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Electronics recycling program attracts 200 people in Oak Lawn

More than 700 desktop computer monitors, among other items, are collected

January 15, 2009

Oak Lawn's call for trash of the electronic kind was so popular last Saturday that the junk filled a garage.

More than 21,000 pounds of electronic gadgets were collected in four hours at the Oak Lawn Street Garage, Village Manager Larry Deetjen announced at Tuesday night's Village Board meeting.

The collection included computer monitors, old television sets, radios, curling irons, stereos and even Christmas decorative lights, said Steve Barrett, director of public works. It nearly filled the public works garage, he said. More than 700 desktop computer monitors were collected. The TVs included one with a 40-inch screen.

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"It really opened up my eyes," Barrett said. "Seeing it, is believing it."

The throwaways will be recycled by COM2 Computers & Technologies, a recycling firm based in Carol Stream. The firm says it recycles all of the materials it receives, and it won't accept electronics that it can't recycle. It has a resale store in Lombard.

The collection drew more than 200 people, Village Trustee Alex G. Olejniczak said. Some residents made more than one trip to drop off items. No charge was assessed for dropping off items. Normally, COM2 charges up to \$9 to recycle a computer monitor and up to \$75 for a wide-screen TV.

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