

Rock Hill

SOUTH CAROLINA



RHPD Protects And Serves Our Community

The Rock Hill Police Department definitely had an eventful 2006. In addition to its busy day-to-day activities protecting the community and catching bad guys, RHPD established a new street crimes unit, began the Weed and Seed initiative, saw the SWAT team win a national SWAT competition and upgraded the Mobile Operations Center.

STREET CRIMES UNIT

The most recent addition to the RHPD is a street crimes unit, which became operational in late December 2006. Created to focus on special enforcement activities in high crime areas, the unit's officers concentrate on zones with high rates of robbery, car break-ins and larceny. They also focus on checking key traffic areas for seatbelt and driving under the influence violations during various holiday seasons.

GANG INVESTIGATOR

The department used a grant to add a gang investigator position. The gang investigator is charged with identifying and tracking gang members and gang-related activities. The investigator works closely with school resource officers, York County authorities and the Street Crimes unit to distinguish actual gang activity

from imitations of what is seen on TV and on the Internet. By understanding signs of gang activity and identifying potential gang members, officers are able to be proactive in making arrests and ensuring the safety of Rock Hill residents.

WEED AND SEED

Historically, community involvement has been a successful part of reducing crime and ensuring quality neighborhoods. With the start of the Weed and Seed program, community policing has been increased and citizens are speaking out. The Weed and Seed initiative, paid for by a five-year grant awarded to the City, is a community-based multi-agency approach to law enforcement, crime prevention, and neighborhood restoration. It brings together federal, state, and local crime-fighting agencies, social service providers, representatives of the public and private sectors, prosecutors, business owners, and



SWAT team officers use a training exercise to practice entry tactics.

Important Numbers

for 24-Hour Automated Service

803/329-5555 Outage Reporting
803/329-5588 Billing Inquiries and
 Payment Processing

Other Important Numbers

803/325-2500 Customer Service
 Requests
803/329-5610 City-Maintained
 Road Pothole Reporting
803/327-6186 State-Maintained
 Road Pothole Reporting

City Council Contacts



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neighborhood residents under the shared goal of “weeding” out violent crime and gang activity, while “seeding” in social service programs and neighborhood restoration.

Operation Weed and Seed is a joint law enforcement and community investment initiative sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice. The local Weed and Seed initiative focuses on five key neighborhoods in the urban core: Sunset Park, North Crawford Road, Flint Hill, South Central, and Hagins-Fewell.

Since the start of the initiative in April 2006, both urban core community residents and Rock Hill Police have seen these neighborhoods begin to change. Arrests are up 45 percent in Weed and Seed areas, thanks to a combination of increased police presence and neighborhood involvement.

SWAT

In order for Rock Hill police officers to hit the streets prepared, they undergo extensive, specialized and continuous training. This rigorous training paid off in a big way when the

department's SWAT Team won a national SWAT competition award from the Southeastern SWAT Conference Board of Directors. The SWAT team captured the first-place national trophy and each team member received a championship ring featuring the Rock Hill SWAT logo on one side and the palmetto and half-moon on the other.

As part of the award, the SWAT team will receive more than \$18,000 in tactical gear – including ballistic vests and shields, tactical surveillance equipment, boots, ammunition, training, weapons, and other tactical equipment.

“This is another example of the preparedness of the Rock Hill Police Department, and a SWAT team that's the best in the nation,” said Police Chief John Gregory. “We're proud of our SWAT team's ability to handle critical incidents and potentially deadly situations.”

MOBILE OPERATIONS CENTER

The best training in the world can be compromised by outdated equipment, but RHPD is no stranger to high-tech tools. City police officers took a basic RV and



The new Mobile Operations Center is an RV retrofitted as a law enforcement command unit, complete with such high-tech tools as computers with Internet access, fax capabilities and radio communications.





Members of the RHPD display the “Our Cup Runneth Over” award reflecting department success in the City’s United Way campaign.

transformed it into a state-of-the-art Mobile Operations Center that serves as a model for other agencies. Underwritten by federal and state Homeland Security funds, the Mobile Operations Center provides key decision makers safe access to emergency scenes and offers high-level functionality in assessing situations.

