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NEWS RELEASE: Prescription for Medication Disposal

Safe disposal for unwanted medications coming soon to an area near you!

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CHARLOTTE, Mich. — The Eaton County Department of Resource Recovery is working with the Eaton County Substance Abuse Advisory Group and the GFWC Clubs to spread the word about proper storage and disposal of unwanted medications.

In the past, the preferred method for the disposal of unwanted medications was to throw them into the trash or to flush them down the toilet. Liquid captured in landfills, or leachate, is tested before being sent to water treatment plants. However, leachate can end up in waterways and groundwater.

Decades old water treatment plants are unable to effectively screen for medications and recent studies have shown that some medications do end up in our drinking water.

Not only is our drinking water at risk but so is surface water. Traces of pharmaceuticals have been found in the Great Lakes; this can cause a negative impact on the ecosystem by leading to reproductive and developmental problems in fish and other animals. Feminization of male fish is one such impact. Obviously, this is not good news but it is a prime opportunity to educate citizens about proper disposal.

As always, the best course of action is to completely use the entire prescription. If medications remain, utilize a local collection of prescription medications.

Eaton County Department of Resource Recovery will accept all unwanted medications during every Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Recycling event. These events occur every year in the months of May, July and September. Appointments are required to better stage a safe, smooth flow of traffic from participants and as a method of avoiding any potential accidents. Medications and other Household Hazardous Waste are accepted at no charge. Electronics will be accepted for .30/lb and televisions for \$5 each.

Make a pledge to dispose of home toxics the right way. Utilize free local

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collections of household hazardous waste instead of landfilling. Make good choices to benefit the environment. It may not always be convenient but it is the right choice.

For the latest information on efforts to assist Eaton County residents with household hazardous waste, waste reduction, recycling and reuse options, contact the Department of Resource Recovery at (517)543-3686.

Submitted by Lisa Lafferty, Eaton County Department of Resource Recovery Coordinator.