

Team-Times

Newsletter

Bi-monthly Employee Newsletter of the Richland County Recreation Commission -- October 2012



IN THIS ISSUE:

PAVING THE WAY 1-2

GOSPELFEST 2

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH 2

A FROG IS BORN 3

F IS FOR FALL (AND FOOTBALL) 3

SCRPA CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE 4

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS 5

A SILVER ANNIVERSARY FOR

SENIOR GAMES 6

WUZZLE PUZZLES 7

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE? 8

OCTOBER CALENDAR 8

MISSION STATEMENT

Dedicated to enriching lives and connecting communities through diverse recreational opportunities.



Paving the Way to a Healthier Future

Elizabeth Poole, Development Support Coordinator

Don't forget to purchase your personalized, commemorative brick by November 15!

The bricks are \$100 each and include 3 lines (18 characters per line) of text. You can share your support of recreation for years to come.



These speciality bricks will be included in the courtyard of the new administrative building on Parklane Road. Proceeds from the sale of the bricks will go directly towards funding for programming, facility improvements and special events. Not only will the money raised from this campaign benefit the commission and the community as a whole, but years from now your legacy will remain a part of RCRC for many years to come.

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

With your help and support we know this campaign can be successful. The Foundation staff asks that you continue to encourage your patrons to give back to this worthy cause. Also, don't forget about the employee special—if you get four people to purchase a brick then your brick is free!

To purchase your brick online, visit www.bricksrus.com/order/rcf. For more information, contact Elizabeth Poole at 736-9369 or via email at elizabeth@rcrc.state.sc.us. Thank you for your support!

And remember to contact the Foundation about your upcoming events or if we can do anything to assist you.

GospelFest

Robert Davis, Park Manager, Eastover Park

Eastover Park held its first GospelFest, Saturday, September 8th. We would like to give a special thanks to the Foundation for their support and donations. We enjoyed performances by several local quartet gospel groups.

Our park staff is looking forward to working with local communities and RCRC staff members in the future. We would also like to thank WLTX News 19 , Deacon Joseph Davis and the Choice Gospel singers for allowing us to utilize their equipment and everyone who sang songs to enrich the lives of those who came.



Back to School Bash

Sigmund Tucker, Park Manager, Caughman Road Park

Caughman Road Park held a Back to School Cookout and school supply giveaway on August 11. The event was a huge success! Many families enjoyed food, entertainment and the kids got lots of needed school supplies.



The staff at Caughman, Ira Thomas, Julian Shabazz, and Stephon Scott did a lot of work in planning for this event, and nothing was going to prevent it from being a success.

Dirty South Motorcycle Club and Rodney Starks of P. Entertainment Group prepared and provided everyone with hotdogs and burgers despite the rain. Families packed the gymnasium as bags were being prepared. Though the weather was rough, C & C Soul



Line dancing and Zumba with Sharon performed for the kids. The kids got to show off their moves in a dance contest and they definitely enjoyed the bounce houses.

I would like to say "Thank You" to the people who came together to make this event so successful. Sharon with our Zumba class, Charlena with C&C Soul Line Dance, the East Columbia Youth Baseball League, Dirty South motorcycle club, Stanley Mitchell, Lisa Smarr and Caughman's Senior Group, Myron Adams, Target, Prudential Real Estate, Letha Williams, Roderick Starks with P. Entertainment Group, and Sushma Kesar, Jay Suri of DBA Southeast BP and many others.



Giving back to the community in any shape, form or fashion is contagious, and you never know who is accepting your gift and what effect it may have on them. The support that we received from the community blessed many kids, and again I would like to say thanks!

Even though it started off very cloudy, and the rain eventually came pouring down on the outside, but the smiles of everyone at Caughman Road Park made the day a whole lot brighter.

A Frog Is Born

Dashia Tisdale, Program Coordinator,
Ballentine Community Center

The Creative Connectors at Ballentine Community Center have been very busy. This group of fantastic artists got together and began a very special project.



The group created "Queen LaLeap", a frog made entirely out of recycled, donated and found materials which went on display at the 3rd Annual Celebrate Water Festival, held on August 25 at Columbia's Riverfront Park.

