



COUNTY OF AMHERST

Public Information Officer

AMHERST COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
153 WASHINGTON STREET
P. O. Box 390
AMHERST, VIRGINIA 24521

TELEPHONE (434) 946-9400
FACSIMILE (434) 946-9370

For Immediate Release

February 16, 2018

Recreation and Parks Department 2018 Spring/ Summer Schedule

The Amherst County Recreation and Parks department has released its 2018 spring and summer schedule. This schedule has a wide variety of activities for all ages. Some programs are once a week for several months and others are just one time events. The different program genres include: health and fitness, dancing, arts and crats, storytelling, sports, and senior adult programming.

There will be several events happening in Amherst County this spring and summer. Some of these events include: The Honey Bee Festival, Annual Eggstravaganza, Amherst County Batteau Day, 26th Annual Monacan Powwow, and the 10th Annual Virginia Summer Solstice Wine Festival. The County also has several very nice parks and community centers that are great to visit; Riveredge Park, Monacan Park, Coolwell Park and Mill Creek Lake Park are just a few examples.

This schedule also includes other activities that you can participate in and places you can visit such as horseback riding, camping, wineries, museums, orchards and golf courses. Unless otherwise noted, pre-registration is necessary for most programs and will be done on a first come first serve basis. Registration for classes may be done by telephone, e-mail, or by visiting the Recreation office. Registration for sports leagues must be done in person.

If you would like to see the full 2018 spring/summer schedule of events, it is attached below. Additional information may be obtained from Layney Sandifer at lesandifer@countyofamherst.com or (434)-946-9400.

AMHERST COUNTY RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT 2018 SPRING/SUMMER SCHEDULE

HEALTH & FITNESS

If you would like information sent to you as it becomes available, send an e-mail to recreationdept@countyofamherst.com with your particular interest (sports, fitness, special events).

If you have an event, program or activity open to the public that you would like to get posted on the county web site, send it to slchristian@countyofamherst.com.

AEROBICS/Amherst (6 week session)

Low Impact. Supplies needed: Mat or towel

Days: Tuesdays & Thursdays

Sessions begin: February 27th

Time: 6-7:15 PM

Location: Amherst Elementary School

Fee: \$25/person/session

Instructor: Darlene Terry

Register: On Site or 434-946-9371

FIT & FUN FOR BOOMERS & BEYOND (6 week sessions)

This class is designed for senior adults who want to improve their muscle tone, flexibility and blood circulation. Come join the fun for an hour of light activities designed to keep the body active.

Supplies needed: mat or towel

Days: Mondays & Thursdays

Sessions begin: On-going, beginning March 19

Time: 10-11 AM

Location: Coolwell Community Center

Fee: \$25/person/session

Instructor: Paulette Porter- Stransky

Register: 434-946-9371

ZUMBA (6 week sessions)

Days: Tuesdays & Thursdays

Sessions begin: February 6th & March 20th

Time: 6-7 pm

Location: Monroe Community Center

Fee: \$30/person/session

Instructor: Paulette Porter- Stransky

Register: On Site or call 434-946-9371

YOGA – HATHA I (6 week sessions)

Learn to relax the body and calm the mind while stretching, toning and learning correct breathing. Experience the peace and health that yoga brings.

Supplies needed: a mat or towel and a small pillow. [Limited registration!]

Days: Mondays

Sessions begin: March 12th, April 30th, June 25th

Time: 6:15-7:30 PM

Location: Central Elementary School

Fee: \$45/student \$40/senior (65 and over)

Instructor: Devi Peterson

Register by calling the Recreation Department at 434-946-9371

KINDERMOTION®

For ages 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12, is a fitness and sports readiness program focusing on motor skills, nutrition, and creative thinking. Classes include non-spiritual Kids Yoga that promotes the development of a strong and flexible body, increases balance, mind-body awareness and coordination, improves posture and alignment, reduces stress and anxiety, increases concentration, focus, and attention span.

