

Team-Times Newsletter

Bi-monthly Employee Newsletter of the Richland County Recreation Commission -- October 2013

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MISSION STATEMENT

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



RICHLAND COUNTY RECREATION FOUNDATION Employee
We Care
Campaign

The graphic features a stylized figure in a blue and green circle with a star above it, set against a purple background.

Your commitment to the Agency is evident in the great work that you do; moreover, knowing that each gift counts, you value the importance of giving. Through your giving, you can affect various areas of the Agency where you work. We are asking all full time employees to make a minimum gift of \$10. We offer employees the convenience of giving through various ways: online, cash, check, and payroll deduction.

This makes contributing easier and more convenient for all of us. All donations should be made before December 31, 2013. All funds raised will stay in house to benefit both you and the communities we serve. Thank you in advance for your consideration, and for helping the Richland County Recreation Commission. Please visit <http://richlandcountyrecreation.com/wordpress/foundation/employee-we-care-campaign/> to make a donation.

Staff Development and Evaluation Program

Julian Shabazz, Recreation Program Coordinator

The Richland County Recreation Commission has created and implemented a Staff Development and Evaluation Program which aims to increase the knowledge of its employees and improve performance. This program is an effort by the agency to assist employees in developing an understanding of the standards and expectations the agency has set forth for success.



The program's implementation is comprised of five components, 1) the new RCRC Facility Operations

Manual; 2) two workshop sessions covering "Excellence in Customer Service"; 3) two workshop sessions about "Delivering Quality Recreation Programming", 4) community needs assessments; and 5) evaluation. After completion of the workshops each group will present a measurable capstone project.

The program began on Friday, August 23rd and continued for four consecutive weeks. The initial group was made up of staff members John Howell and Jermaine Washington (Hopkins Park), Antoine Rush and Megan Morris (Killian Park), and Randolph Anderson and Lefunzo Wright (Crane Creek Gymnasium). Each session was interactive and workshops included presentations from Assistant Executive Director Kenya Bryant, Compliance Manager Comilla Sampson, Director of Public Relations Zenethia Brown, Special Events Assistant Takequita

Lewis, and Property Management Administrative Assistant Monique Jones. Also on hand were the Director of Parks Connie Reaves and District Two Supervisor James Darby.

Group one created a Park Staff Fitness Challenge as their capstone project and community needs assessments are currently underway in each area. The Staff Development and Evaluation Program is being conducted by the Recreation Program Coordinators and is off to a great start. RCRC has many talented individuals working throughout the agency and this program is designed to help RCRC's vision to be the model parks and recreation agency in the state of South Carolina.

Community Conversation

Comilla Sampson, Compliance Manager and Julian Shabazz, Recreation Program Coordinator

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) celebrates *National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month* in July as a time to increase public awareness of mental illness among diverse communities. Established in 2008 by the U.S. House of Representatives, it honors Bebe Moore Campbell, distinguished author and NAMI advocate of mental health education and support.

National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month brings to the forefront the devastating impact of mental illness on the lives of undiagnosed individuals in minority communities, their families and friends. During the month, individuals can raise awareness of mental illness, treatment and research in diverse communities by hosting special events and partnering with local businesses and organizations.



The Richland County Recreation Commission partnered with NAMI Mid-Carolina to present a *Community Conversation* which was held on Sunday, July 28, 2013 at 6:00 pm at Meadowlake Park. The organizers for the event were Comilla Sampson (RCRC Compliance Manager), Mandy Medlock (Director of Operations, NAMI Mid-Carolina), television/radio personality Judi Gatson, and Alex Wright (Park Manager, Meadowlake Park). The program featured a discussion between

the assembled audience and panelists Chaplain Eddie Davis, Duane Everette (Regional Director of QoI Meds), Kenya Bryant (Assistant Executive Director of RCRC), and Terronda Richardson (NAMI Board Member). The conversation was hosted by Judi Gatson and broadcast live on her radio show "N Touch", which aired on KISS 103.1 FM. The audience was completely engaged in the passionate and lively discussion.

The demographics of those in attendance included professionals, healthcare practitioners, community leaders, concerned citizens, elected officials, and persons dealing with mental health issues. This event was an excellent demonstration of the agency carrying out its mission of "enriching lives and connecting communities through diverse recreational opportunities."

Halloween Safety Guide

Chris Santino, Safety Manager

Anytime a child has an accident, it's tragic. Having your child get hurt any day of the year would be horrible, but the last thing that you want to happen is for your child to be hurt on a holiday, like Halloween. It would forever live in the minds of the child and family, ruining that special time of year.

Everyone wants to have a safe and happy Halloween for themselves, their guests and especially their children. Using safety tips and some common sense can help you make the most of your Halloween season, keeping it as enjoyable for your kids as it is for you!

