

SOUTHERN PINES TURNS HEAT INTO HAPPY WITH “OPERATION: COMMUNITY COOL OFF”

JULY 25, 2025, SOUTHERN PINES, NC: As Southern Pines braces for a week of dangerous heat advisories, the Town is launching “Operation: Community Cool Off.” From July 28 through August 1, this community-first initiative offers a full week of free activities for all ages—from splash parties and library fun to senior programs—all designed to make summer heat more tolerable and create memories of good-time summer fun.

“The Hydrant Splash Party we hosted in June was such a huge hit that we knew we had to bring it back,” said Fire Chief and Assistant Town Manager Mike Cameron, who first imagined the idea. “This week we’re going bigger—adding fun activities hosted by our Parks & Grounds and Parks & Recreation departments, indoor events at the Library, and more opportunities for neighbors to enjoy themselves.”

Some “Operation: Community Cool Off” highlights include:

- **Great SoPines Splashdown** – Two rounds of water fun: Monday’s Hydrant Splash Party at Downtown Park and Tuesday’s Pop-Up Splash Party at Armory Field at the Southern Pines Sports Park, 604 W. Morganton Rd.
- **Free Pool Entry & Extended Splash Pad Hours** – Admission fees will be waived at the Town’s swimming pool from July 26–August 2; the pool is open 12:30–6:30pm, closed on Sundays. The Splash Pad will be open an extra three hours each day from 10 am to 8 pm. Both aquatics facilities are in J. Pleasant Hines Park at 735 S. Stephens St.
- **Bark in the Park** – On Wednesday, Parks & Recreation is treating our four-legged friends to games and splashy surprises at Martin Dog Park, 350 Commerce Ave.
- **Indoor Play Zone & Library Fun** – The Rec Center gym will host free indoor play on Wednesday morning, while the Southern Pines Public Library will offer daily puzzles, games, early literacy activities, storytimes, and a special Summerween celebration on Friday with costumes, family-friendly films, and not-so-spooky fun.
- **Activities for Adults 55+** – The E.S. Douglass Community Center will host free indoor programs such as chair yoga, tai chi, line dancing, strength and balance workouts, games, and puzzle time.
- **Kayak & Paddleboard Rentals** – Reservoir Park is open daily from sunrise to sunset and now it’s easier than ever to get on the water. Rent a kayak or paddleboard from the self-serve kiosk—reserve on-site or ahead of time at sopinesnc.info/wakerack.

“We can’t control the weather, but we can help turn heat into happy moments,” said Assistant Town Manager Jessica Roth. “Our teams—from Parks & Recreation and Grounds to the Library and Fire Department—had such an enthusiastic response when we gave them the green light to plan this. It’s about making the week safer, happier, and full long-lasting summer memories.”

Residents can view daily schedules on the Town’s website at southernpines.net or follow the Town on social media for updates and highlights throughout the week.

Jessica Roth, Assistant Town Manager



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southernpines.net



OPERATION: COMMUNITY COOL-OFF!

Turning **HEAT** into **HAPPY!**

MONDAY, JULY 28



10:00

Great SoPines Splashdown, Round I

*We had such a blast with
our first Hydrant Splash
Party, Chief Cameron
brought back the fun!*

*Meet us at Downtown Park
at 10am!*



10-7

Puzzle, Play, and Work Away

*The Library will be open until
7pm with games, puzzles,
free water, and plenty of
air-conditioned space if you
need a comfortable place to
work or relax.*

10-8

Splash Pad Extended Hours

*The splash pad will be open 3
more hours every day during
Operation: Community Cool-
Off! Come out to J. Pleasant
Hines Park at 730 S. Henley St.
from 10am until 8pm.*

12:30-6:30

Free Pool Entry!

*The Joe R. Wynn pool is open
every day, except Sunday,
from 12:30-6:30pm. Admission
is FREE during Operation:
Community Cool-Off!
735 S. Stephens St.*



Operation: Community Cool Off is our way of turning a scorching week into a splash of fun, all planned by your Town of Southern Pines team!

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TUESDAY, JULY 29



10:00

Great SoPines
Splashdown, Round 2
*Can our Parks & Grounds team
out-fun our firefighters?
Join their Pop-Up Splash Party
- sprinklers, slip & slides,
inflatables, hula hoops!*
Armory Field,
604 W. Morganton Rd.



10:15

Baby Rhymes @ SPPL
Indoor storytime for our
youngest learners (birth to
24 months) & their
caregivers. Active library
card required. A second
session begins at 10:45.

10-8

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 30



9:30-11:30

Indoor Play Zone @
the Rec Center Gym
2 hours of indoor free play
with a fun setup from Parks
& Rec. No charge, just smiles!
Kids must bring an adult 18+.

160 Memorial Park Ct.

10-12

Learn & Play @ SPPL
Toddlers & preschoolers!
Bring your adult & drop by
the library for a 2-hour
indoor play date with
developmental toys, puzzles,
and early literacy tips.

