



Public Health
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Frederick County Health Department

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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COMMUNITY DISPOSAL EVENT PROMOTES HEALTH AND SAFETY, DRAWS COMMUNITY SUPPORT

FREDERICK, MD -- On Saturday, June 8th, residents of Walkersville and the surrounding communities came out to turn in their unwanted and expired medications and syringes at the community disposal event held at the Walkersville Volunteer Fire Company. Approximately 158 residents participated in the event coordinated by the Frederick Barrack of the Maryland State Police with assistance from the Walkersville Volunteer Fire Company, the Walkersville United Methodist Church, and the Frederick County Health Department.

During the four-hour event, residents turned in 367 pounds of medication and 6,290 syringes for safe disposal. According to the Drug Enforcement Agency, medication disposal events address the public safety and public health concern that the majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, often from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, syringe disposal events promote proper disposal of used syringes and increase awareness about harm reduction strategies.

“This event was a true community event,” stated Detective Sergeant Scott Robertson with the Maryland State Police. “Coordinating resources among various partners not only made for a successful event, but it also strengthened the relationships among our groups.” Special thanks to the Walkersville United Methodist Church and their Youth Ministry for creating signage, greeting and

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thanking community participants, and also doing much of the groundwork with town officials to make this event a reality.

The next community disposal event is Saturday, September 28 at the Middletown Volunteer Fire Company located at 401 Franklin Street in Middletown. The event will begin at 8 AM and will conclude at 12 noon. Unwanted and expired medication and syringes will be accepted at the disposal event. Syringes must be separated from the medication prior to disposal. Acceptable items include syringes, needle tips, lancets and auto-injectors.

For more information about medication and syringe disposal events, contact the Frederick County Health Department at 301-600-1755. Information about this event and other health department services can be found on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/fchealthdept.

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