

## Recycling event was big success

April 19 was a good day for Park Ridge and our planet. It was a day when a broad range of folks came together to do something positive for the environment.

There are many thanks to go around starting with Park Director Jim Lange who was a key factor in a successful Electronics Recycling Day co-sponsored by the Park District and the Chamber of Commerce. Jim organized the on-site logistics and arranged for manpower from the Cook County Sheriff's SWAP program.

In what started as an idea last fall from Chamber President Don Sebastian Jr., the Earth Day event became reality due to the efforts of elected officials, Scout Troop 50, members and staff of the chamber, park district staff and volunteers, CCD students from St. Paul of the Cross, Maine South students organized by Missy Ryan and Tommy Rucker, and a host of just plain citizens who stepped up to help. Also on hand was Maine Township Highway Commissioner Bob Provenzano and a volunteer from his staff. Mayor Howard Frimark came by to lend support as well.

Funding was provided by a range of businesses, social groups and civic organizations along with Green Transportation Solutions, a Park Ridge-based consulting firm specializing in environmental issues.

The event was open to everyone and broadly advertised. We could have restricted it to just Park Ridge residents but the feeling was that the need for an event like this spreads beyond our borders so let's just do the right thing for the environment by keeping as much old electronics out of area landfills as we could manage to handle. The response was nearly overwhelming. In seven hours, we collected enough to fill four 24-foot trucks supplied by Great Lake Recycling, a terrific company headed by a 20-something year old out of Detroit.

So, at the end of the day, several tons of "junk" was on its way to be responsibly recycled instead of being dumped. Now, that's a good thing and something of which makes Park Ridge such a great place to live, work and raise families.

**Dick Barton, President, Park Ridge Park District**