

As you may know, the discontinuation of the “Free Table” has generated a significant amount of discussion throughout the community. It was not an easy decision to make, but was based on the following:

Liability and to what extent the facility could be held responsible. Please see additional attachment which includes a partial list of items removed from the table on a regular basis.

Costs absorbed by the facility to properly dispose of garbage, electronics, metal and hazardous waste left on the free table, 1-1.5 tons of per week = \$8,320-12,480 per year.

Costs absorbed by the facility to pay an employee to clean up, sort and properly dispose of items left on the free table= \$7,800-13,780 per year.

Some individuals have suggested we have an employee dedicated to monitoring the free table during business hours. This would be an additional cost to the facility of \$23,000-41,340 per year.

Employee costs are based on a starting wage of \$15.00. Because we are open to the public at least 30 hours per week, the individual would qualify as FT and be eligible for benefits. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average benefits package costs an additional \$11.50 per hour per employee. (June 2018).

I believe we have a responsibility to maintain a safe and clean facility as well as keeping our operating costs in check.

We have encouraged customers to donate their items to local thrift stores or to take advantage of the various “free” advertising resources available on-line or in print.