

Your Community Connection

Vol. II 2011

News from Waste Management's Eagle Valley Landfill

Meet our Site Engineer



Rich Paajanen, Engineering Manager
Michigan Landfills

Rich is an avid outdoors enthusiast. He was born in the U.P. and raised in Christmas, Michigan. Rich is a graduate from Michigan Tech with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geological Engineering. Upon graduating from Michigan Tech in 1986, he joined Waste Management, first as an Engineer-in-Training at the WM Corporate Offices in

Oakbrook, IL, then worked as a Landfill Engineer at Woodland Meadows Landfill in Wayne, Michigan. Rich began working at Eagle Valley in 1992, and was promoted to Engineering Manager for all of the Michigan Landfills in 2006. Rich is married and has 3 daughters ages 8, 19, and 20.

Re-Creating and Educating

Again this year, Waste Management sponsored the **Re-Create Art Contest** at the Orion Art Center. The event featured over 55 entries from area artists creating art from recycled/ found objects.

Here are just a few of the fun pieces that were submitted to the contest.



Youth 1st place winner "Recycling Chamber" Music Group



Adult Household Category
"Social Mixer"



Recycled Fashion - The Bubble Wrap Dress. Made by a creative young fashion designer

Each year Eagle Valley plays host to students from Scripps Middle School. Teacher Carol Bingeser, a nearby resident and neighbor to Eagle Valley, brings her 8th grade Science students for a "Sustainability Tour" to Eagle Valley and the GM Lake Orion Plant.

A tour of these two facilities gives students an up-close education about the 7 R's - **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle** and how Waste Management is **Respectfully and Responsibly Recovering the Resources** in our waste. The tour of the GM power plant shows students how creative thinking allowed GM to power their manufacturing facility with landfill gas and eliminate the burning of coal.

After the tour, the students have a much greater understanding of why it is important to recycle, and just how valuable our natural resources are.



Here are a few of the students' comments:

"Eagle Valley taught me that the reason landfills are so big is because of the amount of garbage each person makes. To help the landfills and our planet, I plan to be more careful about what I throw away. I will make sure that if something can get recycled, it does, instead of going to a landfill."

"Now that I know what happens to the waste that I throw away, I will always want to help the environment even more than I have before."

"Based on what I have learned I plan to recycle more now and in the future because I know that it will be better for the economy and the landfills."

Scripps Middle School 8th Grade Students

Eagle Valley Recycling and Disposal Facility

600 W. Silver Bell Road
Orion, MI 48359

Telephone
248-391-0990
Fax
248-391-1219

Please call for current hours of operation as hours may change seasonally.

Monday - Friday - 6:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Saturdays - 8 a.m. - Noon

Recycling Hours

Recycling drop-off available during normal landfill hours.

wm.com

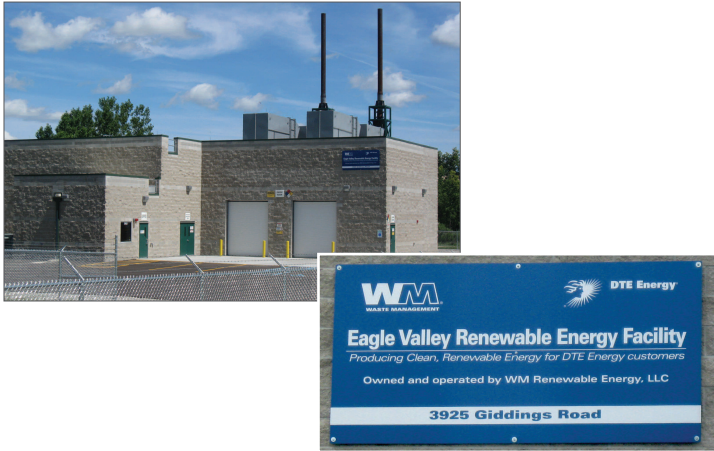
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Waste Management's Renewable Energy Plant is now in operation at Eagle Valley. The facility is providing enough electricity to DTE Energy to power approximately 3,000 homes from the landfill gas. This is in addition to the landfill gas already provided to GM Lake Orion.



Eagle Valley wins WM Midwest Environmental Excellence Award

Congratulations to Senior District Manager Chuck Cassie and the whole staff at Eagle Valley for winning the 2010 Waste Management Environmental Excellence Award for the Midwest region of the company. The award honors the sites that have excelled in terms of environmental compliance and public education programs.



Chuck Cassie and Scott Rowe

Birds, Bees & Butterflies

Meet our Mascot...

Eva Orion is a Turkey Vulture rescued on Christmas Eve at Eagle Valley in 2008. She'd been discovered with an injury to her wing which was not repairable. After a brief stay at the River Raisin Raptor Center in Manchester, she now lives at Braveheart Raptor Center, north of Muskegon and serves as an educational bird...teaching young people about the importance of our wildlife and the role that each creature serves in our environment.



Meet a fully recovered Eva Orion, 10 days after her rescue. She was very comfortable in her new surroundings. She is now an educational bird with Braveheart Raptor Center in Western Michigan.

When you get to know more about Turkey Vultures, you begin to understand just how valuable a creature they are. Turkey Vultures are the "garbage men of the bird world" - they help keep the environment clean by taking care of all the nasty dead things that other animals can't eat.

Imagine what the world would look like if there was no one to manage that waste?

Turkey Vultures are also able to soar for up to 6 hours at a time without ever flapping their wings. They are very smart birds too and Eva's caregiver, Susan Stamy from Braveheart Raptor Center, says she is just wonderfully intelligent and a very personable bird.

Eva now sends us an updated photo with her Christmas cards every year!

Waste Management continues to work towards providing habitat for wildlife at Eagle Valley and engaging our employees in the program. This year our native pollinator gardens flourished...and our employees



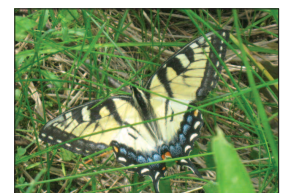
planted flower boxes as well as providing a hummingbird feeder at the scalehouse, to see if we could attract hummingbirds for staff to observe and enjoy...next year our plan is to plant the yellow railing along the outbound scale with more flowers.

...but the real beauty was found in the natural areas at the site...discovering an "old growth" Maple tree in the designated Wildlife Habitat Area/Conservation Easement.



Old growth Maple tree

...and colorful pollinators.



Eastern Swallow Tail Butterfly



Virginia Ctenucha Moth