Sonoco Recycling sponsors this art project and several teams around the county participated. The project took just over a month to complete and was constructed using a lawn chair, chicken wire, drink and detergent bottles, container caps, foam noodles, duct tape, telephone cable wire, bottle cork and labels, aluminum cans, plastic kiddy pool, kraft foam, pie plate, jingle bells, plastic cups, bags, boards, and table cloths, artificial leaves, CDs, campaign boards donated by Rep Nathan Ballentine's office and tennis balls donated by the Richland County Tennis Center.



F is for Fall (and football!)

Andrew Scott, Adaptive Recreation Division Supervisor

We are always excited about all of our activities and events in the Adaptive Recreation Department.

After the conclusion of Camp Sunshine 2012, we started preparation for our day and evening programs and the Carolina Panthers Challenger Flag Football League.



Thanks to Hanson Brick for their generous donation to enhance our garden area. With assistance from RCRC grounds crew we have a lovely patio that makes it easier for our wheelchair patrons. The beautification program was co-sponsored by Palmetto Pride.

We have 23 players and 5 cheerleaders in the Carolina Panthers Challenger Flag Football League this year. We've added another visiting team to the schedule. A team from Durham, North Carolina will visit and our team will travel north to visit their field.



We're also really excited to announce that the RCRC team will play in the SC Special Olympics Fall Games, October 19-21 in Greenville.

It's always special to see our parents involved in our Mothers vs. the RCRC Challenger Team. This year our Mother's Team was decked out in their Atlanta Falcons Jerseys. It was great game that ended in a tie, 18-18.



**Friday, November 30 • 9:00-11:00 am
Surrounding area of Decker Boulevard**

Get your green on and keep the Midlands beautiful by joining our litter pick-up! Meet at parking area of O'Neil Court and Decker Boulevard (Chick-fil-A, 2600 Decker Boulevard).

For more information call Melissa Holman at 462-9995

SCRPA Conference Experience

Kasey Wilson, Accounting Manager

This was my first time at a SCRPA conference and I have to say it was a lot of fun. The classes and adventures were a joy. I attended two classes that I really enjoyed; Organizational Leadership and Customer Service.

Organizational Leadership

Organizational Leadership taught by Charleston Recreation, Executive Director, Tom O'Rourke. Tom was a great speaker for this class because he speaks to the point and has a vision, a true leader. O'Rourke gave us the following tips on being a great leader:

- Always be positive
- The best leader move is to do nothing, sometimes...
- Don't be afraid to say "No"
- Empower instead of meeting
- Control your e-mail and don't let it control you
- Leave your schedule open
- Ask yourself, should I be handling this?
- Be Involved
- Involve everyone and let them figure out what needs to be changed
- Be positive! A happy vision creates happy employees.

I think all of these leadership qualities were great advice.

Customer Service

The other class I really enjoyed was Customer Service taught by Carla Cloud, Executive Director for Aiken Downtown Development. The first thing she had the class do was write down a bad customer service issue we have had to deal with on an index card. Then she went over some customer service points about like:

Friendly vs. Familiar: Know who you are talking to. You can be polite, but not try to be someone's friend.

Be aware of your body language; communication with giving and receiving, problem solving by giving a solution.

Follow these rules when dealing with customers:

- 1. Listen**
 - a. Don't interrupt
 - b. Stay present

- 2. Emotion**

- a. Cause

- 3. Own your responses**

- a. Maintain calm
- b. Evaluate the situation
- c. Use "I'm not sure.", but always say "I will find out."
- d. Body language
- e. Smile
- f. Make eye contact
- g. Show interest

After Ms. Cloud went over the customer service slides, she called pairs up at a time, handed random index cards to role play. In my example, I was paired with Brandolyn and I was the angry customer and Brandolyn the employee. Our situation happened to be an expired coupon. We played it out well and the instructor gave additional pointers. Some of the other pairs got up in front of the class and really played it up with situations one would experience at the park like parking on the fields, bringing coolers, rentals with not enough tables and chairs. It was interesting. I really think one can learn a lot by role play because it puts you in the situation seeing it from both sides.

RCRC Team Work

Now, the fun stuff... Leigh Cheatham, Brandolyn Blanding, Keira Session, and I joined the Rubber Ducky race, similar to the television show, *The Amazing Race*.