Contact Laura Gallagher for more information at 434-609-2890 or laura@kinderdancecv.com.

KINDERGYM

For ages 3-5, is designed to provide boys and girls with fun activities including floor gymnastics, tumbling, acrobatics, gross motor development, and movement education. Mats, low safe beams, and obstacle courses are utilized throughout the curriculum.

Contact Laura Gallagher for more information at 434-609-2890 or laura@kinderdancecv.com.

DANCING

ZUMBA (6 week sessions)

Days: Tuesdays & Thursdays
 Sessions begin: February 6th & March 20th
 Time: 6-7 pm
 Location: Monroe Community Center
 Fee: \$30/person/session
 Instructor: Paulette Porter- Stransky
 Register: On Site or call 434-946-9371

LINE DANCING

Days: Mondays,
 Time: 6:30-8:30 PM
 Location: Coolwell Community Center
 Fee: \$35/person
 Instructor: Traci Deluca
 For information and to register call Traci @ 434-258-3241 or email
 todeluca@hotmail.com

ROUND DANCING (Ballroom) (8 week sessions)

Days: Tuesdays
 Sessions Begins: February 13th
 Time:
 Beginners/New Round Dancers: 6:15 - 7:15pm
 Phase II & III Dancers 7:30 - 8:30pm
 Phase IV & V Dancers 8:30 - 9:30pm
 Location: Coolwell Community Center
 Fee: \$144/couple,
 (72/person) (\$40 per youth ages 10-16 when accompanied by adult.
 Instructor: Eileen Rudert
 For more information call Liz Alcock at 434-665-4025

SQUARE DANCING WORKSHOP

Sponsored by the Blue Ridge Square Dance Club.
 For information and to register call Liz Alcock @ 434-665-4025
 Dates: Thursdays (ongoing)
 Time: 7-9PM
 Location: Coolwell Community Center

ARTS & CRAFTS & STORY TELLING

If you have an event, program or activity open to the public that you would like to get posted on the county web site, send it to slchristian@countyofamherst.com.

OIL PAINTING

These classes are taught in the Bob Ross technique of oil painting. All supplies are included in the fee. The painting for each class will be on our website and/or display for viewing at the Recreation Department office for the month before its upcoming scheduled session

Dates: Tuesdays: April 10th, May 8th, June 12th, July 10th,
Time: 11am – 4pm

Or

Dates: Sundays: April 15th, May 20th, June 17th, July 15th
Time: 1:30 – 6:30PM

Registration is required prior to the Wednesday before the class.

Fee: \$50/person/session (all supplies included)

Location: The Monroe Community Center

Instructor: Judy Moore-Gist

Bring: Light snacks and drink.

ART TUESDAYS AT MONROE (on going)

The Amherst Art Society is now located in the Monroe Community Center and is offering art classes there every Tuesday from 10AM-Noon.

The first class is free with the option to join the AAS at \$25/year.

For further information, call Patti Highley at 434-806-9116 or e-mail amherstartsociety@gmail.com

Libraries Rock Summer Reading Program 2018

“Let’s Rock” this summer at the Amherst County Public Library for the 2018 Summer Reading Program! Join us for fun, exciting activities at both of our library locations! The fun begins June 4th, 2018 and ends on July 28th, 2018. Watch for more information or call 434-946-5702 or check the web at www.acpl.us.

Library Weekly Story Time Hours

Join us for singing, dancing, and a story! We are currently having story time for those between birth and 5 years old at both of our library locations! Join us on Tuesdays at the Amherst Library or Thursdays at the Madison Heights Library from 10:30am to 11:30am. Call 434-946-5702 or 434-846-8171 for more information.

SPORTS

If you would like information sent to you as it becomes available, send an e-mail to recreationdept@countyofamherst.com with your particular interest (sports, fitness, special events).

If you have an event, program or activity open to the public that you would like to get posted on the county web site, send it to slchristian@countyofamherst.com.

