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JEFF STORJOHANN | DAILY TIMES HERALD

Organizers of Drug Take Back Day say it is an effective and safe way for area residents to dispose of unused, unneeded and expired medications. Drug Take Back Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Fourth Street behind the Carroll Police Department, and participants can drive up and dispose of medications. Helping promote the event are (from left) Capt. Mark Heino and Chief Jeff Cayler, Carroll Police Department; Donna Badding-Fleener, prevention consultant for New Opportunities; and Sheriff Doug Bass, Carroll County Sheriff's Office. Also supporting the event is the Substance Abuse Free Environment Coalition.

Free prescription drug disposal is Saturday

Residents can safely dispose of their prescription drugs on Saturday at the Carroll Police Department.

The Drug Take Back Day runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the south side of the department at 112 E. Fifth St. near the building's garage doors.

Residents are urged to dispose of unused drugs to prevent children, young adults and others from using them. But flushing the drugs down the toilet or tossing them in the trash is bad for the environment, law enforcement officials say.

Residents can dispose of all prescription drugs — and also needles and illegal narcotics — without the threat of arrest, according to a police press release.

For more information, call the

department at (712) 792-3536.

The Drug Take Back Day is jointly offered by the Carroll Police Department, Carroll County Sheriff's Office, Carroll County SAFE (Substance Abuse Free Environment) Coalition and New Opportunities. All collected prescription drugs will be disposed of by the Drug Enforcement Agency.

According to a news release from New Opportunities, "Last September, Americans turned in 244 tons of prescription drugs at over 5,200 sites operated by the Drug Enforcement Agency and its thousands of state and local law-enforcement partners.

"Flushing old medications down the toilet or throwing them in the trash is not good for the environment. Drugs

pollute the water, and those substances cannot always be removed from wastewater. ... Prompt and proper disposal of medication is important because there are concerns of children and young adults finding and using medications that their parents or grandparents have in their medicine cabinets. A 2012 national survey showed that the majority of teenagers using prescription drugs got them from family and friends including their home medicine cabinets."

If someone has a problem with prescription drugs or other substances, New Opportunities offers substance-abuse-treatment options for adolescents and adults and can be contacted at 792-9266.