



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 22, 2007

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National “Waste Watch” Program Makes Eastpointe Debut

EASTPOINTE, Mich. — Eastpointe-area residents now have more watchful eyes patrolling local neighborhoods because of a new initiative called “Waste Watch.”

“Public safety is everyone’s responsibility. I’m excited that Waste Management is willing to partner with us and use their resources to help keep neighborhoods safe,” said Darwin Parks, City Manager. “I applaud Waste Management for stepping forward when they saw a way they could help out.”

Waste Watch is a Waste Management initiative that partners local solid waste collectors with law enforcement to enhance safety through a neighborhood watch-like system. Because Waste Management drivers know their routes so well, they also know when something looks suspicious. Now those drivers are trained to report unusual activities to appropriate local authorities.

“Being on the safe side means checking out situations such as newspapers piled up or a warehouse lit up at the wrong time,” said Brian Conaway, Community & Municipal Relations Manager for Waste Management. “The right information at the right time can halt or prevent crime or personal injuries. Our drivers are there to give the authorities extra eyes in local neighborhoods.”

Waste Management drivers will be looking for residents in need of help, people attempting to force entry into a residence or business, signs of a fire, and other unusual or suspicious activities.

“Our regular routes help our crews become familiar with the norm, and they notice when something is out of the ordinary,” Conaway said. “Our drivers now have the necessary tools, communications devices, and training to quickly react to out-of-the-ordinary or dangerous situations.”

The Waste Watch program has already seen positive results helping residents in need in other areas of the country. Around the country, Waste Management crews have saved people from burning buildings, saved the life of a drowning woman, and reported suspicious activity to local law enforcement.

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