The excitement of children and adults at this time of year can sometimes make them not as careful as they would normally be. The following suggestions can do a lot to stop tragedies from happening and help make the most of everyone's favorite holiday of the year... Halloween!

Halloween Safety for Kids

Kids love Halloween! They get to dress up and get free candy! What a perfect holiday! Give your kids some precious Halloween memories that they'll have for life.



Some kids already know things that they can do to be safe, like how to cross the street, not to talk to or go with strangers and things like that. But we adults know how exciting Halloween can be and that can make us forget to be careful.

Here's some tips that I have just for kids, to help keep them safe on Halloween night! Some of these ideas are called "common sense" ideas, that means that they are things that you should know and use every day in life. Kids are never too young to learn!

Never, ever go into a stranger's house or even ring their door for treats unless your parents are with you and say that it's okay. Always make sure that your mom or dad is within sight when you go out trick-or-treating.

Be careful when you cross a street. Make sure to look in both directions and make sure that there are no cars coming. If you have a little brother or sister with you, take their hand and help them get across the street, too. If the street has a stop light, wait until the cross walk light tells you that it's okay to cross, but still look both ways.

If your parents give you a curfew, be home when they say. It builds trust between you and them and they are doing it for your own safety. If you are going to be late, call them and let them know.

Halloween Safety Tips for Adults

Parents of trick-or-treating kids can get so caught up in the fun themselves that they might forget some simple safety ideas that could keep everyone out of trouble. Having a fun and safe Halloween will make it all worth while!

If you take your kids to a sponsored event, like a safe Halloween thrown by your church or community center, make sure to keep an eye on them at all times. Even though it seems less dangerous, you are still in a strange environment full of people that you don't know. All it takes is a minute with your back turned to find your child gone.

Below are more common sense tips that can help adults keep their kids safe.

As bad as it sounds, this is just a fact of life now. Get on the internet and check your local state website for sex offenders. Almost every state has one. Just do a search for your state sex offender site. Look up your zip code and it should have a list of registered offenders in your area that includes street addresses. Make sure that your kids stay away from these houses!

Know the route your kids will be taking if you aren't going with them. Let them know that they are to check in with you every hour, by phone or by stopping back at home. Make sure that they know not to deviate from the planned route so that you always know where they will be.

Trick or treating isn't what it used to be. In most cities it's not safe to let kids walk the streets by themselves. Your best bet is to make sure that an adult is going with them. If you can't take them yourself, see if another parent or two can.

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.

Serve your kids a filling meal before trick or treating and they won't be as tempted to eat any candy before they bring it home for you to check. Check your local grocery store or craft store for Halloween cook books full of tasty treats on a horror theme for both kids and adults.

Make sure that if your child is carrying a prop, such as a scythe, butcher knife or a pitchfork, that the tips are smooth and flexible enough to not cause injury if fallen on. Make sure that costumes won't get in the way when they are walking, which could cause them to trip.

Make Halloween a fun, safe and happy time for your kids and they'll carry on the tradition that you taught them to their own families some day!

Halloween Safety Tips for Trick or Treating

Kids look forward to Halloween for many reasons. They like the dressing up in costumes but the mostly they like it for the candy and treats! Who wouldn't? Even some adults still like to go out trick or treating. It makes them feel young and happy again. While this section sticks mainly to guidelines for kids, they are just as useful for adults.

Make your child's Halloween a memorable holiday and they'll have good memories that last a lifetime! If you are taking your kids out for the night, dress up as well. Mom and dad should get into Halloween as much as the kids do!

Trick or Treating should be one of the great adventures of Halloween for kids! They can get dressed in scary costumes and go door to door, begging

“Tricks or Treats!” from neighbors or at the local mall. Lots of small towns have a Halloween Safe Night at the community center or school so kids can Trick-or-Treat safely but going door to door is the stuff of childhood memories!

Children should always go out trick or treating accompanied by a responsible adult. If you have a group of kids going, the parents should choose two or three of them to go along and keep an eye on things.

Some towns set a curfew for trick or treating which makes it easier for townfolk to know who’s coming to their door. Make sure and stick to the curfew times and stick to subdivisions and areas with a lot of homes so your kids can get in as much trick or treating as possible in a few hours time.

Plan a safe route so parents know where their older kids will be at all times. Set a time for their return home. Make sure that your child is old enough and responsible enough to go out by themselves. Make sure that they have a cell phone.

Let your children know not to cut through back alleys and fields if they are out alone. Make sure they know to stay in populated areas and not to go off the beaten track. Let them know to stay in well lighted areas with lots of people around. Explain to them why it can be dangerous for kids not to do this. If they are going out alone, they are old enough to know what can happen to them in a bad situation and how to stop it from happening.

