

Board of County Commissioners

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News Release

*For more information, contact: Jolene Sullivan,
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For Immediate Release

Remember: Don't rush to flush your unused medicine

October 21, 2009 – A new program to keep medication from polluting area waterways begins this Saturday, Oct. 24, as part of the Household Hazardous Waste collection. The Prescription Medication Disposal Program encourages residents to drop off expired or unwanted medication at specified collection points. From 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, residents can bring unused medication to the county's Maintenance Facility at 1250 Old Meadow Branch Road, north of Westminster (off Route 97). After Saturday, medicine can be taken to one of four permanent drop-off locations: the Westminster Police Department at 36 Locust St.; the Taneytown Police Department at 120 E. Baltimore St.; the Sykesville Police Department at 7547 Main St.; and Greenmount Satellite Office of the Carroll County Sheriff's Office at 2255 Hanover Pike.

Medicine that is poured down a drain or flushed ends up in waterways and drinking water. Wastewater treatment plants cannot remove the chemicals. Even those thrown in the trash can leach into water supplies. In recent years, studies have found antibiotics, hormones, antidepressants and pain relievers in waterways across the nation. It is believed that these chemicals have caused mutations in fish and other wildlife.

A partnership with area law enforcement agencies, Carroll County's Prescription Medication Disposal Program has been approved by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. It was initiated by the Department of Citizen Services and will be overseen by the Carroll County Sheriff's Office. Law enforcement officers will ensure all medication is incinerated.

The program accepts expired or unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medication. Medical equipment, such as needles, cannot be accepted. For more information, contact Jolene Sullivan at 410-386-3600 or email her at jsullivan@ccg.carr.org.

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ACCESSIBILITY NOTICE: The Americans With Disabilities Act applies to the Carroll County Government and its programs, services, activities, and facilities. If you have questions, suggestions, or complaints, please contact Jolene Sullivan, the Carroll County Government Americans With Disabilities Act Coordinator, 410-386-3600 or 1-888-302-8978, or TT (410) 848-9747. The mailing address is: 10 Distillery Drive, First Floor, Suite 101, Westminster, MD 21157.

CARROLL COUNTY

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