

## **Remember: Don't rush to flush your unused prescription medicine**

The Sykesville Police Department will be one of many collection sites around the county to accept unused and expired prescription medication. This is a new program sponsored by Carroll County to keep medication from polluting area waterways. Carroll County wants to encourage residents to drop off expired or unwanted medication at specified collection points. Residents are requested to use the drop box for expired or unwanted prescription medication only. This location will not accept over-the-counter medications or medical equipment, such as needles. This collection box will be available to all residents Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M.

Medicine that is poured down a drain or flushed ends up in waterways and drinking water. Wastewater treatment plants cannot remove the chemicals. Even those thrown in the trash can leach into water supplies. In recent years, studies have found antibiotics, hormones, antidepressants, and pain relievers in waterways across the nation. It is believed that these chemicals have caused mutations in fish and other wildlife.

A partnership with area law enforcement agencies, Carroll County's Prescription Medication Disposal Program has been approved by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. It was initiated by the Department of Citizen Services and will be overseen by the Carroll County Sheriff's Office. Law enforcement officers will ensure all medication is incinerated.

The program accepts expired or unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medication. Medical equipment, such as needles, cannot be accepted. For more information, contact Jolene Sullivan at 410-386-3600 or email her at [jsullivan@carr.org](mailto:jsullivan@carr.org).