



Over 1,000 turn out for Hazardous Waste Day

14th annual event draws scores of residents from four towns

Several dozen volunteers made Household Hazardous Waste Day 2008 a success, helping 1,010 residents from Clifton Park, Halfmoon, Waterford and Malta dispose of their paint, batteries, electronics and other hazardous waste on Saturday, Sept. 20.

Councilman Sandy Roth, who has spearheaded Hazardous Waste Day efforts, joined a number of other Clifton Park elected officials, employees and resident volunteers who helped direct traffic, sign-in cars and dispose of hazardous waste.

“It’s an activity that we started 14 years ago to get rid of the paints, solvents, batteries and the other items that people keep that they never get rid of,” Roth said. “It’s worked out very well for the people of Clifton Park, and as long as people keep coming, we’ll keep doing it.”



Councilman Sandy Roth, left, and Councilwoman Lynda Walowit, center, join Town Clerk Patricia O'Donnell at the sign-in table for Hazardous Waste Day

Among other hazardous items such as paint and batteries, residents safely disposed of 650 televisions, 230 telephones, 85 radios and 2,000 other computers and assorted electronics at hazardous waste day.



Volunteer Beverly Czub prepares ham and turkey sandwiches at the break tent for Hazardous Waste Day volunteers.

Roth thanked Mama’s Family Restaurant, Stewarts Shops, McDonald’s and Price Chopper for donating food and beverages for volunteers, as well as the town’s Environmental Conservation Commission for its work on the event this year.

On Saturday afternoon, volunteer Beverly Czub was busy at the volunteer tent preparing ham and turkey sandwiches. Nearby, volunteers washed their hands at a portable cleaning station before enjoying sandwiches, chips, coffee, juice and other refreshments while on break.

“Ever since I was a little kid, every time they wanted a volunteer, my hand went up,” Czub said. “It’s fun to volunteer, and you get to see people in a different environment than you normally see them at town hall or in other places.”

The majority of the registrations – 932 – were made by Clifton Park residents. Another 92 Halfmoon residents, 75 Malta residents and 19 Waterford residents also signed up. Only about 10 percent of the people who signed up for the event did not attend.

Some 755 of the 1118 applications were submitted online and residents automatically received a registration number and drop-off time. The other 32 percent of applications were submitted manually and residents were given their registration number and drop-off time by mail.



Clifton Park resident Joe Bucciero, left, helps staff haul his 62-inch rear projection television into a large dumpster at Household Hazardous Waste Day on Saturday, Sept. 20.



Volunteers Fred Pineau, left, and Rocky Ferraro help unload various electronics from a car.

Cars entered the drop off site and were signed in at a table where volunteers marked each person that attended. Residents then drove around the drop off site where volunteers and staff removed items from their car. One resident brought a carload of computers and monitors and thanked town officials for holding the event as he was being checked in. Each car was processed within about 15 minutes of arriving.

Another resident, Joe Bucciero of Clifton Park, hauled a 62-inch television to the drop-off site to dispose of it. He then helped workers place his TV in a large dumpster. Meanwhile, volunteers helped unload electronics from other cars including computers, monitors, printers, speakers and various computer hardware.

The town spent \$55,000 on this year's event and money is included in the 2009 budget for another hazardous waste day next year. The towns of Halfmoon, Waterford and Malta will reimburse the town once officials calculate how much waste residents from those towns disposed of.

Officials said that Saturday's event ran smoothly and volunteers looked forward to helping out again next year.



For information on future town events, call Town Hall at 371-6651 or visit the website at www.cliftonpark.org. For questions about this story, contact Town Information Specialist J. Jude Hazard at 348-7301 or jhazard@cliftonpark.org.

