



HOLLAND BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS NEWS RELEASE

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Pharmaceutical Collection Event at Ottawa County Health Department Facility

HOLLAND, MI -- The Holland Board of Public Works and the Ottawa County Health Department are sponsoring a free pharmaceutical drive-up and drop-off event on Saturday, September 24, 2011 from 9 a.m. to Noon at the Ottawa Health Department facility, 12251 James Street, east of US 31 Highway.

Expired and unwanted medications being accepted include: prescriptions (as well as “controlled substances”); medicated ointments and lotions; over-the-counter medicines; inhalers; vitamins; and veterinary medications.

Open to all Ottawa County residents, this event provides the opportunity for people to properly dispose of their unwanted medications and prevents these items from being flushed down a drain.

Residents should mark out their name and other personal information on the containers. However, the label should be left on, so the pharmacist assisting at the collection can easily identify the medication during the sorting process. No questions will be asked and there are no forms to fill out.

Law enforcement officers will take the controlled substances to their incinerator. The remainder of the collected medicines will be stored by the county until shipped to a licensed incinerator.

For those who cannot attend the drop-off event, they are encouraged to minimize the risk of accidental poisoning, overdose or diversion (illegal use by someone other than the intended). Instead of flushing medicines down the drain or toilet, dispose of them in the trash. Be sure to:

- ▶ Remove or mark over all labels that identify the materials as pharmaceuticals or that could provide personal information about you, including prescription information that someone could try to refill;
- ▶ Make them unattractive to children by dissolving them in a small amount of water or by grinding them up and mixing them with coffee grounds or kitty litter; and
- ▶ Put them in a plastic bag and bury them in the trash.
- ▶ Never burn pharmaceuticals or personal care products in a burn barrel. Uncontrolled burning may create dioxins and other air pollutants.

This is the third pharmaceutical collection that the Holland BPW and the Ottawa County Health Department have co-sponsored. To learn more about this event, visit www.hollandbpw.com or call 616/355.1210 or 616/494.5569.

The Holland Board of Public Works is a municipally owned utility, providing essential, economical and innovative utility services for the Holland community including energy, water, wastewater treatment and infrastructure for communications.

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