



ROCK HILL

SOUTH CAROLINA

Federal Appropriations: Gone, But Not Forgotten

The Funds That Helped Build Our City



Ask the residents of Hagins Fewell neighborhood what they think about appropriations, and you might get a blank stare. Ask them how they like having a dependable sewer system running through their neighborhood, however, and things become a little clearer.

We've read lately about these things called appropriations or earmarks. Some say they represent wasteful spending by our Washington representatives. Some say that cities shouldn't rely on appropriations; rather, they should focus their energies on securing much-needed money through grant applications.

The City of Rock Hill has been able to accomplish some wonderful things over the past few years, thanks to Federal appropriations.

The Hagins Fewell community has begun the long road back to vitality through the use of appropriations, which financed the installation of new sewer lines through the neighborhood, replacing deteriorating lines that were installed by the Arcade Mill in the early 1900s.

Senator Lindsey Graham, Congressman John Spratt and former Senator Fritz Hollings were instrumental in helping the city secure these important appropriations.

Federal appropriations also helped kick start the City Fire and Police Departments' initiative to join York County on the new

800 MHz radio system, enabling all area public safety entities to operate on the same communications system. Without the assistance of Senator Graham and Congressman Spratt, this key initiative would likely be at the top of a long city wish list.

Federal appropriations also helped finance a feasibility study for a Trolley System to ferry citizens between Downtown Rock Hill and Winthrop University through the Textile Corridor. Should the study determine it to be feasible, a Trolley system would be a shot in the arm to the momentum of the Textile Corridor development, an initiative that will literally revolutionize the Downtown/Winthrop corridor into a hub of retail, restaurant and residential destinations. Again, Senator Graham and Congressman Spratt came to the assistance of the city of Rock Hill by providing appropriations for the Trolley feasibility study.

While grants also play an important role in financing project implementation, as a general rule, the City either has utilized all known available grant funding sources for a particular project, or there are no grants available for a specific project. This is why Federal appropriations have been so important to the city of Rock Hill.

Appropriations are able not only to help fill in funding gaps for projects, but also play a critical role by enabling the city to leverage additional public and private investment to ensure that comprehensive community revitalization takes place.

For example, a sewer appropriation of \$994,100 enabled the City to raise an additional \$17,475,000 through grants and public/private investment. These additional funds helped reduce the criminal element in the Hagins Fewell neighborhood, begin the Brownfield redevelopment process, create jobs, and start a comprehensive affordable housing construction process in the community.

So whenever you hear about appropriations and why they should be eliminated, keep in mind the GOOD things they've done for the people of Rock Hill. Ask some tough questions of the Appropriations opponents.

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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INSIDE ROCK HILL Civics Class Begins February 28

Inside Rock Hill is a free 10-week civics course offered to City of Rock Hill residents. The course gives participants an opportunity to learn about the multi-faceted services of the City. Instructors include the Mayor, City Council, City Manager and city department heads. Topics explore where your tax dollars go, the court systems, city services and *much more*. Five field trips are included in the course.



The next *Inside Rock Hill* session starts **February 28, 2008** and will meet Thursday evenings for 10 weeks from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. The first 25 individuals that register will be accepted into the class. Registration deadline is February 7. To register for this free course, contact the Neighborhood Empowerment Office at **803/325-2527**.

Ray Koterba, the Rock Hill's Director of Housing and Neighborhood Services, says each person who participates in this course gains a detailed understanding of how local government works. "This is an interesting course and an excellent resource for our citizens to become better informed about the projects, programs and services provided by the City of Rock Hill," Koterba said. "The more they understand, the better that person will be able to access services necessary to maintain and improve their quality of life." Koterba added that citizens will benefit from meeting the many city leaders and staff who manage the day-to-day operations of the various departments, including City Management, Public Works, Utilities, Police, Fire and Economic Development.

Dr. Delmar Long, former course participant and neighborhood leader in Country Club Estates, is impressed with the broad spectrum of knowledge presented in these sessions. "*Inside Rock Hill* is a dynamic program, well thought out and well presented," said Dr. Long. "My participation in this course has allowed me the opportunity to become an asset to my neighborhood ... I suggest that anybody who has any interest in the City of Rock Hill consider signing up for the upcoming session."



Star Treatment For Marie Belluscio

The Recycling Star for November is **Marie Belluscio**. 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.

Congratulations to Marie, who was awarded a free rolling recycling bin in recognition of her excellent commitment to recycling in Rock Hill and the positive example she set. You could be next month's Recycling Star. 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!**

Interfaith Prayer Breakfast to be Held in Observance of MLK Holiday

In observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, The Rock Hill/York County MLK Task Force joined by the Committee on Human Relations and No Room for Racism Committee, will host the 5th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Interfaith Prayer Breakfast on Monday, January 21, 2008, from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at First Baptist Church. The church is located at the corner of Dave Lyle Boulevard and Hood Center Drive in Rock Hill.

The theme for the event will be "Remember, Act, Celebrate." Music will be provided by the Rock Hill Ecumenical Chorale Ensemble. Serving as guest speaker will be Congressman John Lewis of Georgia's Sixth Congressional District and a leader in the civil rights movement.

Tickets for this event can be purchased for \$10 each at the Housing & Neighborhood Services Office at 150 Johnston Street and also at the City Management Office at City Hall, 155 Johnston Street. Table sponsorships, with seating for eight persons, are available starting at \$150 each.

