

Frostburg Lions collects small used electronics for recycling

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FROSTBURG — The Frostburg Lions Recycling Program has achieved its fifth anniversary. The program, which started in 2009, recycles computer ink cartridges, cell phones, copier toners and other small electronics, not only helps raise funds for the Lions Club, but has also reduced the amount of waste in the Allegany County landfill. This month alone, Lions have kept approximately 96 cubic feet of used copier toners from the landfill.

Lions collect old cell phones, working or not, computer ink cartridges, copier toners, digital cameras, MP3 Players, GPS devices and hand held calculators and recycles them. The process is known as "above ground mining" or "urban mining." Some items are reused as many as 10 times, while others are refurbished and used in other countries around the world.

Broken or obsolete units are shredded or melted and the various elements drawn off and reused or reprocessed

into other products.

Electrical waste contains hazardous but also valuable and scarce materials. Up to 60 elements can be found in complex electronics. Recycling raw materials from end-of-life electronics is the most effective solution to the growing e-waste problem.

More than 130 million cell phones are retired every year in the United States. Lions estimate that in Frostburg alone, there are more than 7,000 used, broken and otherwise not in service cell phones.

Phones contain substances harmful to humans and the environment, like cadmium, lead, and beryllium, all carcinogens, and arsenic, all of which leak into the ground when thrown in landfills.

Items can be dropped off at the Hotel Gunter, Main Street.

Individuals or businesses that collect larger quantities of recyclable electronics can call 301-687-0212 for additional information and to arrange pickups.



Frostburg Lion Bill Munck sorts and labels copier toners for shipment to recyclers. The Frostburg Lions collects and recycles a variety of small electronics and copier toners. Profits earned from the recycling program are "recycled" in Frostburg, through a number of community projects and programs.