



**February 26, 2009  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **All About Come-See-Me**

The Rock Hill *Come-See-Me Festival* is considered the largest, all-volunteer festival in South Carolina and attracts more than 100,000 participants and visitors every year. The Festival has been ranked in the South's Top 20 Spring Festivals for numerous years and has been featured in *Southern Living Magazine* two times.

The *Come-See-Me Festival* made its debut in the spring of 1962 as a community project to encourage tourists, relatives and friends to visit Rock Hill during its most beautiful season. While it began as a weekend event, its popularity continued to grow, and so did the number of days. By 1983, *Come-See-Me* became a 10-day Festival.

The Festival was the idea of its first chairman, C.H. "Icky" Albright, former Rock Hill Mayor and State Senator. It was also nurtured by another Rock Hill resident, the late Vernon Grant, the nationally acclaimed illustrator and creator of Kellogg's® celebrated gnomes, "Snap, Crackle and Pop®."

The Festival's mascot, "Glen the Frog"® was also created by Vernon Grant, who designed over 30 different "Glens". A new logo representing each successive festival is selected annually with an updated design and new colors. Each year, a special Unveiling Ceremony is held to introduce the new "Glen" and officially announce festival plans.

A central focus of the Festival has always been the historic, award-winning Glencairn Garden, created by Dr. David A. Bigger and given to the City of Rock Hill in 1958. Camellias, dogwoods, wisteria and a variety of flowers and trees surround over 3,500 azaleas with a lily pond as the central focus.

The *Come-See-Me Festival* was created as a family event. During the 10-day Festival, residents and visitors enjoy live entertainment, the annual parade, Beach Bash, Moonlight Jazz, Mayor's Frog Jump as well as the Tailgate Party and Fireworks Extravaganza! Official sponsors of the 2009 *Come-See-Me Festival* are Comporium Communications, the City of Rock Hill, Carolinas Medical Center Pineville, Williams & Fudge and the Rock Hill Coca-Cola Bottling Company.

The 2009 Festival will be held April 16<sup>th</sup> through April 25<sup>th</sup>. A complete calendar of events is available online on the official festival website: [comeseeme.rockhill.net](http://comeseeme.rockhill.net). Festival brochures can be downloaded from the website and are also available at no charge by calling 800-681-7635 or 803-329-7625.

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