

Once-a-year hazardous waste disposal day coming up

BY SETH STAPLETON Tribune.Staff.Writer

BAD AXE — The deadline is quickly approaching for Huron County residents to register for a household hazardous waste collection.

Hosted by the MSU Extension Office, the collection will take place May 10, but people must contact the office by April 30 to make an appointment in order to participate.

Shelly Sowles, program coordinator for past six years, said this will be the only collection offered to Huron County residents this year.

“It is a great program — we have a good response,” Sowles said. “We get people from all around the county participating.”

Sowles pointed out that those interested in participating must call the extension office and they will respond with a postcard telling you when and where you can drop off your items. Drop off times will be scheduled any time between 8 a.m. and noon. People will be sent a flyer that describes what items can and can't be dropped off and a postcard that they must bring in as proof of pre-registration.

“That way, they can go ahead and collect their items and know for sure if it's something they can bring and they're not going to have to take it back home,” Sowles said.

The reason for pre-registration is that the program is unable to take things from people that just show up on location and drop stuff off randomly. Sowles said once a person arrives on site, the process should take about five to 10 minutes, depending on how many items they bring.

Acceptable items include toxic, flammable, caustic or chemically reactive materials such as oil-based paint, drain cleaners, pool chemicals, pesticides, mercury and anti-freeze. Unacceptable items include ammunition /explosives, biohazards such as syringes, prescription medications, smoke detectors, latex paint and tires.

One of the most common materials delivered is oil-based paint, not to be confused with latex (water-based) paint. Sowles mentioned that because latex paint is not considered environmentally harmful, it can be picked up through normal trash collection as long as it has been dried to a solid form.

The program is being offered to residents of Huron County to reduce waste going into local landfills and the negative impact these products can have if mixed with the regular waste stream.

Residents are encouraged to dispose of hazardous materials they have in their home through this program. Not only is it safer than keeping these materials poorly stored in a basement or garage, but by getting rid of them properly, the homeowner can prevent a future incident when a dog or small child may come in contact with these products.

For more information or to preregister, contact the MSU Extension Office at 989-269-9949, ext. 602.

The program is being sponsored by Huron County in partnership with the Huron Conservation District, MSU Extension and Huron County Master Gardeners.