

ROCK HILL

SOUTH CAROLINA



NOW YOU KNOW: The Interbasin Transfer

If you read the newspaper and watch the news, you may have heard reports about the Interbasin Transfer issue. And if you're like most of us, you have no idea what that means to you, Rock Hill, or South Carolina. The truth is, it matters a LOT, and we all need to understand what's involved.

The Interbasin Transfer, or IBT, refers to Concord and Kannapolis, NC's successful attempt to secure a permit to withdraw 10 million gallons of water daily from the Catawba River Basin for their own use, with no requirement to return water back to the basin.

York County, in conjunction with the Protect the Catawba River Coalition, and with a host of cities along the Catawba River basin, have initiated a lawsuit against the Division of Water Resources, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) — all of North Carolina, because the Environmental Management Commission granted an interbasin transfer certificate to Concord and Kannapolis on January 10.

Charles Case, a Raleigh attorney representing the coalition of cities from around the Catawba fighting the transfer, described the water transfer process as "woefully inadequate" from a legal standpoint.

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

Once the judge makes a decision on the lawsuit, the appeal would return to the EMC for a final vote. Other groups also plan lawsuits or appeals, including the Southern Environmental Law Center. The state of South Carolina has vowed a federal lawsuit against North Carolina that could go to the U.S. Supreme Court.



Lake Wylie is fun for boating, swimming and fishing, but it is also functional. The City of Rock Hill pulls water from Lake Wylie, which is fed by the Catawba River.

Much of the industry and recreational facilities in Rock Hill and York County are water-based, with a certain water level required to operate properly, particularly during a drought. This permitted transfer and future additional transfers could seriously reduce water in the Catawba River that is available for residents of the basin, industries, commercial ventures, property owners, taxpayers and other water users.

Rock Hill and the other cities negatively affected by the transfer believe only those cities and towns located along the Catawba River basin should be allowed to remove water. Concord and Kannapolis operate from the Yadkin River basin. Rock Hill City officials believe it is not appropriate for Concord and Kannapolis to improve their water-based economy at the expense of York County.

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Don't Forget!

Red, White & BOOM! will be held on Tuesday, July 3, from 5:30 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. in the City Hall Plaza downtown. It will be a Parrot Head theme, so join The Key West Band starting at 6 p.m. to sing-a-long to your favorite Jimmy Buffett music. The fireworks start at 9:30 p.m.



Call Us First!

Please remember, if you have a major electric, water or sewer problem at your home or business, call the City of Rock Hill's Utilities Department first – before you call an electrician or plumber. To report utility problems such as partial or no power, backed up plumbing or an outdoor water leak, **CALL US FIRST at 803/329-5500**. Our staff technicians can come to your home or business, **AT NO CHARGE**, and assess whether or not your problem needs to be addressed by the City or if the problem is the responsibility of the property owner. If you call out a private electrician, plumber or other contractor before you contact the City, they may charge you for a service call, regardless of whether the problem is yours or the City's.

Rock Hill Utilities wants to save you unnecessary expenses and inconvenience, so, just remember...**CALL US FIRST!**



City Of Rock Hill Employees Clean Up The Streets

City of Rock Hill Mayor Doug Echols and employees participated in an Employee Clean-Up event in conjunction with York County Pride Week on Thursday, March 29. Employees gathered in the parking lot of the Operations Center to pick up orange vests, gloves and litter grabbers before beginning the clean-up. This event also served as a celebration for York County Pride Week, with representatives from PalmettoPride in attendance and WRHI broadcasting live.

Mayor Doug Echols addressed employees and encouraged the community to show pride in our city by ensuring it was litter-free for the Come-See-Me Festival. He urged everyone to take part in keeping the city clean year-round. The Mayor then did his part and helped a crew pick up litter along Main Street in downtown Rock Hill.

For more information on how to organize your own litter-getter groups, please contact Elizabeth Morgan at **803/329-7027** or by email at **emorgan@ci.rock-hill.sc.us**.



