Medication Drop-Off Day To Be Held November 13

Submitted by Leslie Kinnee, MMDHD Public Information Officer

The Montcalm Prevention Collaborative and the Medication Disposal Coalition of Montcalm County will be hosting a medication drop-off day on Monday, November 13, 2017 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at My Town Office, located at 220 E. Edgerton Street, Howard City.

Those with unwanted, unneeded or expired prescriptions and over-the-counter medications are encouraged to take advantage of this free, no questions asked service.

Bottles containing liquids should be placed in a Ziploc bag. Those dropping off medications may blacken out their name on pill bottles for added privacy, but it is not required. Sorry, but sharps will not be accepted at the drop-off day on November 13. If you have sharps to dispose of, you may take them to the Mid-Michigan District Health Department (615 N. State Street, Stanton) Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sharps must be in a medical sharps container or other puncture-resistant, leak-proof container, such as a laundry detergent bottle. Please call 989-831-3669 with any questions.

This medication take-back initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Americans spend approximately $200 billion annually on prescription drugs, many of which remain in our medicine cabinets, unused or expired, making them easily accessible to youth and those whom they were not intended. Sadly, rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that the majority of abused prescription drugs are found in the home medicine cabinet or obtained from family and friends.

This initiative also addresses an environmental concern as well. Americans were once told that it was completely safe to dispose of medications by throwing them in the trash or flushing them down the toilet. We now know this is not the case; that doing so is not safe for people or the environment. By properly disposing of unwanted or unneeded medications, residents help reduce substance abuse, prevent childhood poisonings, and protect the environment we all share.

For additional information on Montcalm County’s medication disposal program, please visit the Medication Disposal Coalition of Montcalm County’s Facebook page or the Montcalm Prevention Collaborative website at www.montcalm prevention.org. If you would like to become involved in the county’s substance abuse prevention efforts, please call 989-287-0527.