

# now

Parkland

Information and stories for Parkland employees  
April 20 – 26, 2026

PARKLAND HOSTS

# PREScription DRUG TAKE BACK EVENT

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## Parkland hosts Prescription Drug Take Back event

Expired, unused and unwanted medications kept in our homes can fall into the wrong hands or be taken improperly, creating preventable risks for families and communities. To help reduce accidental poisonings, misuse and improper disposal, the Dallas County Hospital District Police Department and Parkland Health will participate in a Prescription Drug Take Back event this Saturday, April 25. Parkland will host the take-back from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. this Saturday at the Simmons Ambulatory Surgery Center (4900 Harry Hines Blvd., Dallas 75235). The event is free and open to the public. Community members can hand medications directly to a law enforcement officer — no questions asked.

Eligible items include tablets, capsules, patches and other solid forms of prescription medications. Liquid products should remain tightly sealed in their original containers to prevent leakage. Syringes, sharps and illicit substances are not collected.

Held nationwide each spring and fall, these Take Back events offer a safe, convenient and responsible way to dispose of unused or expired prescription medications and many over-the-counter products. During the October 2025 Take Back event, the community once again emptied medicine cabinets to help remove old, unwanted and expired medications from circulation. Nationwide, the Drug Enforcement Administration and its law enforcement partners collected 571,054 pounds (286 tons) of unneeded medications at 4,317 collection sites, with 4,263 law-enforcement agencies participating. The statewide collection total in Texas was 42,271 pounds, with 231 collection sites and 215 participating law-enforcement partners.

Since the program began in the fall of 2010, these events have collected more than 20,391,815 pounds (10,196 tons) of old, unwanted and expired medications nationwide.

Prescription medications can be lifesaving when used as directed. But unused medicines stored at home can contribute to unintentional poisonings (especially among young children) and can also be diverted for misuse. The CDC notes that unintentional medication overdoses are a leading cause of emergency department visits among young children, underscoring the importance of safe storage and disposal.

Medicines found at home are still one of the most common reasons people call about possible poisonings, say experts at the North Texas Poison Center at Parkland. They encourage families to take a few minutes to check what medications they have on hand and safely get rid of anything that is expired or no longer needed.

“Drug Take Back Day is an opportunity to talk about medication safety with your family,” said Lizbeth Petty, Public Health Education Manager with the North Texas Poison Center. “Teach children that medicine should only be given by a trusted adult. For adults and caregivers, it’s also a reminder to take medications as prescribed and to promptly dispose of anything expired or no longer needed.”

If you cannot attend the Take Back event, year-round disposal options are widely available. The DEA reports tens of thousands of authorized collectors and permanent drop-box locations nationwide. The FDA also recommends take-back as the best disposal option, with additional at-home guidance when take-back is not readily available. For poison-related questions, call Poison Help at 1-800-222-1222 (free, confidential, 24/7) or visit [www.poison.org](http://www.poison.org).

## ▼ Explore career advancement options at Parkland

Members of Parkland’s Workforce Development team will be on hand to showcase Career Navigation and share details about other programs designed to help you advance your professional journey, including:

- English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
- Education at Work
- Tuition Reimbursement and Loan Repayment Support
- LEAP (Apprentice Programs)
- Reach for the Stars Nursing Scholarship

### ***Workforce Development Outreach Event***

- 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 21
- Outside Park Market

Stop by to ask questions, explore opportunities and get the inside scoop on navigating your career.

## ▼ Lasting Impressions: Felicia Macklin



Each week, “Lasting Impressions” features a Parkland employee who does exceptional work and provides excellent customer service. This week’s “Lasting Impressions” features Felicia Macklin, Senior Executive Assistant, Nursing Administration.

*“Felicia Macklin is a steady, trusted partner to both the Office of Health Equity and Nursing. She manages complex priorities across two divisions with clarity, professionalism and calm. Her judgment, organization and consistent follow-through strengthen every team she supports. Felicia models ICARE values through her reliability and respect for others, and her daily work makes a meaningful difference at Parkland.”*



Want to nominate an employee who goes above and beyond? Tell us what makes them so fantastic by emailing [Employees@phhs.org](mailto:Employees@phhs.org) or calling ext. 28048.

## NAVIGATING YOUR BENEFITS



Each month we will highlight an employee benefit to help guide you to resources that support and improve your overall wellbeing and work experience. If there are any topics you would like to see covered in a future issue, contact the Office of Talent Management via the [OTM Service Portal](#).

