

JOURNAL COMMUNITY

Project Rx announces spring collection date

By JEANNE PUTNAM | contributor

Project Rx: A River Remedy will hold its sixth annual drug take-back event on April 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Community members can properly dispose of their unused or unwanted medications at various locations around the Upstate, including drive-through locations in Greenville at McAlister Square, 225 South Pleasantburg Drive, and St. Francis millennium, 2 Innovation Drive.

Project Rx was founded in 2010, in response to community concern about water quality and pharmaceutical pollution.

"Holding on to medications opens up the potential for them to find their way into the wrong hands, whereas flushing the medications can disrupt the balance in our local waterways," said Stacey Flax of Renewable Water Resources (ReWa). "At this time, incineration with law enforcement is the route we chose because it has the least environmental impact."

The program is a partnership with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), ReWa, and a collaboration

between Bon Secours St. Francis Health System, the Carolinas Institute for Community Policing, the Greenville County Medical Society, the Greenville County Sheriff's Office and Greenville Family Partnership.

The program offers free collection sites and anonymous acceptance of unwanted or expired prescriptions, over-the-counter medications, vitamins and supplements for Upstate residents to safely dispose for free. Participants are required to use a black permanent marker to eliminate personal information from labels, but must keep the name of drug visible. Sharps or syringes will not be accepted.

Upstate residents who find unused or expired medications after Project Rx is over are advised to store them and bring them to the next collection event. The program typically has collection events each fall and spring.

"The success of Project Rx - with five events collecting 6,756 pounds of medication - demonstrates the need to continue this community service," said Flax. "A participant at this event brought med-



ication dating back to 1960 - for 52 years they were waiting for a disposal solution."

For more information and a list of collection sites, visit aRiverRemedy.org or [facebook.com/ariverremedy](https://www.facebook.com/ariverremedy), or call 864-467-4099.

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