Our group was named the *Rec Divas*. We teamed up with some of the guys that were on the trip. We had the perfect gameplan by joining forces with James Mercado, Jamaal Gray, Ben Busbee, and Robert Davis.

The teams had to find things using riddles, complete challenges like filling cups attached to your feet with popcorn and running to fill another bucket. The faster you filled the bucket the quicker you could move on to the next challenge. Let's just say Keira and Brandolyn ROCKED the popcorn challenge.



We also had to fill a 2-liter bottle with river water to make the rubber ducky float...only using a small water gun and standing 6 feet apart. I got a little wet because Leigh needs to work on her aim! We also had to snap some photos and one unsuspecting family was gracious enough to let us interrupt their dinner to snap a quick picture. The team who arrived at Carolina Ale House first won \$400.00. Needless to say, we came in last, but it was a fun and tiring experience!



Halloween Safety Tips

Chris Santino, Safety Manager

Everyone wants to have a safe and happy Halloween. Using safety tips and some common sense can help you make the most of your Halloween season, keeping it as enjoyable for your family.

Here are some tips to keep everyone safe! These are great tips to share with your kids and teens before they go out trick or treating.

- When trick or treating, be sure to go around in neighborhoods where you are familiar. Never go to a stranger's home unless accompanied by an adult.
- Be careful when you cross a street. If you have a little brother or sister with you, take their hand and help them across the street. Wear reflective clothing or use reflective tape so that drivers and others can see you. Also it's a good idea to use a flashlight.
- If you are an older kid or teenager make sure your parents know where you are going and who you are with. This may seem like a pain but they are your parents and they love you. They just want you to be safe.
- Vandalism is never cool! Throwing eggs at cars and houses is not cool. Someone has to clean it up and it could be you, if you get caught. You can also be arrested. Vandalism is a misdemeanor in SC and if charged you could be fined up to \$1,000 and serve 30-60 days in jail.



- Hurting animals is never acceptable behavior! Some people use Halloween as an excuse to hurt cats and that is just wrong! Not only is it illegal in most places to hurt or torture animals and punishable by law, you should never hurt a helpless living thing.

Halloween Safety Tips for Adults

Parents can get caught up in the fun too! But it's easy to forget some of the simple safety ideas that can help you keep you and your children safe.

- If you take your kids to a church or community sponsored event it's still important to keep your eyes on your kids. Remind kids that even though the event may be at a familiar location that doesn't mean there aren't strangers there. Be sure to remind them to check in with you before going to the next activity.
- Almost everyone has a cell phone now, so make sure that your child has a cell phone when they go out on Halloween night. You can program important phone numbers into the phone so that all they need to do is dial a few numbers, if they need help.
- Be sure to know the route your kids will be taking (if you aren't accompanying them). If they are old enough to trick or treat alone, then have them call or check in periodically.
- Even if you live in a well lit and familiar neighborhood, it's usually good to have a parent with trick or treaters no matter their ages. If you can't take them then see if another parent of the group will tag along.
- Help your young child pick out or make a costume that will be safe. Make sure that it's fire proof or treated with fire retardant. If they are wearing a mask of any kind, make sure that the eye holes are large enough for good peripheral vision.
- Know what other activities a child may be attending, such as parties, school or community functions. If they are going to a friend's home, get the phone number and make sure you've met the parents.
- Make sure you set a curfew. Make sure they know how important it is for them to be home on time or to call immediately if something happens and they are going to be delayed.
- Kids will be kids. Explain to kids of all ages the difference between tricks and vandalism. Throwing eggs at a house may seem funny but they need to know there are serious consequences to vandalizing other people's property. They can be arrested, fined or even serve jail time, if convicted.
- Serve your kids a filling meal before trick or treating and they won't be as tempted to eat as much candy. There are all types of fun ideas that are Halloween themed. Also be sure to check your child's candy once they get it home. Check for any unwrapped or tampered packaging.
- Make sure all costume props have dull, flexible edges. Knives, pitchforks and other items can cause serious injuries. Also make sure that costumes don't have draping cloth or anything that a child could trip over.
- Teach your kids about not getting into strangers' cars or talking to strangers, no matter what the person says to them. Explain to them as simply as you can that some adults are bad and want to hurt children, that they should never go into a house that they don't know, get into a car or go anywhere with a stranger. Also, tell them what to do should this happen, to scream as loud as they can to draw attention and to run away as fast as they can to someplace safe.
- Be sure to show your children know how to cross a street properly. They should always look both ways before crossing the street and should only cross at corners or crosswalks. Make sure that if you have more than one child, they know to take the hand of the younger child when they cross a street.

