



Great Lakes Clean Water Organization

www.GreatLakesCleanWater.org

NEWS RELEASE

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Area: Alpena, Lincoln, Oscoda, E.Tawas, Tawas City

Program to Collect and Dispose Unused/Unwanted/Expired Drugs Underway in Northeast Michigan

Up until now when a person wanted to dispose of unused/ unwanted/expired drugs the only option available to them was to flush down the drain or send to a landfill. In Michigan and across the country this has lead to an emerging problem of trace amounts of chemicals showing up in our water. Now in several communities in Northeast Michigan there is an alternative.

Coordinated by Great Lakes Clean Water Organization, a local non profit, The Yellow Jug Old Drugs program began May 1st at participating pharmacies in Alpena Alcona and Iosco Counties. Individuals can bring in unused/unwanted/expired drugs for proper disposal. Collected drugs will then be incinerated in a State of Michigan approved facility in Detroit. Incineration is recommended by the World Health Organization as the most thorough and environmentally responsible method of destroying unused/unwanted drugs.

Diane O'Connor RN of Alpena who serves as Treasurer for GLCW, states.”The participation of pharmacies in helping to address this problem is critical. We are fortunate to have so many community-minded pharmacies working working with us.

Pharmacies participating in the Yellow Jug Old Drugs program include: Neiman's Pharmacy, The Drug Store, The Medicine Shoppe in Alpena, Lincoln Pharmacy in Lincoln, Gilbert's Pharmacy in Oscoda,The Medicine Shoppe in East Tawas and Sav-Mor Drugs in Tawas City. The cost for the pilot program is being sponsored by United Water/Suez Environment.

The Yellow Jug Old Drugs program accepts non-controlled drugs only at pharmacies. Controlled Drugs can be dropped off on May 20th 10:00-1:00 at the Michigan State Police Alpena Post in coordination with HUNT. See participating pharmacists for questions on what is controlled/non controlled.

Great Lake Clean Water was formed in January 2009 to raise awareness about the harmful effects of drugs in our water and promote community-based solutions.

According to Chris Angel, a founding member “Pharmacists, health professionals and government agencies agree that something should be done to keep drugs from going into our water and landfills, but most communities in Michigan do not currently have collection program therefore most are forced to continue the practice of flushing or sending to a landfill. What is needed is a comprehensive state-wide approach to collecting and disposing of unused/unwanted drugs in a safe and approved manner and the Yellow Jug Old Drugs program in Northeast Michigan is a very positive step in that direction.”

In the future GLCW plans to be able to offer the Yellow Jug Old Drugs program to other communities in Michigan.

For more information on the Yellow Jug Old Drugs program go to www.greatlakescleanwater.org or call 989-736-8179