastic bags. For more information about drug schedules, please refer to the Drug Enforcement Agency website at www.dea.gov/druginfo/ds.shtml.

"The detection of even small amounts of birth control pills containing estrogen in the water supply is a concern as, during breast development, cells are rapidly growing and more sensitive to estrogen which has been shown to play a key role in the development of breast cancer", said President of the Great Neck Breast Cancer Coalition Laura Weinberg.

“The District is offering an easy solution to prevent the harmful effects of flushing pharmaceuticals, and we hope residents will join us in protecting our environment and water supply,” said GNWPCD Superintendent Christopher Murphy. “The pharmaceutical disposal drive-thru is a free service for our taxpayers.”

About the GNWPCD

The Great Neck Water Pollution Control District (GNWPCD) is a commissioner-run Special Improvement 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.