



City of Murphy  
206 N. Murphy Rd.  
Murphy, TX 75094  
(972) 468- 4000  
[www.murphytx.org](http://www.murphytx.org)

# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Media Contact: Celso Martinez 972-623-8836

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## Murphy Drug Take Back day set for Saturday, Sept. 19

MURPHY (August 12, 2015) The national Drug Take Back Day, during which law enforcement agencies accept unwanted or expired prescription drugs for disposal, conflicts with Murphy Maize Days, causing local officials to move the Murphy version one week up, says Lt. Adana Barber.

“Like last year, the national event falls on the same day as Maize Days,” she said. “Conducting it on that day is not feasible, so we’ve moved ours to the Saturday before. It’s a different day, but the same purpose.”

The Murphy Drug Take Back event will be held on Saturday, Sept. 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Murphy Police Department lobby, 206 North Murphy Road.

The twice-a-year effort is designed to provide a place where unwanted or expired drugs can be safely and securely taken to remove them from circulation and to prevent them from being introduced into the water supply. Several fully-attended collection receptacles will be available to accept the drugs for eventual disposal. The service is free and anonymous. Police personnel will ask no questions as to the origin of the drugs.

Nevertheless, new or used needles, new or used syringes and full or empty pressurized inhalers will not be accepted. Drug Take Back Day is a national effort, sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Administration, to provide residents a way to safely dispose of their unused or unwanted prescription drugs.

The last several Drug Take Back events have resulted in local residents bringing in an average of 175 lb. of unused, unwanted, expired or unknown drugs, both of the prescription and over-the-counter variety.

“Taking these drugs out of circulation can prevent these drugs from being abused by people who use them for purposes other than for what they were intended,” she added. “Over 70 percent of people abusing prescription pain relievers get them through friends or relatives who raid the family medicine cabinet.”

Take Back Day provides a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposal, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of these medications. Moreover, people who flush prescription drugs down their toilets may inadvertently place the larger community at risk, since the contaminated wastewater will eventually find its way back into the system.

“Nursing facilities and other locations that have outdated medications may bring them in as well. If we can help diminish the supply of potentially harmful drugs in Murphy, we most certainly want to do so,” she said.

For more information on the program, residents may call (972) 468-4210 or send an e-mail to Lt. Barber at [abarber@murphytx.org](mailto:abarber@murphytx.org).

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**ABOUT MURPHY** -- Murphy is a fast-growing community located in Collin County. The population is approximately 18,020, generally characterized as highly educated with a median household income above the state average. With more than 70 percent of the land developed, the community is dominated by single-family residences. City planners strive to preserve a country feel while exhibiting an aggressive economic development stance. The centrally-located municipal complex includes four buildings that house Fire, Police, City Administration and Public Works. Money Magazine has dubbed Murphy as the 27<sup>th</sup> Best Place to Live in America for small cities, and D Magazine placed Murphy as the fifth best suburb in the 2014 list, where it has consistently ranked in the top 10.