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**Monday, July 4, 2016**

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# Electronics recycling program reopened to communities

By Sean Delaney

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A new agreement between Shelby Township's Solid Waste and Recycling Committee and GreenTech Recyclers in Oak Park has allowed the township to once again open its monthly Electronics Recycling Program to everyone, regardless of the community in which they live.

"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. "And I'm very happy to announce the event is back open to all communities and will allow us to collect even more electronics that would otherwise pollute our environment."

According to the terms of the agreement, each car dropping off items will pay a \$5 fee with \$1 of that

fee going toward the local charity staffing the collection.

The fee also includes up to one Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) monitor and/or television. Additional CRTs can be recycled for \$10 per device.

"This program was so special because, from day one, it had been all about keeping toxic items such as these lead-filled TVs out of our landfills," township Supervisor Richard Stathakis said. "Now we can say that, once again, we offer our residents and residents from across metro Detroit an option to recycle these toxins rather than using their curbside garbage pickup, which no one wants."

According to Stathakis, the previous vendor that hosted the event - Vintage Tech Recyclers - ceased operations in Michigan in 2016 due to changes in compensation from appliance manufacturers in the state.

In response, the SWARC sought bids from companies interested in overseeing the program.

They received only one response, from GreenTech Recyclers, and entered into a one-year agreement with the company on Feb. 6.

"One roadblock was funding the costly recycling of CRT monitors and televisions, which are the older model 'tube' TVs," Stathakis said. "Costs to recycle these range from \$7.50 to \$50 because of the processes needed to remove hazardous materials such as lead from the glass and other components of the devices."

Under the terms of the agreement, the collection of Cathode Ray Tube monitors and televisions was initially limited to Shelby Township residents.

However, these costs are now being absorbed by the \$4 collected from each car dropping off items at the monthly event, and because there are now town-



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHELBY TOWNSHIP

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ship funds subsidizing the event, officials were able to reopen the collection to all communities.

"We're very happy to open this program back up to all of our neighbors across metro Detroit," Fi-

lar said. "It's important to have a regional and even global mindset when we deal with recycling because pollutants and environmental hazards do not recognize municipal boundaries. What affects our

neighbors more than likely affects Shelby Township." The township's Electronics Recycling event takes place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the final Saturday of every month at Shelby Township Hall at 52700 Van Dyke.