

# PRESS RELEASE



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## FREE MEDICATION COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL EVENT SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 25

*Silver Spring Township municipal building parking lot to serve as collection point*

**CARLISLE, Pa. (September 15, 2010)** – Pennsylvania American Water, Cumberland County Recycling & Waste Authority (CCR&WA) and Cumberland-Perry Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (SAPC) are partnering again to offer a free medication collection and disposal drop-off on Saturday, September 25 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., rain or shine. The event at the Silver Spring Township Municipal Building will provide an opportunity for the public to dispose of unwanted and expired prescription and over-the-counter medicines in an environmentally safe manner.

Last fall, more than 600 pounds of medications were collected during a similar daylong event in Cumberland County. This year's collection is being held on the same date and time as the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's first-ever nationwide drug take-back day. Disposal of medications continues to garner awareness as studies have shown trace amounts of pharmaceutical products in water sources.

"The best and most cost-effective strategy to ensure safe drinking water is to keep our source waters clean, and this event is a great, environmentally friendly way to help protect water resources," said Paul Zielinski, senior director of water quality and environmental compliance for Pennsylvania American Water. "We strongly urge customers to not flush unused or expired drugs down the toilet where they can enter into our waterways."

Chairman Gary Eichelberger of the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners added, "Participating in partnerships that promote a clean environment is a strategic direction of the county strategy, and I encourage residents to take advantage of this partnership to dispose of pharmaceuticals in a manner that helps protect our water resources."

To cover the event's collection and disposal costs, Pennsylvania American Water is co-sponsoring the program with CCR&WA, SAPC and Silver Spring Township. The event's overall cost will be dependent on the volume of medications received, which will be documented and subsequently incinerated at a licensed disposal facility.

"Medication take-back programs are a fantastic way of educating the residents of our community about the importance of properly securing all medications when they are in our homes. By destroying these unused medications in an environmentally friendly way, we can prevent them from falling into the wrong hands and potentially being used in an abusive manner," said SAPC Coordinator Linda Doty.

The collection will be held in the parking lot of the Silver Spring Township Municipal Building at 6475 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg, PA. Participants will be able to either drive through a drop-off point in the parking lot or walk up to a tent and hand over their medications. Representatives from Pennsylvania American Water, CCR&WA, SAPC and a licensed disposal contractor, as well as local law enforcement officials from the Office of the Cumberland County Sheriff and Silver Spring Township will be on-site for the duration of the event.

If possible, participants should keep medication in their original containers with original labels still affixed. Personal information (i.e. names and addresses) should be crossed out, but information about the medication should be legible. No thermometers, needles, syringes or other medical waste will be accepted. All medications will be destroyed by incineration and participants will not receive refunds.

### **About Pennsylvania American Water**

Pennsylvania American Water, a wholly owned subsidiary of American Water (NYSE: AWK), is the largest investor-owned water utility in the state, providing high-quality and reliable water and/or wastewater services to approximately 2.2 million people. Founded in 1886, American Water is the largest investor-owned U.S. water and wastewater utility company. With headquarters in Voorhees, N.J., the company employs more than 7,000 dedicated professionals who provide drinking water, wastewater and other related services to approximately 16 million people in 35 states, as well as Ontario and Manitoba, Canada. More information can be found by visiting [www.amwater.com](http://www.amwater.com).

### **About the Cumberland County Recycling & Waste Authority**

The Cumberland County Recycling & Waste Authority is a fully chartered Authority with a mission of providing for the long term capacity and disposal of Cumberland County municipal waste in an environmentally sound and cost effective manner, reducing overall County waste generation, increasing overall County recycling, and providing County residents with proper disposal options for certain items that are generally considered inappropriate for municipal solid waste disposal facilities. For more information about the Cumberland County Recycling & Waste Authority, visit [www.ccpa.net/recycling](http://www.ccpa.net/recycling).

### **About the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition**

The Cumberland-Perry Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (SAPC) is made up of a cross-section of drug and alcohol prevention professionals from human service agencies, law enforcement entities, educators, health care professionals and the general community, whose mission is to strengthen Cumberland and Perry counties' capacity to prevent substance abuse through innovative prevention efforts.

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