### Map out your route

Not quite sure how to navigate your benefits or need a refresher on what is available? Think of your benefits journey like you are planning a trip – having the right map makes everything easier. [Parklandbenefits.org](http://Parklandbenefits.org) is your trusted map for all things benefits. The benefits website is your go-to resource for helpful tools and up-to-date information to guide you in understanding your benefits.

Whether you are exploring healthcare options, learning about tuition reimbursement, gaining a better understanding of your retirement options or discovering the vast list of other benefits available to you, you’ll find resources to support you every step of the way on your journey.

- [Explore the Site – Parkland Benefits](#): All benefits in one place
- [Benefit Contacts – Parkland Benefits](#): Quick guide to Benefits contacts

## ► Join the HRO Learning Series session on April 21

Please join us for the HRO Learning Series. The next session will take place at noon on Tuesday, April 21. Join using the WebEx information:

- [Join WebEx](#)
- **Meeting number (access code):** 2311 641 7282
- **Meeting password:** PWkBWG3m52X (79529436 when dialing from a phone or video system)
- **Join by phone:** 1-469-210-7159

To ensure you do not miss an event, register for the webinar series by clicking [here](#). If you're unable to attend, a recording will be posted to the [HRO website](#) under the HRO Learning Series icon. Email any questions or concerns to [QualitySafetyOperations@phhs.org](mailto:QualitySafetyOperations@phhs.org).



## ▲ Flag raising honors our organ donors this Friday

At 10 a.m. on Friday, April 24, a Southwest Transplant Alliance (STA) flag will be raised on Parkland’s campus in celebration of donors and to raise awareness about the life saving impact of organ, eye and tissue donation. All Parkland team members are invited to come to this 30-minute ceremonial flag-raising at the flagpole facing Harry Hines Boulevard. More than 45 years ago, Parkland, in association with STA, launched the first organ donation program in Dallas. Since then, hundreds of donors have saved thousands of lives through Parkland’s transplant program.

## ► Retirement Readiness: 2026 and Beyond

Join us for a series of in-person or virtual sessions to learn more about preparing for retirement. With so much going on in the world, we often put important tasks such as saving for retirement on the back burner. Whether retirement is a long time in the future or just around the corner, will you be ready financially?

Attend these on-campus/virtual meetings hosted by Milliman, recordkeeper for our retirement plans, to discover how Parkland's retirement benefits can help you retire when you are ready. We will close each session with a Q&A.

Whether you are a new hire or a long-term employee, you can get a clear overview of Parkland's retirement benefits and learn how to maximize your options. You will also learn about key considerations to help you plan for your financial future.



### ***Tuesday, April 21: Are You Retirement Ready? Tools and Tips to Help You Prepare for Retirement***

- 11 a.m. in the MacGregor W. Day Auditorium (in person + virtual)
- [Join WebEx](#)
- **Meeting number (access code):** 2312 100 2802
- **Meeting password:** K3Af6cmvNm3

### ***Wednesday, June 17: Ready, Set, Retire: Navigating Retirement Income, Social Security and Medicare***

- 11 a.m. in the MacGregor W. Day Auditorium (in person + virtual)
- 1 p.m. in the Private Dining Room (in person only)

### ***Tuesday, Aug. 11: Master Your Money: A Guide to Debt, Credit and Saving for the Future***

- 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. (virtual only). [Register here.](#)

## ► Register for Nurse Residency and Fellowship Lunch and Learns

Ready to advance your nursing career? Talent Acquisition, in partnership with Workforce Development's Career Navigators, invites employees who are currently enrolled in nursing school and graduating no later than August 2026, as well as experienced RNs interested in switching specialties, to attend a Nurse Residency and Fellowship Lunch and Learn!

These sessions are designed for team members who are interested in applying for the October Nurse Residency and Fellowship cohort and want to learn more about the application process, timelines, and tips for success.

Sessions will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. beginning Monday, May 11, through Friday, May 15, in the Moody Outpatient Center. Candidates are encouraged to attend both sessions, as each session covers different topics. If you are interested, you can [register here](#).

### ***Session one:***

- Introduction to interview process
- Go over the principles of interviewing
- Interview exercises

### ***Session two:***

- Overview of the Bridge Program
- Resume building
- Mock interview

You can view full event details in this [flyer](#). For more information, email [RNresidentandfellow@phhs.org](mailto:RNresidentandfellow@phhs.org).



Care. Compassion. Community.

*Parkland Now* is published by the Corporate Communications department at Parkland Health.

Please note the submission deadline for each issue of *Parkland Now* is by the end of day each Monday.

To publicize your news in *Parkland Now*, please send all submissions to [Employees@phhs.org](mailto:Employees@phhs.org) or call ext. 28048.