National Drug Take Back Day: Big Red Barrel Project

National Drug Take Back Day is Saturday October 24th from 10am to 2 pm.

The Drug Enforcement Administration promotes this program twice per year to get unused medications out of the home.

Here in Livingston County it’s a daily event. All police stations, Unadilla, Brighton, Howell, Hamburg, Fowlerville and Green Oak have a Big Red Barrel. The Sheriff Department has one. All Michigan State Police Post have a barrel. There are over 80 Big Red Barrels in the state and well over 20,000 pounds of pills have been properly disposed of sine the program began in 2011.

And now all CVS Pharmacies and Meijer stores in Livingston have a unused prescription drug disposal.

The intent of the disposals is to help prevent misuse of medications and to properly dispose

of them. Most abused prescription drugs come from family and friends and the medicine cabinet. Studies show that flushing the drugs down the toilet or throwing them in the trash is having negative effects on the environment.

On Saturday, October 24, the Big Red Barrel will be at Genoa Township Hall from 10 am to 2pm.

to collect unused medications and the drain commission will be there to collect sharps. Genoa Township Hall is located at 2911 Dorr Road, Brighton 48116.

The Big Red Barrel will be at the town square in Pinckney on Saturday, October 26 from 10am to 2pm to collect unused medications. We will collect sharps as well.

The service is free and there are no questions asked. Put pills in a zip-lock bag and drop them in the receptacle. Pills can be mixed in the same bag. The Big Red Barrel will accept liquids as long as they are kept separate and are dumped in a zip-back with enough paper towels to soak the liquid up. Sharps (needles) should be in a disposal container that can be purchased at any pharmacy or put in a used laundry detergent bottle with the top secured with tape. The Drain Commissioners office collects sharps during their normal business hours. For more information call the drain commissioner’s office 517-546-0040

For more information on the Big Red Barrel contact the Livingston County Community Alliance at 517-545-5944.