Instruct your children not to eat any treats until they bring them home to be examined by you. This way you can check for any problem candy and get the pick of the best stuff!

Make sure your child carries a flashlight, glow stick or has reflective tape on their costume to make them more visible to cars.

It should be a fun time, without trouble and pain, so following some easy tips can keep your child safe every Halloween. More Information can be located at <http://www.halloween-safety.com/>

Praise in the Park a Big Success!

Kim Rich, Senior Marketing GM, Chick-fil-A

Live music, fun games, school supplies, special treats and of course FREE Chick-fil-A, drew the crowds. Who could have imagined a day that brought a 90% chance of rain could have been filled with so much love and light! The swift action of the North Springs Park team made our event an easy transition to indoors.



We thank you so very much for partnering with SBSP events and Chick-fil-A to honor one another and praise our Almighty God in unity. We were able to work with over 10 area churches and give out a ton of school supplies. It was truly a night to remember! We definitely got our praise on! Thanks guys! I value and appreciate our continued partnership and am incredibly thankful for the amazing staff that gives their all.



From helping put up the stage, to hanging signs, unloading supplies, and being incredibly generous with their time and talents...Everyone **WENT ABOVE AND BEYOND!** Praise in the Park was a huge success thanks to the many volunteers, local churches and RCRC staff. There was an undeniable sense of community spirit of unity and, of course, praise!



WOTSIT PHRASES

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m ce m ce m ce 17	STORE 18	7:45am share 19	BLANOINKERKET 20	
ygolohcysp 21	pray pray 22	COST COST COST COST 23	_____ Reed _____ 24	

WOTSITS PHRASES' ANSWERS

1) trip overseas 2) fourth quarter comeback 3) open house 4) back issues 5) ohio 6) top notch 7) woman's tuition 8) much ado about nothing 9) bottom of the barrel 10) tax brackets 11) all work and no play 12) friends in low places 13) happy days 14) open wide 15) yellow polka-dot bikini 16) out in left field 17) three blind mice 18) corner store 19) time share 20) pig in a blanket 21) reverse psychology 22) high praises 23) cost increase 24) read between the lines

Back to School Bash

Megan Morris, Assistant Park Manager, Killian Park



members of Changing Lives Christian Church. They also enjoyed being able to go aboard The Columbia Fire Department's fire truck and to see the Richland County Sheriff's Office very own K-9 dog. Free hot dogs, popcorn, and beverages were served to the public. In addition to all of those things, the Benedict College Women's Basketball team participated in the event. Children were introduced to physical activities such as running, walking, and other fun exercises led by college athletes.



Killian Park hosted its second annual *Back to School Bash* on Saturday, August 31, 2013 from 11:00 am-1:00 pm. Volunteers and corporate sponsors helped make the event a success. More than 100 parents and children were treated to a program where the park gave away free backpacks filled with school supplies and other treats.

Dozens of prizes were given away including toys and gift cards. Children also enjoyed bounce houses, face painting, a live DJ, and a praise dance performed by



The program was also benefitted by a partnership with Zumba instructor Carmen Thomas, who waived her regular class fee one day in lieu of participants donating school supplies to the park to help with the event. The Killian Park staff improved on last year's *Back to School Bash* in numerous ways by including more partnerships, better promotion, and increased creativity in the programming, design and implementation of the event.

October



- 1-31 Insurance Open Enrollment Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- 4 Pay Day
- 4 Ladies Kicking Out Cancer Kickball Game, 6:30 pm, Hopkins Park
- 12 Breast Cancer Awareness Walk, 9:00 am-12:00 pm, Caughman Road Park
- 18 Pay Day
- 19 2nd Annual Hoop for Life Basketball Game, 2:00 pm, Bluff Road Park
- 21 Commission Board Meeting, 6:00 pm, AAC
- 26 Free Vegetable Gardening Workshop, 10:00 am-12:00 pm, Garners Ferry AAC
- 26 Terror in the Park, 7:00-12:00 pm, North Springs Park
- 30 Fright Night, 6:30-8:00 pm, Trenholm Park
- 31 Fall Fun Fest, 6:00-8:00 pm, Polo Road Park

November

- 1 Zumbathon for Pancreatic Cancer, 6:00-7:00 pm, Polo Road Park
- 1 Pay Day
- 8 Fall Ball, 8:00 pm-12:00 am, AAC
- 9 Free Container Gardening Workshop, 10:00 am-12:00 pm, Denny Terrace Community Center Veterans Day (RCRC closed)
- 11 Pay Day
- 18 Commission Board Meeting, 6:00 pm, AAC
- 28 Thanksgiving Day (RCRC closed)
- 29 Day After Thanksgiving (RCRC closed)
- 29 Pay Day

Special Thanks to our Team Times Contributing Authors:

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