

Agencies Partner to Provide Services for Proper Medication Disposal

The Clinton County's Sheriff's Office and Department of Waste Management are partnering with Clinton Memorial Hospital and the Clinton County Substance Abuse Coalition to provide a number of free events to assist residents to properly dispose of unwanted and expired medications. Residents can help protect their families, pets, the community and the environment by participating in these free programs.

The services are provided to increase awareness and prevention of prescription drug abuse, and to help safeguard the environment. This is a great opportunity to clean out home medicine cabinets and ensure items are managed properly. Medications should never be disposed of by flushing or pouring items "down the drain". Some substances are not able to be filtered by water treatment plants. As a result they may end up in surface waters and negatively impact local ecosystems.

The first collection event will be held on October 17 from 8:30 a.m. to Noon, in conjunction with the Healthy Families Community Fair. The medication collection will be conducted at Clinton County's Exhibit Booth at the Fair which is located in the RESA Building in St. Johns at 1013 S. US-27.

A second collection program will be offered every other Friday from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM, starting on October 23. Subsequent collections will be held on November 6 and 20 and on December 4. Residents can drop off their items to the Clinton Memorial Pharmacy located at 901 S. Oakland Street in St. Johns.

Clinton Memorial Pharmacy staff will assist in sorting medications that are collected through the programs. The Clinton County Sheriff's Office will oversee the collection and ensure proper disposal of all controlled substances as regulated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency. Disposal of all other medications is arranged by the Clinton County Department of Waste Management.

The collection programs are open to all Clinton County residents. To participate, simply drop off medications at the times and locations listed above. Keep medications in original containers if possible, it helps with sorting; all items will be disposed of in an environmentally safe and confidential manner. For more information about the collection programs contact the Clinton County Department of Waste Management at waste@clinton-county.org or 989-224-5186.