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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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“National Take-Back Initiative” seeks to prevent prescription drug abuse, theft

WOODSTOCK IL – McHenry County Department of Health (MCDH) encourages residents to take advantage of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency’s (DEA) program “National Take-Back Initiative” on Saturday, September 25. A joint collaborative of government, public health and law enforcement, this initiative will provide a safe way for the public to dispose of their expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs at no cost. The one-day event is from 10am-2pm, at participating law enforcement sites. Residents can bring prescription and over-the-counter, solid dose (tablets, capsules) medications in clear, sealed plastic bags for disposal. Liquids, intravenous (IV) bags/solutions, injectables, needles, lancets and sharps will not be accepted. Remember to remove prescription labels (or block out personal information with a permanent marker) from plastic bottles before tossing into weekly curbside recycling containers.

Drop-off sites include –

- Algonquin Police Dept, 2200 Harnish Drive, Algonquin
- Crystal Lake Police Dept, 100 W Woodstock St, Crystal Lake
- Harvard Police Dept, 201 W Front Street, Harvard
- Huntley Police Dept, 10911 Main Street, Huntley
- Johnsburg Police Dept, 3611 N Chapel Hill Road, Johnsburg
- Lakewood Police Dept, Village Hall, 2500 Lake Ave, Lakewood
- Spring Grove Police Dept, 7401 Meyer Road, Spring Grove
- Woodstock Police Dept, 656 Lake Street, Woodstock

According to the DEA, rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are increasing at an alarming rate, as are accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Many Americans toss their unused medicines into the toilet or throw them in the trash – both potential safety and health hazards. U.S. Geological Survey studies have found traces of prescription drugs in water samples from 30 states which have been linked to ecological harm to fish and freshwater supplies.

Proud supporters include U.S. DEA, local law enforcement, MCDH, McHenry County Substance Abuse Coalition, Lou Marchi Total Recycling Institute at MCC and Environmental Defenders of McHenry County.

To find collection sites near you, visit the DEA’s webpage

<http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/takeback/index.html>. New sites will be added daily.

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Additional information is available from your local law enforcement agency, on the MCDH webpage www.mcdh.info (Environmental Health) or from Kristy Hecke, Solid Waste Manager at 815-334-4585.

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“Working to prevent disease and promote health and safety for all people of McHenry County since 1966.”