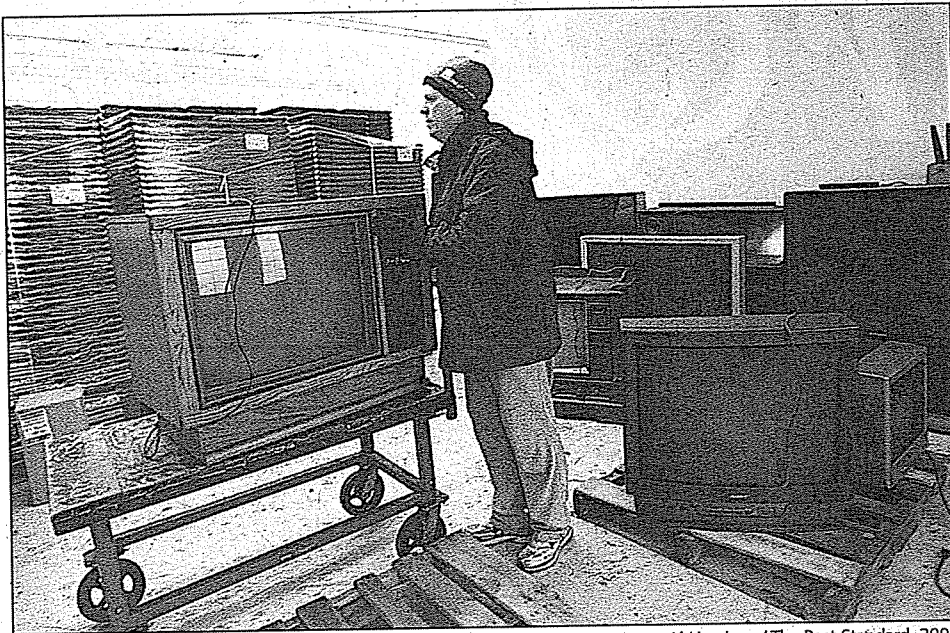


THE READERS' PAGE



Li-Hua Lan / The Post-Standard, 2008

BOB NIEDZWIECKI of Onondaga Hill drops off his old TV set for recycling at OCRRA's location in DeWitt in 2008.

Don't Be E-Wasteful

Proper disposal of electronic waste protects environment

By Kristen Lawton
OCRRA

The growing amount of e-waste in our society necessitates a paradigm shift for many Americans. Treating old televisions, computers and other electronics as trash (or worse yet, litter) is not a viable solution.

We are all stewards of the environment. If you purchase a new electronic gadget, you must also properly dispose of your old one in order to protect the environment. Electronics, or e-wastes, are a real problem if not recycled or disposed of properly.

Kudos to the New York State Senate for recognizing the importance of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in helping New Yorkers get rid of e-waste appropriately. The Senate unanimously passed an E-waste Bill that, if turned into law, will keep old electronics out of the waste stream and off our streets.

EPR is a concept where manufacturers assume end-of-life responsibility for their products. If manufacturers are financially

connected to what happens to their products after their useful life, they will design products that contain fewer harmful materials and are easier to recycle.

Consumers also share a responsibility to take old electronics to a convenient drop-off center, one where no fee is charged for proper end-of-life management.

More than 20 states have EPR legislation in place; with your help, New York could join them.

Please contact your Assembly member, the Assembly majority leaders and the governor to voice support for EPR. Doing so will help protect our delicate planet from the harmful effects of improper e-waste disposal.

Visit www.ocrra.org/about_legislative.asp to search by zip code and contact your Assembly member today.

Kristen Lawton is the public information officer for the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency.

Good police work nabbed West Coast thief

To the Editor:

It was interesting to read about the outstanding work of the law enforcement (May 9) regarding the California woman who came to the area allegedly to loot bank accounts.

You have to give credit to the maintenance worker who found the ID cards April 14 cut up on the grass near the parking lot at the Best Western Airport Inn.

This gave the police a shred of evidence, and it was sheer neglect on the suspect's. Anyhow, they caught her at the airport with just good detective work, plain and simple.

We have enough crime of our own without people coming from the West Coast.

Al Hampton
Liverpool

Water bill increase not a problem for deadbeats

To the Editor:

To all you people in the city of Syracuse who do not pay their taxes or their water bills: Don't worry.

This increase will have no affect on you at all.

Bill Smith
Syracuse

Swimming has countless benefits to enjoy

To the Editor:

As someone who took my first swimming lesson at six months old, I never knew what it was like not to know how to swim. With the summer approaching quickly, now is a great time to sign up for summer swimming lessons. Lessons at the YMCA usually cost less than \$100.

Swimming has countless benefits. For one, swimming is a great low-impact exercise. It is a terrific way to get your heart rate up without the long-term damage that other sports can cause. Also, swimming is a fantastic way to meet new people. Some of my closest friends I met at swimming when I was a little kid.

The most important reason