ANNUAL PINEY RIVER MINI-TRIATHLON

On the Virginia Blue Ridge Railway Trail

Date: Saturday, April 7th

Time: Check in 9-10:30am Race Start 11:30

Fee: \$20/participant \$35/team of 2 \$45/team of 3-4; \$45/family

Location: Start-Roses Mill Trailhead/Finish Piney River Trailhead

Short Race...Long on Fun Race solo or as a team of 2-4 people

Run 1.5 m, paddle .75 m & bike 2.5m

Awards for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place finishers in each class

Classes: Solo—Youth, Male, & Female Team—All Male, All Female, Coed

For information call the Nelson County Parks & Recreation Department at 434-263-7130

or log on to: www.NelsonCountyVA.org

Pre-registration is recommended but not required

Learn to Swim Program at Sweet Briar College 2018

Instruction is available for swimmers and non-swimmers of all levels, ages 9 months to adult. The SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE SWIM TEAM, under the supervision of the head swim coach, will be conducting the following swim classes in small group settings:

Group Lesson Fee: \$80.00 Private / Semi-Private: \$100.00

BABY AND ME: The course is designed for babies and their parents, or favorite adult, who want to learn water adjustment and other aquatic skills in a fun environment. Classes will explore submerging to the mouth, nose and eyes, buoyancy, and standard aquatic safety information. Babies must wear a tight fitting swim diaper and plastic pants under bathing suit. April 9 -19th 4:45 – 5:20 PM

LEARN TO SWIM: (Ages 4 – 10) The course is designed to evaluate and progress each child in skill and age appropriate groups to better swimming comfort and efficiency. Groups will progress through basic swim skills such as submersion, buoyancy, propulsion and basic water safety.

April 9-19th choice of 4:45 – 5:20 PM or 5:30 – 6:10 PM

PRE-COMPETITION / COMPETITIVE SWIMMING: (M.S. / H.S. students) The course is designed to prepare students for competition in summer swim leagues and/or high school programs. Students will be introduced to the fundamentals of the four competitive strokes and turns. April 9-19th 5:30 – 6:10 PM

Registration is limited: contact Coach Donna Hodgert @ Dhodgert@sbc.edu or 434-942-

CPR/AED/FIRST AID COURSE

Participants must be at least 16 years old.

Location: Sweet Briar College

Fee: \$60/person

NOTE: A pocket mask is required for class participation; \$15 extra at class

Dates: Sunday 3/11 from 8:00am to 5:00pm

Sunday 4/29 from 8:00am to 5:00pm

Sunday 5/20 from 8:00am to 5:00pm

Sunday 6/10 from 8:00am to 5:00pm

To register, email dserrano@sbcc.edu or call 434-381-6358. It is first-come, first-serve

LIFEGUARDING COURSE

Participants must be at least 16 years old

Location: Sweet Briar College

Fee: \$250/person (Certification and Pocket Mask Included)

Dates: Monday 4/16 to Friday 4/20 5:00pm to 9:00pm

Monday 4/23 to Friday 4/27 5:00pm to 9:00pm

Friday 4/27 to Sunday 4/29 6:00pm-9:00pm; 8:00am-5:00pm Sat
and Sun

Sunday 5/13 to Wednesday 5/16 8:00am to 6:00pm Sun, 5:00pm to
9:00pm Mon-Wed

Sunday 6/3 to Wednesday 6/6 8:00am to 6:00pm Sun, 5:00pm to
9:00pm Mon-Wed

To register, email dserrano@sbcc.edu or call 434-381-6358. It is first-come, first-serve

**YOUTH SPORTS **

If you would like information sent to you as it becomes available, send an e-mail to recreationdept@countyofamherst.com with your particular interest (sports, fitness, special events).

If you have an event, program or activity open to the public that you would like to get posted on the county web site, send it to slchristian@countyofamherst.com.

