

# Rock Hill

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## SOUTH CAROLINA



## Is It Good For The Children?

The Rock Hill City Council recently affirmed its commitment to support the awareness campaign known as “The Number One Question . . . Is It Good for the Children?” The Council will work with the Rock Hill Commission for Children and Youth on this initiative, with a goal to further strengthen Rock Hill as a livable city that recognizes the importance of all children and youth in our community.

### The goal of the campaign is two-fold:

- To alert our community to the many positive youth resources that currently exist, and
- To help our community recognize the impact of the decisions they make daily and how they ultimately affect the children and youth of Rock Hill.

With the support of City Council, the Commission for Children and Youth will utilize the following steps to achieve these very important goals:

- Making businesses, governments, educational institutions and the general public aware of the status of children and youth in the Rock Hill area.
- Asking these groups to commit to making the welfare of children, youth and families a priority.

- Demonstrating their commitment through the decisions that they make.

The Commission for Children and Youth asks the community to consider this important question:

**What if ...every day, in every activity we do, and in every decision we make, we asked ourselves one simple, elegant question... Is it good for the children?**

“There is no more important question we can ask of ourselves before any decision we make than, ‘Is it good for the children?’”, said Rock Hill Mayor Doug Echols. “One hundred percent of our future is in the hands of our youth, so making the right decisions for them is critical.”

For more information on this awareness campaign, or to find out how you or your organization can help, contact Garnet McKeown at [803/329-5658](tel:8033295658) or Patti Panetti at [803/329-5625](tel:8033295625).



### 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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# Spring Brings Home Repair Scams to South Carolina

Spring in South Carolina means home improvement projects - and con artists looking for unsuspecting homeowners.

The S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation's Residential Builders Commission warns people who are about to add a deck; re-roof their house; install vinyl siding; or embark on other home improvement projects.

"The biggest problem is homeowners paying too much in advance," said Charles McAlister, Residential Builders Commission program coordinator. "We've had contractors get a third of the money in advance and a third the day they started. Then they just dropped a couple boards and were gone."

"Many of these con artists are fly-by-night operators who quote homeowners a low price and then abscond with the money."

"Honest contractors do not require large sums of money up front," McAlister said. "For example, most builders will build a \$100,000 house on just \$500 earnest money."

"The commission licenses all residential builders and home inspectors and registers all specialty contractors in the state. The commission also investigates complaints from homeowners having problems with builders or registered specialty contractors and, if necessary, takes disciplinary action against them."

### Homeowners should follow these tips to help avoid being conned:

- Get at least two bids and do not automatically choose the lowest.
- Ask for local references and then contact them.
- Contact the Residential Builder's Commission at 803/896-4696 to see if the contractor is licensed and whether there have been complaints against him/her.
- Make sure the contractor is bonded and insured.
- Be specific about what you want done. Put as many details in writing as possible.
- Never pay for an entire job up front. The down payment should be no more than one-third of the total contract price. If the project requires a permit, do not make the final payment until the final inspection has been approved by a City Building Inspector.
- Ask to see the required City business license as well as a contractor's license or registration. You may contact the Development Services Department at 803/329-5564 or 803/329-5563 to verify a contractor's license and receive information on permit requirements.

Residential builders are required to pass an exam administered by LLR and renew their license each year. A specialty contractor (painter, plumber, roofer, etc.) must be registered with LLR if he/she contracts for a project valued at more than \$200.

Most persons who contract to do home improvement projects will fall under the Residential Builders Commission. However, a contractor might be licensed by LLR's Contractors' Licensing Board, which regulates the practice of general and mechanical contracting, burglar and fire alarm system businesses and fire protection sprinkler contractors.

*(Portions of this article were used courtesy of the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation's Residential Builder's Commission website <http://www.llr.state.sc.us/>)*



# Backyard Water Conservation Tips



- Set your lawn mower blades one notch higher since longer grass means less evaporation.
- Proper soil composition and mulching are crucial to a healthy garden. You'll use less water and have hardier plants.
- Use a broom or leaf blower to clean grass or mud from your sidewalk or driveway.
- Maintain proper chemical levels and adequate circulation time in your pool. Your pool water will not only be safer and cleaner, but you'll avoid the need to drain your pool or use excessive water to correct water quality.
- Since water is delivered directly to the soil and evaporation is greatly reduced, trickle or drip irrigation using soaker hoses or other water-saving devices is the most efficient method of watering plants.
- Avoid water runoff by washing your car at a commercial car wash that uses recycled water.

