

For Immediate Release

April 7, 2015

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RE: Protect the Great Lakes! Public Invited to Drop Off Medications and Microbead Products at 15 Sites Across the UP on April 25.

Marquette, MI – The Superior Watershed Partnership (SWP) is hosting a one-day medication collection event on April 25, 2015 in communities across the Upper Peninsula (UP). From 10am – 2:00pm UP residents will be able to drop off their expired and unwanted medications, including products containing microbeads, at sites in 15 UP communities.

In celebration of Earth Day, the SWP is collaborating with their UP faith network of 200 Earth Keeper churches to bring this FREE event to communities in the UP. This is the third medication collection the SWP has hosted in the UP. Cumulative amounts of old drugs collected exceeds 2300 pounds since the first event in 2007.

Studies show that when medications are flushed down the toilet they are not filtered out by wastewater treatment facilities and can enter our waterways. Pharmaceuticals can cause reproductive and developmental problems in aquatic wildlife. SWP Medication Collections will accept everything from prescriptions, over the counter medications, narcotics, liquids, and even medical waste like sharps or needles. People are being encouraged to keep pills in original containers.

The SWP is also collecting any personal care products containing microbeads, tiny abrasive pieces of plastic that are not biodegradable and also not filtered out by water treatment plants. Studies show these small particles are being ingested by Great Lakes fish, with potential negative implications. Microbeads will be listed as polyethylene or polypropylene compounds on the ingredients list of most products.

Flushing pills down the toilet is bad for the health of our water. But this is not just a water quality issue; it's also a law enforcement issue which is why proper collection and disposal is important. For more information on proper disposal of medications and microbead products please contact the SWP.

April 25, 2015 Medication Collection Sites

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish
110 W. Jewell St.
Munising

United Methodist Church
304 N. Main St.
L'Anse

First Presbyterian Church
819 1st Ave South
Escanaba

Salvation Army Bread of Life Assistance Center
212 Woodward Ave
Iron Mountain

Trinity Episcopal Church
205 Montezuma
Houghton

Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp
138 Fortune Lake Camp Rd.
Crystal Falls

United Methodist Church
615 W. US 2
St. Ignace

Trinity Lutheran Church
414 E. Ridge St.
Ishpeming

Messiah Lutheran Church
305 W. Magnetic
Marquette

First United Methodist Church
601 10th Ave.
Menominee

United Methodist Church
9 Tamarack St.
White Pine

First United Methodist
190 N. Cedar St.
Manistique

First United Presbyterian
555 Bingham St.
Sault Ste. Marie

The Church
32526 W. Company Row
Eckerman

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
100 W. Midland Ave.
Ironwood

For more information on the upcoming medication collections, a list of UP collection sites, or to volunteer for a collection event, please visit www.superiorwatersheds.org/pollution-prevention or call 228-6095, Ext. 11.

The Superior Watershed Partnership is an award winning Great Lakes nonprofit organization that has set national records for pollution prevention and implements innovative, science-based programs that achieve documented environmental, economic, and educational results.

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