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Shelby seeks Clean Up Day volunteers

BY SARAH WOJCIK

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SHELBY TOWNSHIP — Shelby Township is hoping to see approximately 800 orange-vest-clad volunteers spread out along local roads and collecting garbage during the annual Clean Up Day on Saturday, April 30.

The township is specifically seeking local groups to adopt mile-long portions of township thoroughfares. Several long-standing groups recently gave up their annual commitments, many due to aging members.

Shelby Township has hosted the event for nearly three decades.

All residents are welcome, including walk-ins. The Adopt-A-Road program currently has 68 groups that clean designated roads, but there are still seven sections of road available for adoption.

The township encourages families, businesses, churches, scout groups and organizations to participate in the Adopt-A-Road program. The Macomb County Department of Roads will erect signs at the beginning and end of a group's assignment to recognize its participation.

Clean Up Day registration will take place from 8:30 to 9 a.m. April 30 in the lower-level conference room of the Shelby Township municipal building, located at 52700 Van Dyke Ave., south of 24 Mile Road.

Groups and individuals will receive their assignments, as well as orange safety



ABOVE: Shelby Township Clerk Stan Grot participates in last year's Clean Up Day with his family.

Photo provided by Brian Fairbrother

LEFT: A group breaks from collecting garbage along Shelby Township's roads for a photo during last year's Clean Up Day.

Photo provided by Brad Bates

vests and orange plastic bags. The Macomb County Department of Roads supplies the vests and bags.

Participants are then free to go out and pick up trash that has accrued over the

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last year. Volunteers are encouraged to wear boots and gloves and leave the orange garbage bags piled at the side of the roads for the county to pick up later.

From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., volunteers will reconvene at the municipal building for pizza and beverages, as well as a "weirdest things found" contest. Officials ask that groups verbally relay their weirdest findings to avoid unwanted entries, such as dead animals or hazardous materials.

Each group will receive a certificate of recognition, and each participant will receive a seed packet.

Shelby Township Clerk Stan Grot said he and his family clean up Hayes Road, between 25 Mile and 26 Mile roads, each year.

"It's always fun," he said. "We consider it a family event, and it helps the township. Our boys bring a couple neighborhood kids, and it helps teach them how to be responsible and not to litter."

Shelby Township resident Deb Fairbrother said she and her family decided to adopt 24 Mile Road, between Shelby and Mound roads, this year as a tribute to her mother, who celebrated her 80th birthday March 24.

"My parents lived in Shelby for over 25 years and would have had their 60th anniversary this St. Patrick's Day," Fairbrother said. "We noticed, with her living (on 24 Mile Road) and helping her keep up with her house, there's always trash accumulating, so we thought it would be good to help maintain the road."

She said her family enjoys community projects and that she even bought some trash grabbers to share during the event.

"I do a lot of recycling, and I'm passionate about taking care of our planet," Fairbrother said. "This is just another way to involve the family and do something positive."

For more information or to adopt a road, call the Clerk's Office at (586) 731-5102 or email lwhite@shelbytwp.org. The rain day is scheduled for May 7. In the event of poor weather, call (586) 739-7540 for more information.