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City Announces Director of Parks and Recreation

Harrisonburg, Va. – The city of Harrisonburg announces the appointment of its director of Parks and Recreation.

Luciana “Luanne” Santangelo was selected from a candidate pool of 67 applicants. She has served as the director of Parks and Recreation for the city of Palm Coast, Florida since 2010 and has nearly 24 years worth of experience in recreation administration. She will replace retiring Director Lee Foerster, who ends his tenure with the city on June 30.

“We are excited to bring Luanne onboard to join our team of outstanding recreational professionals,” said Kurt Hodgen, city manager. “Her work in growing and diverse communities with various recreational needs has given her the talents, abilities, and insight that will be an asset to Harrisonburg.”

Ms. Santangelo began her career in this field in 1992 with Monroeville, Pennsylvania as a recreation program director and has served as the director of Parks and Recreation in Palm Coast Florida; Hallandale Beach, Florida; and the Penn Trafford Area Recreation Commission in Pennsylvania. She also served as the assistant director of Parks and Recreation in Coral Gables, Florida.

She received her undergraduate degree in public administration from the University of Pittsburgh and completed Clemson University’s Executive Development Program for Recreation. She is also a member of the National Recreation and Park Association and the Florida Recreation and Park Association.

Ms. Santangelo will begin her duties with Harrisonburg on July 25 and will be the fifth director of Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation.

The Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Department manages 12 parks, Dream Come True Playground and numerous other playgrounds, a skate park, bike trails, soccer complex, softball and baseball fields, a dog park, and two pools. The largest park in the City of Harrisonburg is Hillandale Park that encompasses 74 acres. More information about the parks can be found online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/parks-recreation.



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