Local Resources for Halloween Safety: <http://www.rcsd.net>

A Silver Anniversary for Senior Games

Melissa Holman, Manager, Adult Activity Center

The 25th annual Midlands Area Senior Games were held September 17-20. Over 130 adults, ages 50+, participated in the four day event.

This year, being the 25th anniversary, the planning committee wanted to really kick it up a notch and do something a little different and unique.

Monday morning we held a "Parade of Athletes" along with the opening ceremony. Guest speaker, Rev. Dr. Mack Branham, SC Senior Classic Hall of Fame inductee and local participant applauded this year's participants for getting involved and staying active. We also added two new events this year, volleyball and 3-on-3 basketball. The weather was nice and the participants came out ready to compete and have fun. We had a great turnout of volunteers and sponsors at each event.



The Games still provide an affordable outlet to promote a healthy lifestyle among our growing senior population. The games encourage those 50+ to come out and participate in competitive and non-competitive events amongst



their peers. The average age of our participant is 60-69 years of age. The youngest was 51 years old and our oldest participant was 88. This proves that individuals are living longer and choosing to enjoy life through recreation, disproving the misconception that this aging population is physically inactive.

We, the Richland County Recreation Commission and the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department, plan to continue to offer this quality program to our adult population. Our participants keep us going year after year and challenge us every step of the way. Every year we look forward to welcoming back participants and encouraging new participants to join us in celebrating many more years to come. We love to see our senior adults participate and continue to keep going in spite of their age.

We look forward to encouraging our staff to participate next year when we celebrate 26 years.

What better way to get involved than to be involved as a participant.



WUZZLE PUZZLES

A wuzzle is a saying/phrase that is made up of a display of words, in an interesting way. The object is to try to figure out the well-known saying, person, place, or thing that each wuzzle is meant to represent.

Answers on page 8.

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THING : THING
THING : THING

20

What's Wrong With This Picture?

Sabrina Collins, Risk Manager

The RCRC Safety Committee wants everyone to work safe while enjoying his/her job. The committee will feature a different fun activity in Team Times each quarter.

This quarter's feature is: "***The Clean Desk Test: What is Wrong With This Picture?***" A messy desk is a vulnerable desk. Here is a photo with 20 egregious violations of a good clean desk policy. Can you find all the violations? To send your answers to Sabrina you can call 754-6720 ext. 245, email sabrina@rcrc.state.sc.us, or stop by the Denny Terrace Community Center.

Please print and share with everyone in your department. Work safe everyone!



October

5	Pay Day
8	Columbus Day
13	Breast Cancer Awareness Walk, 9:00 am-12:00 pm, Caughman Road Park
13	Latinos Y Mas! A Multi-Cultural Celebration, 11:00 am-4:00 pm, North Springs Park
19	Pay Day
20	Hoops for Life, 3:00 pm, Bluff Road Park
20	Let's Dance Salsa, 3:00-6:00 pm (workshop); 7:00-11:00 pm (dance), Adult Activity Center
22	Regular Board Meeting, 6:00 pm, Adult Activity Center
25	Open House, 10:00 am-7:00 pm, Adult Activity Center & James Clyburn Technology Center
26-27	Terror in the Park, 7:45-11:00 pm, North Springs Park
30	Thriller at the Park, 7:00 pm, Eastover Park
31	Halloween



WUZZLE PUZZLES ANSWERS

- 1) think twice about it
- 2) no time for you
- 3) poison ivy
- 4) internet site
- 5) space invaders
- 6) daybreak
- 7) walk on water
- 8) tennis match
- 9) it doesn't add up
- 10) you are always on my mind
- 11) just in case
- 12) two by four
- 13) keep on smiling
- 14) scatter brain
- 15) four part harmony
- 16) paint by numbers
- 17) hi rise apartments
- 18) shot in the dark
- 19) Dr. Doolittle
- 20) all things being equal

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