2018 SPRING SOCCER FOR YOUTH

For Ages: Children born during the years 2000 – 2013
 Fee: February \$50
 March \$60 (pending team availability)
 Register at : Recreation Office on Mon. thru Fri. between 9:00AM & 4:30PM
 Season Dates: The season begins on March 24th
 To register on-line, go to www.countyofamherst.com

2018 AMHERST DIXIE YOUTH BASEBALL

Opening Day is scheduled for April 21st

To find out more about this league you can go to www.amherstdixieyouthbaseball.org

2018 AMHERST COUNTY DIXIE GIRLS SOFTBALL

For girls ages 4-18 years.

Sign Up Info:

Saturday, February 24 10am-2pm

Tuesday, February 27th 6-8pm

Thursday, March 1 6-8pm

Saturday, March 3 10am-2pm

Location: Board Room @ 343 Lakeview Dr.

Opening Day is Saturday, April 14th

To find out more about this league you can go to www.amherstdixiesoftball.com

2018 MADISON HEIGHTS YOUTH BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

Opening Day is Saturday, April 21st

To find out more about this league you can go to www.MHYBA.com

For more information, call the complex at 434-845-5367 or visit www.mhyba.com

2018 FALL YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

Ages: 4 - 14 year olds
Fee: TBA
Registration begins: May 1st
Register at: Recreation Office
Days: Mon – Fri
Time: 9AM – 4:30PM
Proof of age required for new players
Season Dates: August – October
To register on-line, go to www.countyofamherst.com

****SENIOR ADULT PROGRAMMING****

If you would like information sent to you as it becomes available, send an e-mail to recreationdept@countyofamherst.com with your particular interest (sports, fitness, , special events).

If you have an event, program or activity open to the public that you would like to get posted on the county web site, send it to slchristian@countyofamherst.com.

From senior centers, wellness activities, and special programs, there is sure to be something of interest for the seasoned citizens of our community!

SEASONED CITIZENS' CENTERS

Currently, there are two center sites in Amherst County. The schedule of activities varies greatly, including table and card games, covered dish lunches, arts and crafts, local shopping and sight-seeing trips, nutrition specialists, health screenings, and an assortment of other special events. Call the Recreation Department for a monthly calendar. Get involved! Bring your friends and make new ones!

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Location: US 29, Madison Heights
 Dates: Mondays and Wednesdays
 Time: 10AM-2PM

SECOND STAGE

Location: Second St, Amherst
 Dates: Tuesdays and Thursdays
 Time: 10AM-2PM

****WANTED!****

Do you garden, carve, quilt, stitch, build or construct, paint, sculpt, play music, collect, travel or have a special interest or talent? If you would be willing to share these talents with senior adults at the county's senior centers, please call the Recreation Department @ 434-946-9371.

Also, if there is a program you would like to see offered or if you or someone you know has experience instructing classes, or creating new and exciting programs, contact the Recreation Department @ 434-946-9371.

AEROBICS (6 week session)

Low Impact. Bring to class a mat or towel
 Days: Tuesdays & Thursdays
 Sessions begin: February 27th
 Time: 6:00-7:15 PM
 Location: Amherst Elementary School
 Fee: \$25/person/session
 Instructor: Darlene Terry
 Register: On Site or 434-946-9371

FIT & FUN FOR BOOMERS & BEYOND (6 week sessions)

This class is designed for senior adults who want to improve their muscle tone, flexibility and blood circulation. Come join the fun for an hour of light activities designed to keep the body active. Bring to class a mat or towel

Days: Mondays & Thursdays
 Sessions begin: On-going Beginning March 19
 Time: 10-11 AM
 Location: Coolwell Community Center
 Fee: \$25/person/session
 Instructor: Paulette Porter- Stransky
 Register: 434-946-9371

YOGA – HATHA I (6 week sessions)

Learn to relax the body and calm the mind while stretching, toning and learning correct breathing. Experience the peace and health that yoga brings.

Bring to class a mat or towel and a small pillow. [Limited registration!]

