OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY
MADISON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Media Advisory

WHO: State's Attorney Tom Gibbons participating in National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

WHEN: Saturday, September 29, 2012 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Parking lot on 2nd Street behind County Administration Building, 157 N. Main St., Edwardsville, IL 62025

SIGNIFICANCE: State's Attorney Tom Gibbons, Coroner Steve Nonn, Sheriff Bob Hertz and the Drug Free Coalitions of Madison County are once again encouraging Madison County residents to bring their expired, or unwanted, prescription or over-the-counter medications to Edwardsville as part of the National Take-Back Initiative sponsored by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

Last April, six sites in Madison County collected 1,427 pounds of prescription medications. Nationwide, the DEA took in 552,161 pounds (276 tons) at 5,659 take-back sites that were located in all 50 states and U.S. territories. Madison County, along with the other participating groups in the DEA's Southern Judicial District Region took in 4,424 pounds which more than doubled its totals from last October when 2,063 pounds of pills were collected.

As part of Gibbons' ongoing participation in the **Lock Your Meds** public outreach campaign, he is once more sponsoring a prescription drug collection site at the County Administration Building in Edwardsville with Nonn and Hertz as part of the upcoming National Take-Back Initiative scheduled for Saturday, September 29, 2012. Gibbons will again be present at the event and will be handing out free prescription lock boxes to the first 30 individuals who bring their medications to the site.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet.

For more information about permanent prescription drug drop-offs, visit the State's Attorney website at www.madco-sa.org.

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