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Tennessee American Water, Hamilton County Coalition & Others Announce Upcoming Drug Take Back

Drug Take Back at Over 20 Regional Sites Makes It Convenient to Drop Off Medications

Chattanooga, Tenn. (October 14, 2020) – The Bi-Annual National Drug Take Back will be held on **Saturday, October 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Eastern time zone.** The event provides residents the opportunity to rid their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused and unwanted medications. Residents may simply drive to a Drug Take Back location, where a law enforcement or volunteer wearing masks will take the medications for proper disposal.

The service which is free and anonymous helps to prevent misuse and abuse of medications while protecting local water sources. Collected medications are incinerated, which is the Environmental Protection Agency's recommended approach for pharmaceutical disposal. Flushing medications down the toilet and throwing them in the trash are discouraged.

"It's important for us to keep these items out of landfills and water supplies as well as the hands of those who may misuse or abuse them. Through these efforts we can help protect what is most precious – our youth and our water," said Kitty Vaughn, Tennessee American Water Supervisor of Water Quality and Environmental Compliance.

Tennessee American Water has been a partner of the National Drug Take Back Day since it was launched 10 years ago by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The Drug Take Back program offers citizens a chance to safely and conveniently dispose of unwanted, unused prescription or over-the-counter drugs (for both pets and people) and avoid misuse or unintentional harm to families, pets and the environment.

"According to the DEA, medicines left in home cabinets are highly susceptible to misuse and abuse," said Camilla Bibbs, Executive Director of the Hamilton County Coalition. "We encourage residents to take advantage of the Drug Take Back Day by simply driving to one of the locations and dropping off medication with no questions asked."

Area sites include 14 Hamilton County area locations as well as sites in Marion, Rhea, Meigs and Sequatchie Counties. The Mt. Canaan Baptist Church and East Brainerd Walgreens locations will also have free shredding available for personal documents. Residents can visit the Hamilton County Coalition website, hccoalition.org/rx-drug-take-back-events to find a location convenient to them.

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Tennessee American Water, a subsidiary of American Water (NYSE: AWK), is the largest investor-owned water utility in the state, providing high-quality and reliable water services to approximately 380,000 people in Tennessee and north Georgia. With a history dating back to 1886, American Water is the largest and most geographically diverse U.S. publicly traded water and wastewater utility company. The company employs more than 6,800 dedicated professionals who provide regulated and market-based drinking water, wastewater and other related services to 15 million people in 46 states. American Water provides safe, clean, affordable and reliable water services to our customers to make sure we keep their lives flowing. For more information, visit www.tennesseeamwater.com.

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