Days: Mondays
 Sessions begin: March 12th, April 30th, June 25th
 Time: 6:15-7:30 PM
 Location: Central Elementary School
 Fee: \$45/student \$40/senior (65 and over)
 Instructor: Devi Peterson
 Register by calling the Recreation Department at 434-946-9371

PICKLEBALL

What is "Pickleball"? Pickleball is a fun, easy-to-learn racket sport. It's less running and less risk of injury for the players. It's easier on the joints, so pickleball attracts many ex-tennis or racquetball players that used to play tennis or badminton as a kid.

Location: Sweet Briar College
 Days: Mondays & Thursdays (ongoing)
 Time: 6 – 8PM
 Fee: \$2/person/night

Contact Amherst County Recreation & Parks Dept at 434-946-9371

BINGO AT MONROE

Come join the fun and get caught up in the exhilaration of waiting to be the first to call that little 5 letter word.... BINGO!

Dates: Fridays
 Time: 10AM-12 Noon
 Location: Monroe Community Center
 Fee: FREE

For additional information call the Recreation Department at 434-946-9371

BLAZIN' BINGO

Sponsored in part by St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church -
 Refreshments for everyone and prizes for the winners!

Date: Wednesdays (ongoing)
 Time: 9:30-11AM
 Location: St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
 322 South Main Street; Amherst, VA
 Fee: FREE

For additional information call the Recreation Department at 434-946-9371

SOCIALS FOR SENIORS!

An extraordinarily popular event is back again this year! Senior citizens are invited to attend these FREE monthly socials where socializing, food and entertainment are in store!

Dates: Mondays, April 9th, May 14th, June 11th, July 9th, August 13th,
 September 10th
 Location: Madison Heights Community Center
 Time: 11:30-1:30PM
 Fee: FREE

Registration is required – deadline - 1 week in advance – call 434-946-9371.

AARP SMART DRIVERS Course (2 days)

This program is designed especially for motorists age 50 and older. It is an eight hour refresher course to help aging drivers understand normal changes in vision, hearing and reaction time, and it provides practical techniques to compensate for these changes. The course includes the problems of aggressive driving, car crime, driving distractions, a video and much more. Successful completion of course qualifies students for a discount on car insurance.

Date: Tuesday, April 25th & Wednesday, April 26th (both days)
 Time: 9AM- 1PM
 Location: Monroe Community Center
 Fee: \$15/person/member
 \$20/person/non-member
 Registration: 434-946-9371

SPECIAL EVENTS

If you would like information sent to you as it becomes available, send an e-mail to recreationdept@countyofamherst.com with your particular interest (sports, fitness, special events).

If you have an event, program or activity open to the public that you would like to get posted on the county web site, send it to slchristian@countyofamherst.com.

PHOTO CONTEST!

The County is seeking photos of scenic spots in the county for tourism marketing purposes. Grab your camera and go explore our beautiful county while taking some pictures that may appear in future magazines, tabloids, and brochures, county web site, etc! Photographers submitting a photo used for marketing purposes will receive a county ornament. Call the Recreation & Parks Department for further details.

ANNUAL EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Bring the family and come join in this traditional fun-filled event. This year's Eggstravaganza has several surprises in store!

The hunt will begin promptly at 1PM.

Weather permitting, this is also a good chance for a family picnic or to do a little fishing....

Don't forget to bring a bag or basket for collecting the eggs!

This event is free! [Candy Hunt is limited to youth in 5th grade and under]

Date: Saturday, March 24th

Time: 12:45-1:45PM

Location: Thrasher's Lake Park

For further information, call the Recreation Department @ 434-946-9371

ANNUAL PINEY RIVER MINI-TRIATHLON

On the Virginia Blue Ridge Railway Trail

Short Race...Long on Fun Race solo or as a team of 2-4 people

Run 1.5 miles, Paddle .75 mile, & Bike 2.5 miles

Awards for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place finishers in each class

Classes: Solo-Youth, Male, Female Team- All Male, All Female, Coed

Register online at the website listed below.

