

FIGHT

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"It's not just a treatment problem or a police issue or a school issue.

"We're looking at this from a multi-faceted, multi-dimensional way to tackle the problem in the community."

Rinaldi said she hopes the February community meeting will also be a step towards developing an action plan.

"A lot of people are reaching out wanting to get involved," said Lindsay Weissenauer, senior public information officer for Dublin. "We really just started the conversation."

Dublin has taken the conversation online with resources and education about things such as signs someone is using heroin or abusing prescription drugs.

"We'll keep adding to it," Weissenauer said, adding videos are forthcoming, including an interview with a Dublin man who is a recovering heroin addict.

"A big piece of this is education efforts," Weissenauer said. Education will also come from the Dublin City School District, another entity involved in the local fight against heroin and prescription drug abuse.

"We're really blessed to be part of a community that addresses issues as we see them," said GeorgiAnn Diniaco, of Dublin City School's Safe and Drug Free School program and Teen Institute adviser.

"It was appreciated that instead of any one of us working alone, we came together."

Currently schools educate students for prevention, have support groups and mentoring for drug-free students and teach staff how to identify students with problems and how to deal with it.

In the future, Diniaco said she hopes to continue education and look into the best ways to fight this issue in the community.

"I think it's important for our community to understand we're at a time in our lives right now where collectively we need work together to save our young people," she said.

"If you're worried or concerned you need to break the barrier of silence so we can talk about what we have and help you put a plan together."

Education will also extend to current resources in the community such as the prescription drug drop box at the Dublin Justice Center.

Residents can drop off unused prescription drugs in the

Dublin police plan Recruitment Day

By JENNIFER NOBLIT
THISWEEKNEWS.COM

The Dublin Division of Police will hold its first recruitment day Jan. 30.

The Dublin Police Recruitment Day will be held from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 30, at the Dublin Justice Center, 6565 Commerce Parkway.

The event will include a chance to learn about the application process, test registration, salary, benefits, background investigation and disqualifications and other opportunities.

Police Chief Heinz von Eckartsberg said there is no experience required and there are currently several future Dublin officers attending the Columbus Police Academy.

The hiring process can take up to 18 months if police acad-

emy and field training is needed.

Department officials said they are unsure about how many new officers will be needed in 2016, but 2015 exceeded expectations.

"Last year we thought we'd only need to hire two or three (new officers)," von Eckartsberg said, "but we had 13 (hires) with all the retirements."

Dublin Police hired several officers in the 1990s that are approaching retirement and von Eckartsberg said he wants to have a good hiring pool from which to choose.

"We're looking for people that really want to come to work for us," he said.

For more information or to register for the recruitment day, look online at JoinDPD.org.

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CAMP & ACTIVITIES

Expos

ThisWeek COMMUNITY NEWS

Saturday, February 27
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
The Mall at Tuttle Crossing
Dublin

EXHIBITORS WELCOME!

Don't miss the fun!

The first annual Camp & Activities Expo presented by Columbus Parent and ThisWeek Community News will feature exhibitors from camps, activities and local businesses, an entertainment/demonstration stage, a family fun zone with activities, games and crafts, and more!

Families are looking for information on summer camps and activities for their