

Item #10B:
Village Trustee Yaeger
SWALCO Electronics Collections 2017

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Electronics recycling to continue in 2017

Solid Waste Agency of Lake County submission

The Solid Waste Agency of Lake County has announced that its Residential Electronics Recycling Program will remain operational throughout 2017.

Earlier, the agency had successfully secured contracts with qualified recyclers to continue to operate the program with no direct cost to Lake County residents.

"SWALCO has been effective in our efforts to maintain this very popular program, we are committed to recycling electronics and our residents have responded to create the most successful program in the state," said SWALCO Chairman Glenn Ryback, mayor of the village of Wadsworth. Ryback added, "Through the hard work of the SWALCO staff and the voluntary efforts of our members and townships we have been able to keep this program running."

In addition, Peter Adrian, SWALCO's Recycling coordinator, said, "The city of Highland Park, the village of Grayslake and the townships of Cuba and Grant have been instrumental serving Lake County as regional collection sites. In 2016 these four sites have shouldered the burden of collecting nearly 4 million pounds of consumer electronics."

"SWALCO is taking the lead in long term planning for establishing a stable statewide electronics recycling program for 2018 to 2020," Adrian said. "We are working closely with state legislators, product manufactures and the electronics recycling industry to amend the current state law so to establish permanent collection opportunities statewide while also assisting Lake County municipalities in developing alternative collection options through their municipal waste and recycling service contractors."

Under the Illinois Electronic Products Recycling and Reuse Act, local government is not required to provide collection services, but since the law was first implemented in 2010 numerous county and municipal governments have provided collection services and residents have relied on those programs to comply with the law which bans TVs, printers, computers and 15 other electronic devices from disposal into landfills.

For 2017, Lake County residents should continue to use the four collection sites located in Highland Park, Grayslake, Grant Township and Cuba Township. Information on the location and hours for the collection sites can be found on the website, www.swalco.org (<http://www.swalco.org>).

SWALCO will continue to evaluate its options to sustain this very successful recycling program, and do its best to keep the public informed about the status of the program.

Lake County | updated: 12/14/2016 7:56 AM

Electronics recycling rebounds in Lake County



Electronics to be recycled pile up at a collection site in Grayslake.

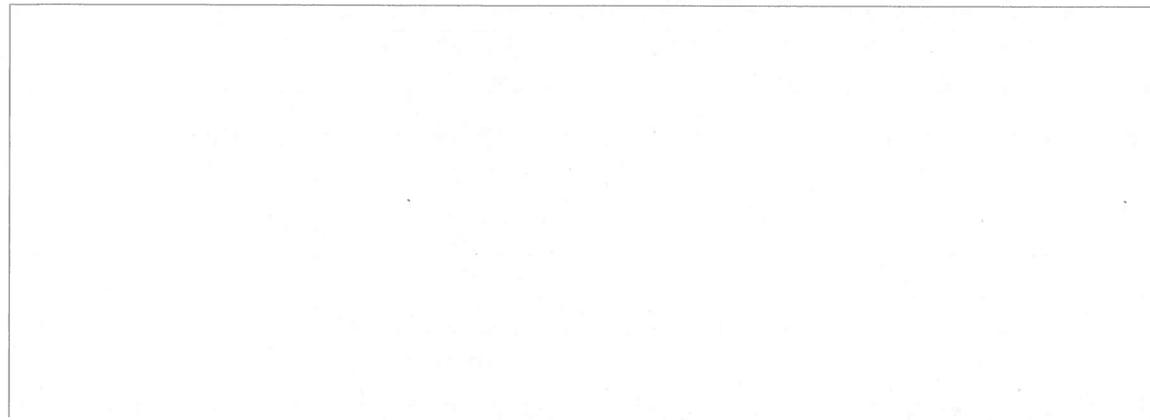
Paul Valade | Staff Photographer



Mick Zawislak

What had been envisioned this spring as a potentially dire turn of events for anyone in Lake County who wanted to get rid of unwanted electronics has been reversed.

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Not only did four permanent collection sites remain open at no charge, but the money that had been contributed by several communities to ensure they did was never used and is being refunded with no foreseeable pending issues.

"We're good through 2017," said Walter Willis, executive director of the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (<http://www.swalco.org/>), which contracts with a recycling company to remove the electronics from the sites.

Last week, Willis returned Grayslake's \$15,000 contribution -- the largest of \$63,000 collected from 18 communities to keep the program alive. Collection sites in Grayslake, Highland Park and Grant and Cuba townships were to have closed May 1.

State law bans electronics in landfills, and many collection sites operated in the suburbs. But with a drop in the value of the materials and an increase in labor cost, particularly because of bulky TVs, the tables turned. Many sites closed, and the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County and other agencies had to scramble to continue the service.

Electronics are among other recyclable materials, including clothing and food scraps, collected at Grayslake's public works facility east of Route 83. Village officials cited a commitment to providing those opportunities when they offered to step up with the \$15,000.

"Helping to ensure the continuation of electronics recycling in Grayslake and Lake County is important to the village," Assistant Village Manager Kevin Timony said.

Willis said the Grayslake site is the "best electronics program in the state" and the most efficient. Through September, 1.35 million pounds, or 43 percent of the Lake County total, was collected there.

"That's about 90 semitrailers a year, two a week, from Grayslake alone," Willis said. "We're on target this year to collect with four sites as many pounds as we collected with 13 permanent sites," he told Grayslake officials.

So why the turnabout? Employees at the four sites operated by the solid waste agency sort and load trailers with the materials so handling at the recycling plant is minimized. Also, the recycler has been flexible in accepting some items, such as stereo equipment or toasters, that are allowed to be thrown in the regular trash, Willis added.

That means lower costs and fewer penalties. The agency's expenses have been under \$500, Willis said.

He noted that unlike in other areas, such as DuPage or Kane counties, there is no charge in Lake County to drop off electronics.

Kane County had suspended its programs but in September was able to open three sites only because fees of \$25 to \$35 are charged for TVs and monitors to cover costs, said Jennifer Jarland, the county's recycling program coordinator.

Willis is writing a draft bill for consideration by the General Assembly regarding electronics recycling. Suggested changes to become effective in 2018 would create a funding source to provide collectors with 5 cents a pound to offset costs. For Grayslake, that could amount to \$50,000 to \$70,000, Willis said.

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