



COUNTY OF AMHERST



Public Information Officer

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For Immediate Release

February 4, 2021

Amherst County Recreation and Parks Director Retires

After serving as Director of Amherst County Recreation and Parks for over three decades, Sara Lu Christian retired on January 31, 2021. Sara Lu brought energy and passion to her work and created an atmosphere of health and wellness in Amherst County through multiple programs and initiatives.

Her thirty-two plus years of service as a leader in the community brought many accomplishments including:

- Building partnerships with local organizations, businesses, and churches.
- Initiating Socials for Seniors, archery and fishing clinics, and a wide range of classes for the community.
- Encouraging the use of County parks with night fishing permits, swimming at Millcreek Lake Park, and stargazing permits.
- Building a bridge between local sports organizations and the County Recreation and Parks Department.
- Coordinating annual events such as the Eggstravaganza, Candy Hunt, Turkey Trot, and a Gingerbread Decorating contest.
- Adapting to State COVID restrictions on events and coordinating a Spooktacular, Around the County in 60 Days, and Santa Calling Program for 2020.
- Developing and expanding County parks and community centers.

Sara Lu's retirement was marked with a car parade in front of the Monroe Community Center. County staff and community members were invited to celebrate with her by driving by in decorated vehicles. The Amherst County Board of Supervisors recognized her as a dedicated public servant and friend of Amherst County with a commemorative resolution at their February 3, 2021 Board Meeting. The resolution is shared below.



Additional information may be obtained from Joy Niehaus at jlniehaus@countyofamherst.com or (434) 946-9400.

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Amherst County Board of Supervisors
County Commemorative Resolution No. 2021-0001-CR

For consideration on February 2, 2021

A COMMEMORATIVE RESOLUTION, NO. 2021-0001-CR

A commemorative resolution, honoring Sara Lu Christian, Director of the Amherst County Recreation & Parks Department, for her exceptional service to Amherst County.

Approved as to form by the County Administrator

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF AMHERST, VIRGINIA:

I. That the Board of Supervisors of the County of Amherst, Virginia, hereby expresses its profound thanks to Sara Lu Christian for her exceptional service to Amherst County, as follows:

WHEREAS, Sara Lu Christian served as Amherst County's Director of Recreation & Parks from June 1988, through January 2021, bringing to the position her enthusiasm, passion, and team spirit in providing outstanding knowledge and programs to the Amherst County citizenry; and

WHEREAS, as the County's Director of Recreation & Parks for over thirty-two years, Ms. Christian initiated numerous activities and programs to build the County's capacity for delivering recreational services, to include; Night Fishing Permits, Star Gazing Permits, Theme Park Discount Ticket program, Fishing Clinics, Annual Trails Day, May – National Family Month for Amherst County, June – National Recreation & Parks Month for Amherst County, Bi-Annual Things to Do tabloid, Amherst Outdoors, Nature Camps, Socials for Seniors, Pickleball, Aerobics for Seniors, Yoga, Art Classes, Craft Classes, Line Dancing, Square Dancing, Round Dancing, Dog Obedience Training Classes, Summer Playground program, Summer art camps, Annual Easter Eggstravaganza, Annual Fall Festival and Candy Hunt, Annual Spooktacular, Annual Turkey Trot, Gingerbread House Decoration Contest, Santa Claus Calling Program, 60 Days Around the County, Bus Trips, Bluestone Theatre concerts, Annual Outdoor Expo, Coolwell Amphitheater plays and movies, Annual Fishing Clinic, Eagle Scout Projects, LOVE sign project, and Jammin on the James concert; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Christian successfully worked with and contributed to the Madison Heights Youth Baseball, Amherst County Dixie Youth Baseball and Amherst County Girls Dixie Baseball Organizations to build their respective complexes; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Christian worked closely with national, state, and local organizations such as; the Department of Conservation & Recreation, Department of Game & Inland Fisheries, National Recreation & Park Association, Virginia Recreation & Park Association, May – National Family Month, June – National Trails Month, July – National P&R Month, as well as the Recreation & Parks Departments from Lynchburg, Nelson, Bedford, Campbell, and Appomattox counties, and established quarterly meetings with Rural P&R Directors; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Christian has served on the VRPS Leadership Training Institute Board, and the Central Virginia Blueways & Greenways Committee, and also as Clerk, of the Amherst County Park, Recreation and Cultural Development Board; and

WHEREAS, she was pivotal in implementing the Virginia Birding & Wildlife designations for the county; and

WHEREAS, in her thirty-two plus years with Amherst County, Ms. Christian was involved in numerous projects such as; Jamestown 2007 Commemoration, Amherst County's Sesqui-Bicentennial Celebration, Amherst Live, Piney River Triathlon, Amherst County Fair, park development and installation of restrooms at Mill Creek Lake Park, Thrashers Lake Park, public swimming at Mill Creek Lake, tennis courts refurbishments, designing and establishing Amherst County welcome signs and the County Historical Society's Annual Batteau Day; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Christian played an instrumental leadership role in building partnerships with the Amherst County Public Schools, AC Youth Services, AC Sheriff's Office, AC Historical Society, AC Public Library, AC Public Safety, AC Service Authority, AC Community Development, AC Public Works, AC Chamber of Commerce, Amherst County Smart Start, YMCA, 4-H; Extension Agency, James River Adventures, AC Art Society, Girl Scout Troops, Sweet Briar College, Town of Amherst, McDonalds, Lynchburg College (Beard Center), Central Virginia Community College, Central Virginia Training Center, Central Virginia Planning District Commission, Virginia Blue Ridge Trail Foundation, Appalachian Trail Association, AC Youth Theater, VDOT, Girls on the Run, Special Olympics, Central Virginia Creative Arts, Virginia Select Auto, Madison Heights Ruritan Club, Monroe 1st Baptist Church, Ascension Episcopal Church, Northminster Presbyterian Church, Scott Zion Church, Old Dominion Job Corp, Amherst County Habitat for Humanity, Amherst County Humane Society, WAMV Radio Station, Virginia Tourism Commission, Robert E. Lee Conservation District, James River Association, Second Stage, AGAR, Mountain Biking Club, and Rock Climbing Club assuring that our community was brought together by enriching activities for all citizens, in turn creating an atmosphere of health and wellness for Amherst County; and

WHEREAS, she has proven to be a highly successful community leader during her tenure, allowing the County to expand its parks projects, as well as setting up and managing the County's Outdoor Festival policy and permits.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF AMHERST, VIRGINIA:


That the Board of Supervisors of the County of Amherst, Virginia, hereby recognizes Sara Lu Christian as a dedicated public servant, resident, and a true friend of Amherst County, and gratefully commends her for the exceptional service and heartfelt commitment she has demonstrated to Amherst County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Board wishes Ms. Christian all the best in the next chapter of her professional career, confident that she will continue to be a force for good in the world, the betterment of Amherst County, and thanks her in advance for all her good works yet to come.


II. That this resolution shall be in force and effect upon adoption.

Adopted this 2nd day of February, 2021.



Jennifer R. Moore, Chair
Amherst County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:



Dean C. Rodgers, Clerk
Amherst County Board of Supervisors