

Officials, committee partner to salvage township's electronics recycling program

By SEAN DELANEY

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Members of the Shelby Township Solid Waste and Recycling Committee, Shelby Township Supervisor Rick Stathakis and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality recently pooled their re-

sources to save the township's monthly electronics recycling program.

"Everyone involved in the program or anyone who has used the program knows that it is very important to our residents and community," said Township Trustee Paula Filar, who serves on the SWARC. "It was easy to say that we

needed to save the program, but the hard part came into play when we looked into how we could keep it going."

According to Filar, the previous vendor that hosted the event - Vintage Tech Recyclers - recently announced they would be unable to continue to provide service to any communities or organizations in Michi-

gan due to changes in compensation from appliance manufacturers in the state.

In an effort to find a way to fund and sustain the event with a new vendor, Filar, SWARC Chairperson Marietta Crabtree, SWARC Secretary Marsha Livermore and Stathakis met with Steve Noble from

Recycling

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the MDEQ Office of Waste Management & Radiological Protection on Jan. 6 to mull over options to sustain the program and devised a temporary solution that would allow another event to be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 30 at Township Hall, 52700 Van Dyke.

"What we agreed on was a use of \$450 from the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee's fund balance and a donation of \$550 from Supervisor Stathakis's Macomb Families and Business Coalition to fund the lion's share of the program in January," Filar said. "We also instituted a \$10 charge for all Cathode Ray Tube monitors and televisions to be recycled because all those items are so costly to recycle."

According to township officials, Cathode Ray Tube monitors and televisions are the older model "tube" TVs, and costs to recycle them range from \$7.50 to \$50 because of the processes needed to remove hazardous materials such

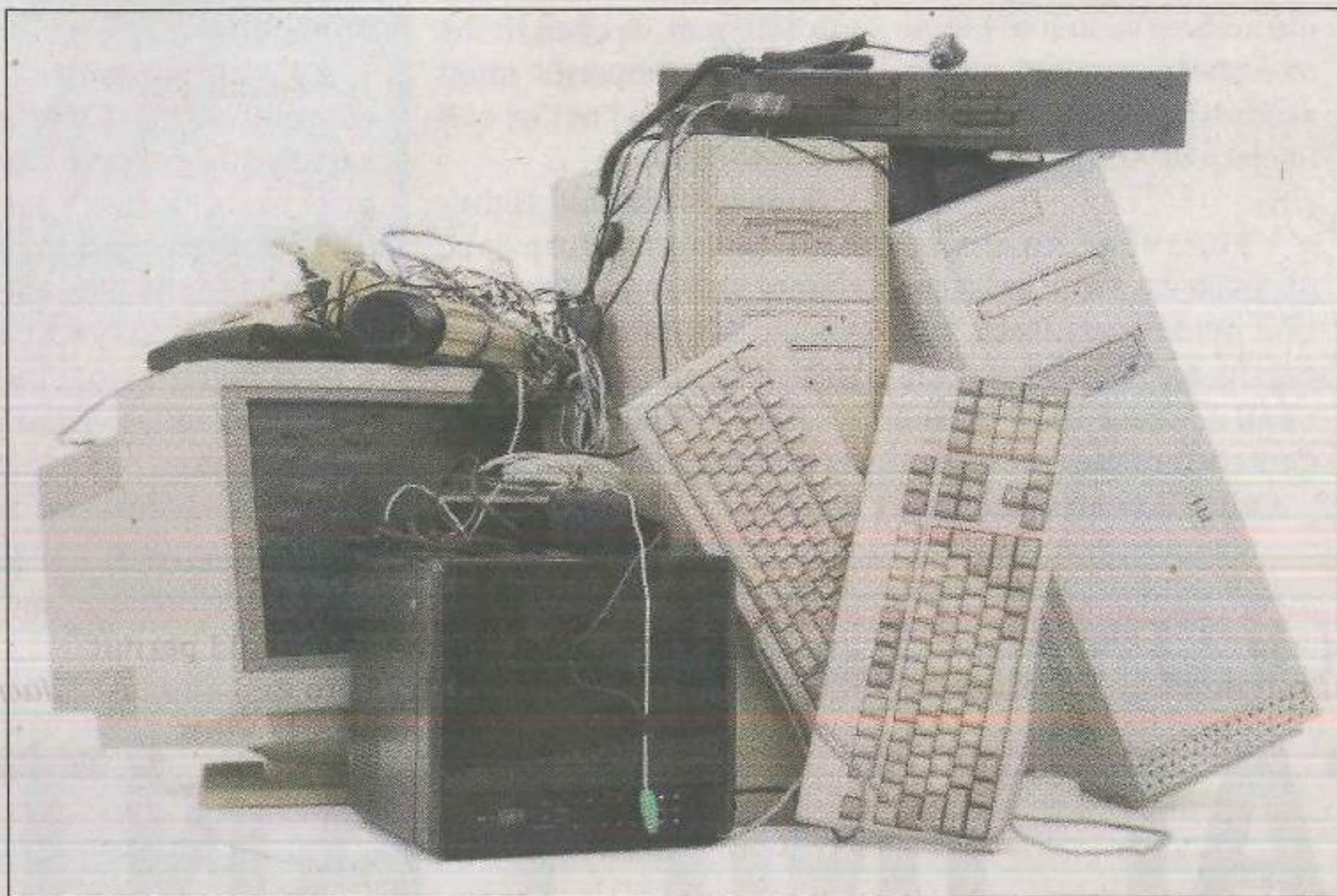


PHOTO COURTESY OF SHELBY TOWNSHIP

The Shelby Township Solid Waste and Recycling Committee will host another free electronics recycling event from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 30 at Township Hall, 52700 Van Dyke.

as lead from the glass and other components of the devices.

"Toxic items such as these lead-filled TVs are why this program is so important," Stathakis said. "If we do not have some version of this program in place in our township, the only other option for our residents is to place these toxins in their curbside garbage pickup, which no one wants."

Another important

change is that the event is now open only to Shelby Township residents.

"We wanted to open it to all communities like it was before, but, since it is now being funded with township funds from the SWARC, we have to limit participation to our residents," Filar said.

While the only date set for now is Jan. 30, Filar said the SWARC is working with Township Attorney Rob Huth to draft a request for bids for a permanent vendor

to collect and recycle items on a monthly basis.

"While it's unfortunate that our previous vendor that did this service for us free of charge is no longer in Michigan, there are other options out there," she said. "I'm confident we can find a way to keep this program going and ensure its continued success for years to come."

To learn more about the SWARC, visit shelbytwp.org/recycling.