The Mobile Operations Center accommodates a law enforcement command unit, with each member performing several different duties at once. The vehicle has been retrofitted with high-tech computers, Internet access, fax capabilities, 800MHZ and standard radio communications, television to monitor media coverage of events and conference room. The latest addition to the vehicle is a pole camera extending 50 feet above the vehicle. The camera enables law enforcement to scan a large area and zoom in on a targeted zone. This capability gives incident commanders actual visual contact of the scene of an incident from a safe distance.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

In addition to daily participation in community events through neighborhood involvement, RHPD officers devote a great deal of effort, funds and especially volunteer hours to a variety of charitable organizations. United Way, the Worthy Boys and Girls Camp and Easter Seals are among the agencies RHPD supports.

In May 2006, the RHPD set records with its donation of \$20,145.30 through the Easter Seals South Carolina Buck-A-Cup to Brace-A-Child program, helping children and adults with disabilities. Lt. Jerry Waldrop topped the list of all officers statewide in any category by raising more than \$13,000!

Just a few short months later, in November 2006, the City of Rock Hill finalized the annual United Way campaign. Once again, RHPD came out on top. The department was the first recipient of the “Our Cup Runneth Over” award for highest success by a department in dollars raised. This time, the police department wowed everyone by raising \$20,648.56 and achieving 100 percent employee participation! This generosity will go a long way in helping our families, friends and neighbors here in York County who are in need.

We all know dollars can make a difference to every non-profit agency dedicated to improving quality of life. However, the 200 children who attended the Worthy Boys and Girls camp this past summer would probably argue that the time spent by RHPD counselors was more valuable than any amount of money. Each summer, 100 boys and 100 girls spend a week enjoying a variety of camp activities and field trips. It is not uncommon for this to be the first camp experience many of these kids have had. The camp’s purpose is to instill a spirit of sharing and growing together

City Employees Invest In What Matters

Thanks to the City of Rock Hill employees for your generous contributions to the United Way. City staff raised a total of \$87,488.18 – surpassing their campaign goal by more than 41 percent!



From left, the City's 2006 Campaign Chair Lori Nielsen, United Way President Kim Keel and Extra Effort Award winner Lt. Jerry Waldrop celebrate success at the Campaign Celebration.

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that will become part of the campers' lives. To find out more about volunteering, making a donation, or applying to be a camper, please call the Community Services Supervisor at **803/329-7262** or visit the Web site at <http://www.cityofrockhill.com/rhpd/worthyboysgirls.asp>.

UP TO THE CHALLENGE?

As the City of Rock Hill grows, so does its need for additional officers. RHPD offers career opportunities in patrol services, with the opportunity to advance in a variety of divisions, including investigations, narcotics, community and youth services, forensics, professional standards and canine. Other areas of focus include crisis negotiation, special weapons and tactics and bomb squad. If you or someone you know is interested in serving as a Rock Hill police officer, visit the RHPD Web site at www.cityofrockhill.com/police or contact Master Police Officer Timothy Marquez at **803/329-7225** or by email at rhpdjobs@ci.rock-hill.sc.us.

Public Notice Regarding Water Quality Monitoring

To make sure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes stringent limits for certain contaminants in water supplied by all public water systems. The EPA requires the City of Rock Hill Utilities Department to monitor drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are one indication of whether the drinking water we distribute to our customers meets health standards.

During the monitoring period on January 1, 2006, the City did not test for chlorine dioxide and chlorite – byproducts of

chlorinating drinking water for disinfection. Therefore, the quality of the utility's drinking water that day based on these parameters cannot be determined. Follow up samples were taken the next day. These samples indicated that the contaminants detected fell well below the maximum residual disinfectant level allowed by EPA.

Based on tests taken the previous and following dates (12/31/05 and 1/2/06), the staff was able to determine contaminant levels fell within acceptable ranges. The table below summarizes this information.

Contaminant	Required Sampling Frequency	# of Samples Taken	Date samples should have been taken	Date samples were taken
Chlorine Dioxide	Daily at the POE (point of entry or lake intake)	0	January 1, 2006	January 2, 2006
Chlorite	Daily at the POE	0	January 1, 2006	January 2, 2006

Rock Hill continues to perform regular daily monitoring as required by law. Customers are asked to please share this information with all people who consume City water, including those in apartments, nursing homes and businesses. You may post this notice in a public place or distribute copies by hand or mail. No other action by customers is needed at this time.

For more information about the quality of the water you consume, please contact Susan Featherstone of the City of Rock Hill Utilities Department at **803/329-5502** or call the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **1-800-426-4791**.

City of Rock Hill Public Water System #4610002