# Our homes generate much hazardous waste

our land

**Penny** 

HE U.S. Environmetal Pro-tection Agency (EPA) has made grant money available within a five-state region to increase public awareness of dangers connected with the disposal of certain types of household waste.

The money will fund household haz-ardous waste collection days in coun-ties within the region. Both Wayne and Oakland counties are planning collec-tion days for late summer or early fail. The program encourages household-ers to bring wastes such as left-over paint, half-used pesticides and other harmful or potentially hazardous sub-stances to a designated collection site for safe disposal.

"The EPA money is intended to make government officials and the public aware that households generate plenty of toxic wastes," said Bruce Davis, assistant director of the enviro-mental health division of the Wayne

not managed, treated, stored or dis-posed of properly, he said.
"Our county-wide collection days could be a one-time shot unless com-runnities take-up the funding," said Dayis, "A lot depends on public aware-ness."

Davis. "A lot depends on public awareness."

Across the nation, communities are just becoming aware that hazardous waste generation is more than clustrial and brombolder may be polluting his/her drinking water supplies by the careless disposal of household chemicals.

"Most people, when asked, are unaware that they generate hazardous waste," said Nancy Stone, a coordinator with the Ann Arbor Ecology Center, a non-profit consumer-celucation agency. "Then I ask: To you use tollet bowl cleaner, drain cleaners, paint thinners, pesticides or even shoe pollish?"

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Davis, assistant director of the enviromental health division of the Wayne
county health department.

SUCH WASTES pose a threat to the
environment and humans if they are

Wright that households are virtual "chemical

factories."

The center estimates that each year a city the size of Ann Arbor uses more than 18 tons of disinfectants, eight tons of drain cleaners and 51 tons of tollet

bowl cleansers.

An Ecology Center report indicates households within Washtenaw County, including Ann Arbor, were the fourth largest generators of hazardou wastes in the country, Only three industrial operations — Ford Motor Co.'s Saline plant, General Motors' Willow Run

plant and GM Hydra-Matic division's Ypsilanti plant — generated more dan-gerous wastes.

STUDIES AT Michigan State Unvier-sity's Center for Environmental Toxi-cology suggest that up to half of the purchased household chemicals are

purchased housenous converse used up. The chemicals are kept on shelves, and sometimes after many years they're tossed out. The normal disposal route — home drains, storm drains and carbage dumps — ultimately transport

Coordinators of the Washienaw col-lection program found that at least some cilizens (33 persons this week). Residents wishing to aselty dispose of their dangerous wattes in a safe manner. The hope is that similar pro-grams scheduled in Oakland and Wayne County will generate even more

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