10:00

Bark in the Park
Grab your furry friend &
head to Martin Dog Park!
Parks & Rec has games,
crafts, and cool-down
surprises for a tail-wagging
good time.

350 Commerce Ave.

3:30

**ATLAS - Summer
Edition!**

The library has more indoor fun
for your Wednesday with an
afternoon of stories, crafts,
and imagination. It's perfect
for kids in K-2nd grade,
ages 5-8.



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THURSDAY, JULY 31



10:15

Indoor Music & Motion @ SPPL

Join our librarians with your 2-4 year-old to move & groove as we work on gross and fine motor skills & get those wiggles out! A second session begins at 10:45.

3:30

Little U: ages 3-5

Join our librarians for an indoor playful adventure of stories, songs, and rhymes that spark curiosity and a love of reading!



10-8

Splash Pad Extended Hours

The splash pad will be open 3 more hours every day during Operation: Community Cool-Off! Come out to J. Pleasant Hines Park at 730 S. Henley St. from 10am until 8pm.

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FRI-YAY, AUGUST 1



10-5

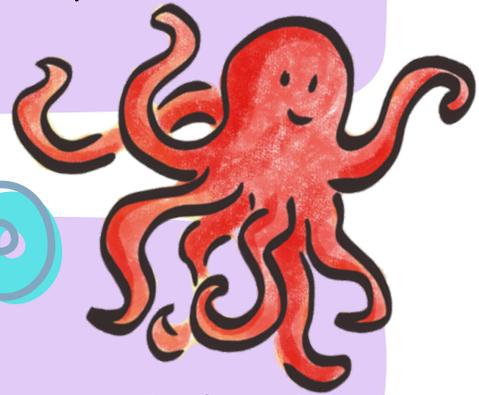
Summerween @ SPPL!

Watch family-friendly shows and movies, show off your costume, and enjoy a not-so-spooky day with our librarians. Maybe it'll inspire some fall-like temperatures!

12-2

Sunset Slush of the Pines

Stop by the Pool and buy a yummy Italian Ice from crowd-favorite Sunset Slush! They'll be set up from 12-2pm.



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ACTIVITIES FOR ADULTS 55+



The following indoor activities are planned for adults, 55+. There is no charge to attend and they will be at the E. S. Douglass Community Center, 1185 W. Pennsylvania Ave.

MONDAY, JULY 28

- Chair Yoga: 9-10am
- Jigsaw Puzzle Fun: 9am-3pm
- Strength & Balance Workout: 11-11:45am
- Restorative Yoga: 12-1pm
- Game On: 1-2pm
- Tai Chi: 1-2pm

TUESDAY, JULY 29

- Jigsaw Puzzle Fun: 9am-3pm
- Game Day: 12-4pm

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30

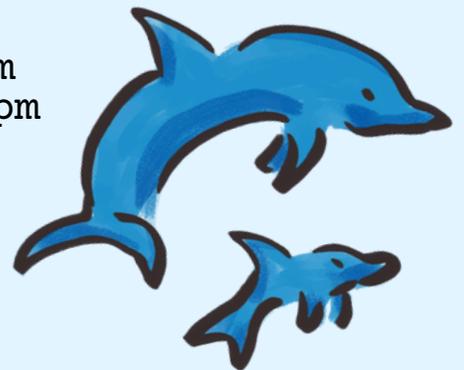
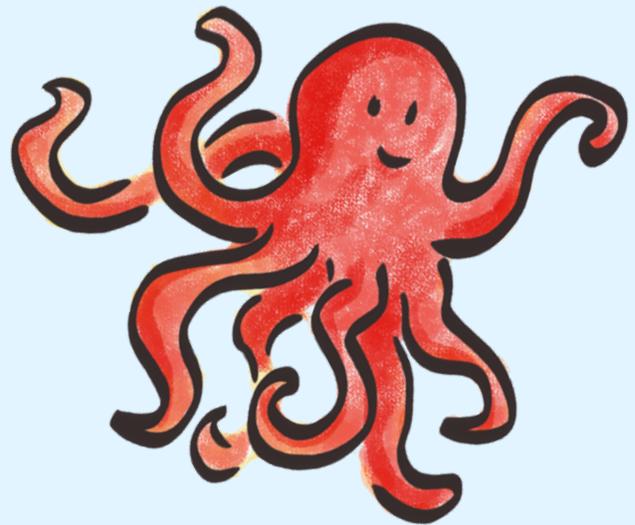
- Jigsaw Puzzle Fun: 9am-3pm
- Chair Yoga: 10-11am
- Line Dancing: 12-1pm
- Chair Volleyball: 1-2pm
- Tai Chi: 2-3pm

THURSDAY, JULY 31

- Jigsaw Puzzle Fun: 9am-3pm
- Balance & Flexibility: 10-11am
- Stretch, Strength, & Balance: 11am-12pm
- Medical Minutes with Craig Alford: 1-2pm
- Mahjong: 1-3pm

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

- Aerobic Dance: 9-10am
- Jigsaw Puzzle Fun: 9am-3pm
- Healing Power of Qigong: 1-2pm



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