Preregistration is recommended but not required.

Date and Time: April 7th, 2018 Check in: 9-11 am Race start: 11:30 am

Fee: \$20/Solo, \$35/Team of 2, \$45/Team of 3 or 4, \$45 for a family (Mom, Dad, kids)

For information call the Nelson County Parks & Recreation Department at 434-263-7130 or log on to: www.NelsonCountyVA.org

Pre-registration is recommended but not required

AMHERST HONEY BEE FESTIVAL, 2018

A celebration of bees, honey, spring, fruits, berries, vegetables, farms, orchards, flowers, plants, birds, animals, gardening, butterflies, insects, nature, conservation, ecology, biology, produce, jams & jellies, canned goods, baked goods, and delicious foods. All to support education.

Date: Saturday, April 21st
 Location: Amherst County High School
 Time: 10AM-5PM

For more information, visit www.amhersthoneybeefestival.org

AMHERST COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM EVENT SCHEDULE:***Black Herman: Famed Magician From Amherst County***

Lynn Kable, AGAR President, will share the story of Benjamin Rucker, and Amherst County youth who became the apprentice to magician and "tonic" salesman, Prince Herman. Learn how he continued after Prince Herman's death and became the famous magician known as "Black Herman"

Date: Sunday, March 18th
 Time: 2PM

DAR Sponsored Genealogy Class - Beginning Genealogy

This class will explore the basics of genealogy research and documentation.

Date: Sunday, March 18th
 Time: 2:30PM

Space is limited, reservations required by Tuesday, March 20th

Rockmill Farm - From Tobacco and Milling to Hops and Agribusiness

Meet at Rockmill Farm in Loweville for a tour, including a visit to the Mill ruins, a history lesson, and conversation on Hops. Carpooling will be available from the Museum. Bag lunches welcome. Call the Museum to register.

Date: Saturday, April 28th
 Time: 9:30AM

Virginian in the Great War: at Home and Abroad

Dr. Lynn Rainville, author of "Virginia and the Great War: Mobilization, Supply and Combat, 1914-1919, will explore the contributions of hundreds of thousands of Virginians during WWI.

MOTHER'S DAY PICNIC

Pack a picnic and take your mother out to enjoy a picnic at one of the county parks!
DON'T FORGET THE CAMERA!

Date: Sunday, May 13th
Time: Anytime during park hours
Location: Coolwell Park or Riveredge Park or Monacan Park or
Thrashers Lake Park or Stonehouse Lake Park or Mill Creek
Lake Park

26th ANNUAL MONACAN POWWOW

Spend the weekend visiting with some of the finest Native American crafts people
And artists from the United States and Canada. All art and crafts are for sale. A time
filled with native drums and dancers in full regalia. Share a spirit of community not
often found. Treat yourself and your family to a unique opportunity.

Grounds open daily at 10 AM. Saturday grounds close at 9 PM following dancing
around the bonfire. Sunday grounds close at 6 PM. Route 130, 6 miles west of State
Highway 29, in Elon, Virginia. Come rain or shine, and bring your lawn chairs. This
is a family event; no drugs, alcohol or pets permitted.

The Monacan Indian Nation is recognized by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Dates: Saturday, May 19th - Sunday, May 20th (Opens daily @ 10:00 AM)

For more information visit www.monacannation.org

SECOND STAGE FARMERS' MARKET, 2018

Summer Farmers' Market, sponsored by Second Stage, will be back again this summer.
Located at 194 Second Street, at the corner of 2nd and Washington Streets in
downtown Amherst, VA. For details, and calendar, visit www.secondstageamherst.org

26th ANNUAL MONACAN POW WOW

Dates: Saturday and Sunday, May 19-20

For more information, visit www.monacannation.com/powwow

21st NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

Bring your entire family out to enjoy any one of Amherst County's popular hiking/biking trails!

