

# Councilwoman Bonner's Pharmaceutical Take-Back Program a Huge Success

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Pictured above are Councilwoman Jane Bonner with PharmaTurnsSolutions employees at the Drug Take-Back Program.

**MOUNT SINAI, NY** - Brookhaven Councilwoman Jane Bonner announced today that the Town's inaugural Pharmaceutical Take-Back Program was highly successful. More than 121,000 pills weighing over 352 pounds were collected at the one-day event, held at the Rose Caracappa Senior Center in Mount Sinai on September 26.

"This event was an overwhelming success, and provided our residents with a convenient way to safely and securely dispose of unused or unwanted prescription medication in an environmentally friendly way, keeping it out of our children's hands, our waterways and waste stream," said Councilwoman Bonner.

Millions of pounds of drugs are improperly disposed of every year in the United States, with approximately 2,500 teens abusing prescription painkillers for the first time. In 2006 alone, more than 2.1 million teens abused prescription drugs. Disposing of these drugs improperly, whether down the drain, flushing them or throwing them out, still negatively affects our children and residents. Even in trace amounts, these drugs have a negative effect on human and animal cells

The drugs that were collected at the event were disposed of in a waste-to-energy incinerator, which generated 92 hours of energy. Councilwoman Bonner plans to hold another Pharmaceutical Take-Back Program in the near future.

**Division of Public Information \* Office of the Town Council**

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