

Shelby reclaims electronics recycling program at a cost

January event open to Shelby residents only

BY SARAH WOJCIK

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SHELBY TOWNSHIP —

After Shelby Township's monthly electronics recycling vendor shuttered its services in Michigan, the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee and Supervisor Rick Stathakis sought a solution.

Shelby Township Trustee Paula Filar, who is a member of the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee, said the program is very important to township residents and that Township Attorney Rob Huth would solicit bids for a permanent vendor in time for the February collection.

In the meantime, the township had to get creative to ensure

that the event, which normally takes place on the municipal grounds on the last Saturday of each month except for December, would take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 30.

On Jan. 6, township representatives met with Steve Noble, of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, to devise a temporary solution.

Stathakis said Shelby Township found a company with competitive pricing that would handle the electronics recycling program in January, and that will be it until the Board of Trustees votes on a replacement contractor.

"What we agreed on was a use of \$450 from the Solid Waste and

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Recycling Committee's fund balance and a generous donation of \$550 from Supervisor Stathakis' 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."

The CRT monitors and televisions cost \$7.50 to \$50 to recycle because of the processes needed to remove hazardous materials, such as removing lead from glass.

Filar said all other electronics besides the CRTs will be free to recycle. The other change, she said, will be that only Shelby Township residents can participate in the Jan. 30 event.

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

Stathakis said that without the program, the only other option for residents was to place toxin-filled electronics in their curbside garbage.

"I'm really excited that the (SWRC), which has done an outstanding job for the past couple of years having this dump-off program for everybody, actually is able to sustain it, and it looks like they will be able to have it throughout 2016," Stathakis said. "Further details will come forward soon."

The township municipal grounds are located at 53700 Van Dyke Ave., south of 24 Mile Road. For more information, call the Supervisor's Office at (586) 731-5154 or visit www.shelbytwp.org.

Call Staff Writer Sarah Wojcik at (586) 498-1029.