Nominations are now being accepted for the **Dream Keeper Award**. This award recognizes exemplary displays of committed service to the tenets of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the ultimate dreamer. The ideals of social responsibility, political empowerment, diversity, racial harmony, nonviolence, and



From left, guest speaker Congressman John Lewis, Mayor Doug Echols and Representative John Spratt

unselfish service must be demonstrated voluntarily by the nominee on behalf of his or her community and fellow citizens.

For more information on the prayer breakfast tickets, table sponsorships and to receive an application for the Dream Keeper Award, please call Dorene Watts at [803/325-2527](tel:8033252527).

Consider These Holiday and Winter Safety Tips

Holiday

- Don't place your tree close to a heat source – fireplace, heater, or vent – the heat will dry out the tree
- Keep your tree watered
- Use only UL approved lighting
- Do not use lights with frayed wiring, torn insulation or excessive kinks
- Be careful not to overload your outlets
- All lights should be unplugged before going to bed
- Avoid hanging stockings near open flames
- Make sure artificial trees are rated flame-retardant
- Never smoke around the tree or flammable decorations
- Never place a tree so that it blocks an exit
- Never decorate metal trees with electric lights
- Never run electrical cords through doorways and under rugs
- Keep candles in sturdy holders and never place them near curtains or other combustibles
- Make sure your Christmas tree is fresh – shedding needles are a sign of a dry tree

Woodstoves, Fireplaces and Chimneys:

- Have your fireplace or stove inspected and cleaned annually
- Use only seasoned wood (wood with low moisture content – such as hickory or oak)
- Keep the area around the fireplace or chimney free of objects
- Always use a fireplace screen
- Never overload the fireplace or woodstove – stack larger logs in the back on a grate for stability
- Always make sure the fire is completely out before going to bed or leaving the house
- Never burn wrapping paper, trash, coal, charcoal, plastic, or plastic foam
- Never use lighter fluid, kerosene, or gasoline to start or "relight" a fire
- Keep the damper open until all ashes are cold to the touch
- Keep a multipurpose fire extinguisher (labeled "ABC") nearby

Tips For Preventing Car Break-Ins This Holiday Season

City of Rock Hill Police advise residents to remove valuable items from their cars to avoid theft this holiday season.

“Most car break-ins can be avoided by using just a little caution,” said Rock Hill Police Chief John Gregory. “You’d be amazed what people leave in their cars and then are surprised when these items are stolen.”

Gregory says car break-ins typically increase during the holiday shopping season. Leaving expensive items visible in cars just invites theft.

Below is a list from RHPD incident reports of auto break-ins, along with a list of items stolen from the cars in each incident. The robberies outlined below happened in just a 6-day period in October – not a key holiday shopping period.

10/19	Compaq Presario laptop computer, Apple iPod, and iGo charger
10/18	Dual Stereo/TV Combo
10/16	Samsung T9 MP3 player and a wireless transmitter for the MP3 player
10/14	Voter Registration card and Social Security card
10/13	Cream purse containing credit card, SC drivers license, camera bag, black Canon Rebel XT with a memory card. Black Tamron Zoom Lens and a silver video camera
10/13	HP 17" laptop computer, Microsoft GPS, Sony CyberShot digital camera, Avon case with booklets
10/13	Olympus Stylus 770SW camera

Chief Gregory also offers additional tips to help minimize car theft during the holidays.

- Lock your car and roll up the windows
- Park your car in a well-lit area when possible
- Don't leave your keys in the car or a spare key hidden in the vehicle
- Don't leave your car unattended while it is running
- Don't store valuables or packages in your car
- If you have a removable stereo, remove it when the car is being left unattended
- Use a device such as the “club” to lock steering column
- Install an alarm system in your car

Rock Hill Police wish you a safe and happy holiday season!

Holiday Trash Collection Schedule

With the holidays right around the corner, you and your neighbors may begin wondering when will your garbage be picked up? Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day are the only two holidays on which trash collection does not follow the regular schedule. City of Rock Hill Public Works staff works every holiday except the fourth Thursday in November for Thanksgiving and December 25.

This year, the holiday schedule is as follows:

Christmas

Trash collections normally picked up on Monday, December 24 will remain on regular schedule. For the remainder of Christmas week, pick-ups will be scheduled as follows:

If your trash is normally picked up on:	During Christmas week, it will be picked up on:
Tuesday, December 25	Wednesday, December 26
Wednesday, December 26	Thursday, December 27
Thursday, December 27	Friday, December 28

New Year's Day

All scheduled collections will be operating on Tuesday, January 1, 2008.

Remember, Thanksgiving and Christmas days are the only two holidays which trash collection doesn't normally occur. Your garbage will be collected as scheduled on every other holiday, including New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Martin Luther King Day, President's Day, Valentine's Day, Groundhog Day, etc.

Drought Update

Stage 3 Drought Water Restrictions are in effect. Use of all sprinklers, irrigation systems and other remote landscape watering devices has been strictly prohibited since October 22. Hand watering is currently permitted. However, should drought conditions worsen, the situation could change. **Customers are strongly encouraged to stay informed about the drought and current water restrictions.** During these severe drought conditions, the City of Rock Hill and its wholesale customers urge public water consumers to help maintain the health, sanitation and safety of our communities by adhering to the mandatory water restrictions. Please tune to City Channel 19, visit the city's website at www.cityofrockhill.com or call the city's water hotline at 803/326-2450 for current drought status information.