

ROCK HILL

SOUTH CAROLINA

City of Rock Hill Celebrates "Cities Mean Business" Month

Cities, towns and businesses across South Carolina are celebrating "Cities Mean Business" month in February to encourage new and stronger collaboration between local elected leaders and the business community.

During February and throughout the year, local leaders are focusing on the many ways that strong cities and towns support economic growth of existing businesses, and also attract new business to the city. Rock Hill's local elected leaders are fortunate to have a positive and open relationship with the city's small and larger businesses and with the city's key influencers. Business and community leaders plan to showcase these positive relationships during February, and continue nurturing them throughout 2008.

"A strong economy in our cities and towns dictates the economic success of our state," said Mayor Doug Echols.

"For South Carolina to remain competitive with other states and nations, cities and towns must work together with businesses to ensure a positive quality of life and successful economy."

"Cities Mean Business" month offers the City of Rock Hill a unique opportunity to celebrate the important relationship between the city and its local business community.

How can you get involved in "Cities Mean Business" month in Rock Hill? Contact Lyn Garris by e-mail at lgarris@ci.rock-hill.sc.us or by telephone at 803/329-7009. Visit the Cities Mean Business Web site at www.citiesmeanbusiness.org for more information and see what other cities and towns in your region are doing to celebrate their business relationships.



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

SmartChoice Heat Pump, Water Heater Incentives Offer Great Savings

Is your heating and cooling system on the blink? Need to replace your water heater? Remember that Rock Hill Utilities offers the *SmartChoice* incentives program that rewards energy efficient, all-electric customers. *SmartChoice* offers valuable rebates on electric water heater and heat pump replacements. In addition, customers may qualify for low-interest loans if they install a minimum 14 SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Rating), all-electric, all-season heat pump. If you have an electric water heater, heat your home with a minimum 14 SEER all-electric heat pump and utilize a Smart Switch load management device, you may qualify for the City's lowest residential electric rate, the Great Rate.

SmartChoice is the right choice for energy savings! Call 803/329-5594 for more information or visit our web site at www.cityofrockhill.com and click on "Residential Services."

City Council Contacts



**Mayor
Doug Echols**
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Coming
Soon

**Councilmember
Susie B. Hinton**
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803/327-1645



**Mayor Pro-Tem
Kathy Pender**
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**Councilmember
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**Councilmember
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**Councilmember
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Attention, Rock Hill Citizens: We May Have Your Money! Can You Come Get It?

If you worked last year, you may be eligible for an additional tax refund called the **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)**. EITC is available to individuals and families who made up to \$39,783, depending on marital status and number of qualifying children.

United Way of York County, SC is partnering with the IRS to help eligible Rock Hill City residents claim their extra tax refund, while having their taxes filed for FREE!

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) volunteers will offer free tax preparation services to York County citizens. These volunteers have been trained by the IRS to identify taxpayers who are eligible for the EITC. They will electronically file for tax returns, allowing taxpayers to receive refunds in as little as seven days!

Don't pay to get your hard-earned money back!

Call United Way's 2-1-1 information line and see if you or your family is eligible for the EITC, and find the VITA tax preparation site closest to you. The call is free, the tax assistance is free, and filing is free. Call 2-1-1 today to learn more about how you can get more money back on your taxes!

Do you Qualify?

- If you have no qualifying children and made \$12,590 in 2007 or \$14,590 if married filing jointly
- If you have one qualifying child and made \$33,241 in 2007 or \$35,241 if married filing jointly
- If you have more than one qualifying child and made \$37,783 in 2007 or \$39,783 if married filing jointly
- You must have valid Social Security number
- Filing status cannot be "married filing separately"

Call 2-1-1 for more information, or to find the tax site nearest you.

Thanks!

the IRS



PRT Safety Initiative: Background Screenings for Volunteers

The City of Rock Hill Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department (PRT) has the responsibility to protect the well-being and safety of all participants. As an extension of its on-going efforts to support this initiative, the PRT Department has created a strategy to ensure that every volunteer meets a minimum standard that would provide participants with a safe and educational environment.

With the leadership of the Parks & Recreation Commission and the support of all the various PRT Advisory Committees, the PRT Department has adopted a mandatory background screening policy for volunteers. In order to volunteer with a PRT program, individuals must complete and sign a Volunteer Application. Applications will be screened by SouthEastern Security Consultants Incorporated (SSCI). For information on application disqualifiers, go to www.rockhillrocks.com.



Appeal Process (in case of a disqualified application)

If the applicant disputes the finding of the background check, they can appeal to SouthEastern Security Consultants Incorporated (SSCI) at **866/996-7412**.

All information contained in the application and the findings are held in confidence. Information is not shared with outside organizations or individuals without a business need to know.

The implementation of this policy not only supports long standing PRT initiatives such as Coaches' Certification and Code of Ethics, but it also supports the Commission for Children & Youth's new campaign, "The #1 Question: Is It Good for the Children?" Questions about this policy should be directed to David Linder at Cherry Park, **803/329-5672**.

IS IT GOOD
FOR THE
CHILDREN®



Star Treatment For Lisa Kersey

The Recycling Star Program recognizes a resident every month who has been an exceptional curbside recycler. This could mean numerous bins at the curb, well prepared bins or consistent recycling habits. Each month a route driver selects a winner. The Recycling Star is presented with a free rolling recycle bin and recycled content prizes, as well as a certificate designating them as the Recycling Star.

January's Recycling Star goes to Lisa Kersey. Lisa was awarded a free rolling recycling bin in recognition of her excellent commitment to recycling in Rock Hill and the positive example she sets.

All you need is a bin to win! Don't have a bin? Need an extra? **Call 803/329-5610** to request a recycle bin or for more information on the Recycle Star Program. Keep recycling Rock Hill!

Youth Sports Registration



Registration for Spring Youth Sports programs offered by Rock Hill Parks, Recreation & Tourism (PRT) runs from Jan. 28 – Feb. 22. Baseball, Recreation Soccer and Girls Softball are offered again this spring, and a new Competitive Soccer program is available as well. Registration is taken during office hours at Manchester Meadows, the Cherry Park tower, the PRT office (Room 390) at City Hall, and at the four recreation centers. First time players should bring a copy of their birth certificate. A registration brochure with details is available at www.rockhillrocks.com. Call **803/326-3792** or **803/329-5672** with questions.

Competitive Soccer

PRT is offering a Competitive Soccer league along with the regular Recreation Soccer league this spring. The new league is for ages 10 – 15 and will consist of competitive play, scorekeeping, standings, and an end-of-season tournament.

PRT is currently working to finalize all rules and regulations for the league. There will be tryouts and a draft to determine teams, and full uniforms will be provided to each participant. All games will be played at Manchester Meadows. The fee for Competitive Soccer is \$77 which includes the mandatory insurance fee of \$7. Any child not wanting to participate in the competitive league after tryouts will be eligible to play in the recreation league. PRT is looking forward to a great first season with this new league. For questions, call Leslie Ballard at **803/329-5673**. See article above for registration information.



PRT Staff Exhibit Photographs

An art exhibit featuring photography by Merritt Burger Croom, Kathy Covington and Laurie Helms is on display at the City Hall Rotunda Gallery through the end of February. Not only do these ladies share an interest in photography, but they also share an interest in recreation as they work for the Parks, Recreation & Tourism department. Subjects on display include nature themes – woods, beaches & canyons – and graphical compositions, both natural and manmade.



"Your Ride Awaits" by Laurie Helms