



### **News Release- For Immediate Release**

Contact: Cheryl Wittke – Safe Communities Director: 608-256-6713  
[cwittke@safercommunities.org](mailto:cwittke@safercommunities.org)  
Rick Eilertson – Fitchburg Environmental Engineer: 608-270-4264  
[rick.eilertson@city.fitchburg.wi.us](mailto:rick.eilertson@city.fitchburg.wi.us)

### **Fitchburg Hosts MedDrop Event October 22<sup>nd</sup>**

The Fitchburg community will have an easy, free drive-through opportunity to rid their homes of unwanted medicines on Saturday, October 22, 2011. Fitchburg will host this MedDrop event at the [Fitchburg City Hall](#), 5520 Lacy Road, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. **A Press Event and Presentation will be held with the MedDrop Program Partners at 10:30am to provide an overview of the program.**

Poisoning has surpassed motor vehicle crashes as the leading cause of injury death in Dane County according to the latest statistics available from Public Health-Madison and Dane County. Over 75% of Dane County poisonings were the result of drugs - prescription, over-the counter and illicit combined. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has declared drug overdoses an “American Epidemic.”

“Hosting a Med-Drop event is an important community safety effort,” says Fitchburg Mayor Shawn Pfaff. “I will be working with Police Chief Tom Blatter, Environmental Engineer Rick Eilertson and the Safe Communities organization to develop a more permanent solution for our residents.”

“Young children, teens, seniors -- everyone is safer if unnecessary medications are removed from the home. If medications are not available we expect to see a drop in accidental and intentional poisonings,” says Cheryl Wittke, Director, Safe Communities. “We encourage you to clean out all places you store medications – bathroom medicine cabinets, closets, night stands, and kitchen cupboards. Forgotten medications can be especially dangerous,” says Wittke.

#### **MedDrop will accept:**

- Prescription medicine (pills, liquids and creams)
- Over-the-counter medicine (pills, liquids and creams)
- Medications for pets
- Nebulizer solution

Illegal drugs will also be taken, no questions asked. They will be turned over to authorities for immediate disposal.

#### **MedDrop will not accept:**

- Needles/sharps/Epi-pens
- Thermometers
- IV bags
- Oxygen tanks
- Nebulizer machines
- Inhalers

Check out [Fitchburg’s Recycling Guide](#) for recommendations on proper disposal of these items at: [www.city.fitchburg.wi.us/solidwaste](http://www.city.fitchburg.wi.us/solidwaste)

Fitchburg and Dane County law enforcement are required to be on site to make sure controlled substances are handled properly. All materials collected will be disposed of following environmentally responsible procedures.

*Safe Communities is a local public/private partnership that sustains joint action by area agencies, businesses, and neighborhoods to **SAVE LIVES**, prevent injuries and make our community safer. For more information go to [www.SaferCommunity.net](http://www.SaferCommunity.net).*

###

# Map of Fitchburg MedDrop Drive-Through Drop Off

