



NEWS RELEASE

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HBPW Announces Pharmaceutical Waste Collection at Ottawa County Health Facility

HOLLAND, MI -- The Holland Board of Public Works is partnering with the Ottawa County Health Department to hold a free pharmaceutical waste collection on Saturday, September 25, 2010 from 9 a.m. to Noon at the Health Department facility, 12251 James Street, east of US 31 Highway.

"This Personal Pharmaceutical Collection gives residents the opportunity to safely dispose of any unused or unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medications, and at the same time reminds the community of the need to properly dispose of medications" said HBPW General Manager Loren Howard.

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, no appointment is needed for Saturday's drop-off. Residents should mark out their name and any personal information that appears on the containers. The label should be left on, however, 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.

Howard pointed out that disposing of pharmaceuticals down the toilet is a bad practice that needs to be changed. Many medicines are not destroyed in the waste treatment process and can reach the rivers, lakes and groundwater sources in our area. "We can help protect our lakes and streams by properly disposing of our household medicines," he said.

This is the second pharmaceutical collection that the Holland BPW and the Ottawa County Health Department have co-sponsored. Staff coordinators estimated that last year's event collected 50,000 pills (about 500 pounds); 300 pounds of non-controlled lotions, creams, liquids and aerosols; and approximately 50 pounds of controlled substances.

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 and infrastructure for communications. We operate socially and environmentally responsible utility enterprises that are able to expand and sustain a highly functional, reliable and efficient local infrastructure. For more information, visit www.hollandbpw.com.

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