Mayor Doug Echols picks up trash along Main Street in downtown Rock Hill during a City Clean-Up event.

Warm Weather Tips Help You Stay Cool And Save Money



- During hot weather months, set your thermostat as high as comfortably possible (72 to 78 degrees Fahrenheit). The less the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperature, the lower your overall cooling costs will be.
- Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows that leak air.
- Use ceiling and stand-alone fans to circulate air.
- Check your home's air duct system for leaks. Duct leaks cause a cooling system to run inefficiently and use more energy. Use UL rated duct tape to repair and seal duct holes and tears.
- Wherever possible, hang blinds, shades and/or draperies on windows or glass doors. Interior shading can block up to 95 percent of the sun's heat and help keep your home cooler in the summer.

For more information on how to save energy during warm weather months, visit **<http://www.cityofrockhill.com/utilities/mission.asp>** and connect to the Energy Depot® online library. Energy Depot promotes energy efficiency, helps customers understand and manage their energy costs and provides a valuable source of energy saving information.

Safety: Protect Your Home When Traveling

As the summer approaches, families begin planning vacations and weekend getaways, but criminals often target empty houses. Follow these easy, low-cost or no-cost ways to help keep your home safe when you're out of town.

- Keep shrubs under 3 feet tall to eliminate possible hiding places.
- Plant shrubs with thorns or prickly leaves under ground level windows.
- Keep lawn mowed when out of town.
- Stop mail and newspaper delivery or have a neighbor pick it up when you're out of town.
- Don't hide keys under mats, mailboxes, etc. Instead, leave an extra key with a neighbor.
- Install deadbolt locks.
- Don't leave notes on your door advertising when you're not home.
- Lock cars, garages, sheds and gates.
- Install timers on some lights in the house.
- Install outside lights. Motion sensor and photoelectric lights work well.
- Adjust patio doors so they can not be lifted off their tracks and unlocked.
- Take photographs or make a video tape of your possessions for future identification if stolen. Etch and record identification in valuables.
- When you're going to be out of town for a few days, ask a neighbor to park their car in your driveway or have them move your car.
- Tell your neighbor when you're away. Leave a contact phone number with them.
- Contact the Rock Hill Police at **803/329-7200** when you're away for a "keep check" of your home.

The services of the Neighborhood Empowerment office are available free of charge to any neighborhood located within the city limits of Rock Hill. Please contact Mike Kropp in the Neighborhood Empowerment office at **803/325-2523** for more information about establishing a Crime Watch or to schedule a speaker to talk to your neighborhood.

Summer Fire Safety Tips

When traveling:

- When traveling this summer, after you check into your hotel, locate the fire exits. Count the doorways and other features between your room and the exits. Never use an elevator in a fire situation.
- In the event of a fire in your hotel, be sure to take your room key with you because you will need it to get back in your room if smoke or fire blocks your exit.
- Pack a flashlight in your suitcase.
- Make sure your grill is in good shape and follow the manufacturer's instructions on care. On gas grills, make sure hoses are clear and in good condition and check the tank for leaks prior to that first cookout of the season.
- There is a City ordinance that states **NO grilling on ANY balconies**. If you have any questions or are in doubt if this applies to you, please call **803/329-7220**.
- Remember, the City also has an ordinance **against any outside burning** of any kind.

Barbecues/Grilling:

- Don't wear long sleeves-if your clothes do catch on fire, remember to **Stop, Drop and Roll** to smother the flames.
 - Only use grills outdoors in flat, open spaces. **NEVER BRING A CHARCOAL GRILL INSIDE YOUR HOUSE FOR COOKING OR FOR HEAT**. Make sure your grill is at least 10 feet away from your house or any outside buildings.
 - Never let small children play near a grill and never leave your grill unattended while lit or hot.
 - It is always a good idea to keep your garden hose nearby just in case you have a grill fire that gets out of control.
- If you have questions, please call the Rock Hill Fire Department's Fire Prevention Division at **803/329-7220**.