Beautiful day in the neighborhood



KEN OSBURN / Staff

Lisa Shelnutt and her daughter Lara, left, enjoy a picnic with Shannon Diamond and her daughter London Saturday afternoon in Cleveland Park.

Residents warm to change in temperature

Rain may be close on heels of spring-like weather

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The first relatively warm Saturday in nearly a month pulled many in the Upstate outside to hear the umpire yell "play ball!" at Fluor Field or to just play in Cleveland Park.

The day's high temperature of 60 degrees was reached at 4:53 p.m. Saturday, said Andrew Kimball, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Greer.

Kimball said the change in weather was a welcome surprise after a long stretch of cold, snow, sleet and rain.

"It's hard to believe it," he said. "It's been so cold for so long."

Kimball said the mercury last climbed into the 60s on Jan. 28, when it reached a "balmy" 65 degrees.

Saturday's high was well short of the record high for the day, 75 degrees, which was set in 1986.

Clemson University grad Brad Batson said it was a no-brainer why he ended up at Greenville's Fluor Field to see the Tigers' baseball team play.

"I saw where it was going to warm up," he said. "It was close. I didn't have to drive, and it was a chance to see them in their second game."

Many of the Tigers fans in the huge crowd wore a sweatshirt or light jacket — mostly orange in color, of course.

Motor vehicle traffic along Greenville's Main Street took on the appearance of a linear parking lot, with cars lined bumper-to-bumper in each direction for much of the afternoon.

Joggers, bicyclists, walkers and families out for an afternoon picnic filled the city's Cleveland Park, which only a week earlier was covered in several inches of snow.

Kimball said today's weather should be a carbon-copy of Saturday's, although it might be a tad breezy. Later in the day, a weather system is expected to move in and bring a chance of rain late Sunday.

Temperatures are expected to drop to the more seasonal mid-50s on Monday.