

# Gun buyback Saturday

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SPRINGFIELD – The third annual “Gift for Guns” buy-back program, offering a \$50 gift certificate in exchange for each gun traded in, is scheduled for Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at locations here and in East Longmeadow, Longmeadow, Westfield, West Springfield and Wilbraham.

The program, sponsored by area law enforcement, Baystate Medical Center and **F.L. Roberts & Co.**, provides an incentive for people to get rid of unwanted firearms, particularly if there are children in the house.

Baystate Children’s Hospital pediatric surgeon Kevin P. Moriarty said that in households with children, guns

should either be securely locked up or removed for the safety of the child.

“Always keeping guns locked, unloaded and off-limits to kids, or – better yet – not having guns in your house at all would effectively end the danger to children,” he said. “We would stop seeing young people’s lives shattered by guns.”

Springfield Police Lt. Trent Hufnagel said owning a gun requires basic responsibility.

“If you can’t keep your guns safe in your home, but locking them and keeping them unloaded and inaccessible, you should get rid of them,” he said.

People turning in guns that

are in working condition will receive gift cards, valued at \$50 for handguns and \$35 for long guns, that may be redeemed at nearly 30 F.L. Roberts convenience stores, Jiffy Lube service centers and Golden Nozzle car washes.

Guns must be unloaded and inside a clear plastic bag that is in another container such as a gym bag or backpack. Ammunition must be in a separate bag.

Last year’s effort resulted in a total of 151 firearms being turned in. The year before that resulted in 136 guns surrendered.



### **GUN BUYBACK**

Here are the locations to turn in guns Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. as part of the third annual "Gifts for Guns" program:

- Joseph A. Budd Youth Assessment Center, 417 Liberty St., Springfield
- East Longmeadow Police Department, 160 Somers Road, East Longmeadow
- Longmeadow Police Department, 34 Williams St., Longmeadow
- West Springfield Police Department, 26 Central St., West Springfield
- Westfield Police Department, Community Policing Office, City Hall, 59 Court St., Westfield.
- Wilbraham Police Department, 16 Main St., Wilbraham