## Crime Tips

### Landscaping

- Trim trees so they don't block overhead lights and create shadows.
- Keep property in good condition. Criminals are attracted to property in poor condition because they assume owners/tenants don't care about it.

### Good Neighborhood Security Practices

- Report even minor incidents (including graffiti) so police are aware of your neighborhood's issues.
- Call the police if you see someone or something that doesn't belong—like vehicles you don't recognize driving in your neighborhood, people loitering, etc.
- Install Crime Watch signs on neighborhood streets.
- Use the free Housing and Neighborhood Services Phone Tree to keep your neighborhood informed.
- Discuss crime watch issues at Neighborhood Association Meetings.
- Take note of neighborhood dogs that are barking out of character at odd hours.

### Good Vehicle Security Practices

- Never leave your vehicles unlocked. Though Rock Hill remains a safe community, crooks know where to find what they're looking for. Don't make it any easier for them.
- Never leave any valuable property in plain view, locked doors or not. Your GPS, MP3 player or laptop computer will be more likely to be stolen if you leave them in plain view.
- There is no reason to ever leave your purse or wallet in your vehicle. Doing so not only invites burglars, but also identity thieves. Identity theft can destroy your credit and can sometimes take years to clear up.
- Report any suspicious activity in your neighborhood—someone looking into cars, pulling on door handles, etc.

## Save the date!

### Rock Hill Police Department Open House

**Saturday, September 15, 2007**

**10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

**Rock Hill Police Department,  
120 E. Black Street, Rock Hill**

Static displays and live demonstrations will feature high tech equipment, SWAT, Bomb and K-9 Units, the Detective Division, Communications and Crime Scene. Police Department tours will be offered and information on job opportunities will be available.

# Rock Hill Parks, Recreation & Tourism Volunteers Recognized

At a recent dinner to thank volunteers for their service, Rock Hill Parks, Recreation & Tourism recognized local individuals and organizations who contributed valuable time and effort to PRT programs during 2006. The **Mayor's Award** for overall long-term contribution was given to Dick Houk for his eight years of volunteer service at River Park and his service on the River Park Advisory Committee and the Trails & Greenways Advisory Committee. Among his many contributions, Houk formed a volunteer group, River Buddies, to help maintain and develop River Park. He also completed a City-wide sidewalk survey, and he has assisted with many Boy Scout Eagle Scout projects over the years. He regularly visits River Park to talk with visitors and assist staff with projects.

The **Julia H. Post Activities Award** for dedication to the social and cultural well-being of the community was given to Lisa Robbins for her active support of Rock Hill's Youth Service League. As a member of the Youth Service League Advisory Committee for the past eight years, Robbins has aided in the growth and development of this youth program. She has chaired the advisory committee since 2002 and helped the program gain local and state recognition.

The **G. C. Ray Athletic Award**, for the promotion and teaching of athletics, recognized Tim Dix for his dedication to PRT's Youth Soccer program as a coach for eight years and as a member of the volunteer Youth Soccer Advisory Committee since 2002.

The **Hiram Hutchison Therapeutic Award** was presented to Brad, Cindy, Meghan and Zac Caldwell for their long term support of Camp Arc, Special Olympics Area Eleven and many other therapeutic programs.

Sherry Martin and Harold Peeples received the **Betty Jo Rhea Tourism Award** for their leadership in the continued redevelopment of the Glencairn Garden Master Plan. Peeples serves as the Chair of the Glencairn Garden Advisory Committee and Martin serves as the Chair of the Glencairn Garden Development Subcommittee and has also worked with the Glencairn Garden Marketing and Capital Campaign Subcommittees. To date, these individuals have been instrumental in securing funds for six separate projects within the garden, and they continually champion the effort to beautify, market and promote special events in the garden to be enjoyed by the citizens of Rock Hill as well as visitors.

The **David Boone Advisory Award** for providing volunteer services to advisory committees was presented to the Trails and Greenways Advisory Committee. Since their initial formation in 2001 as a task force, this group has inventoried the sidewalks in Rock Hill; developed and updated the Rock Hill Trails and Greenways Master Plan; promoted National Trails Day; and assisted with the development of the Airport Loop Trail among other projects.

The theme of this year's volunteer celebration, "Volunteers Plant the Seeds of Success," acknowledged the important role that volunteers play in providing quality recreational services for residents and visitors to Rock Hill. A total of 628 volunteers contributed their time and effort to PRT programs in 2006. For more information about volunteering with PRT, check out [www.rockhillrocks.com](http://www.rockhillrocks.com) or call **803/392-5620**.