There is the Riveredge Park Trail, the James River Heritage Trail, the
Coolwell Park trail, Sweet Briar College Trails, the Appalachian Trail, the
Virginia Blue Ridge Railway Trail

Date: Saturday, June 2nd

AMHERST COUNTY BATTEAU DAY

Honoring Benjamin and Anthony Rucker, inventors of the James River Batteau. Join the celebration which includes the unveiling of historic markers pertaining to the Rucker brothers and the batteau, living history interpreters including the Rucker brothers, a blacksmith, period musicians, activities for families, and food vendors.

Location: Riveredge Park
 Date: Saturday, June 9th
 Time: 10AM-4PM

For more information contact the Amherst County Museum and Historical Society, 434-946-9068 or Amherst County Parks and Recreation, 434-946-9371. Program is made possible by funding from The Greater Lynchburg Community Trust.

PADDLE & LEARN DAY

Join us for a free class as you are introduced to paddling on still water, a favorite sport in Amherst County. Sit-on-top kayaks and canoes will be provided, along with some basic instructions, to introduce those who are new to paddling to an emerging sport. This is the perfect way to experience a great outdoor recreational opportunity and is also designed to show the community all of the paddling options that are offered in Amherst County.

Kayaks, canoes, and life jackets provided

For: Ages 7 and older
 Date: Wednesday, June 13th
 Location: Mill Creek Lake
 Time: 10AM-2PM
 Fee: Free
 Instructor: Rob Campbell, JRA Specialist

Pre-registration required: Call 434-946-9371

Sponsored by: Amherst County Parks and Recreation, WAMV Radio, James River Outdoor Adventures, and Up the Creek Outfitters.

FATHER'S DAY PICNIC

Pack a picnic and take your father out to enjoy a picnic at one of the county parks! Do a little fishing along the river or at one of the lakes. **DON'T FORGET YOUR CAMERA!**

Date: Sunday, June 17th
 Time: Anytime during park hours
 Location: Coolwell Park or Riveredge Park or Monacan Park or Thrashers Lake Park or Stonehouse Lake Park or Mill Creek Lake Park

33rd ANNUAL JAMES RIVER BATTEAU FESTIVAL

Dates: Saturday, June 16th - Saturday, June 23th

Pre-festival events taking place on Friday, June 16th.

Bateau launch from Percival Island at 11AM on Saturday, June 17th.

For more information and details visit www.batteau.org

10th ANNUAL VIRGINIA SUMMER SOLSTICE WINE FESTIVAL

An exciting event for the whole family. Celebrate local wines, enjoy live music on two stages, great festival foods, local growers, arts and crafts. Wine tasting tickets include a free souvenir glass. Admission is free for kids 12 and under.

Date: Saturday, June 23rd

Location: Lazy Days Winery; 1351 N. Amherst Highway; Amherst, VA

Times: 11AM-6PM

For more information call 434- 381-6088 or go to www.lazydayswinery.com

(MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR) AMHERST COUNTY FAIR DAY

Come enjoy agriculture competitions, demonstrations, vendors, live music, rides and so much more!

Dates: August 16-19

Location: Sweet Briar property, Old Stage Road, Amherst

For more information, contact Vanessa Angus, County Fair Manager, at the Amherst Chamber of Commerce/Visitor Center office at 434-946-0990;

vanessa.Angus@AmherstCountyFair.com; www.AmherstCountyFair.com

****THEME PARK 2018 DISCOUNT TICKETS****

Amherst County Recreation and Parks Department will be offering discount tickets to Kings Dominion*, Busch Gardens* & Water Country for the 2018 season. These tickets will be available for individual and group sales.

Planning ahead for your theme park get-away enables you to take advantage of significant savings offered in special promotions. For additional information, call the Recreation & Parks Department at 434-946-9371 or visit www.countyofamherst.com.

(*Opening Saturday, March 24th)

COUNTY PARKS, TRAILS & COMMUNITY CENTERS

Amherst County is known and popular for its scenic beauty and natural settings. There are a variety of parks within the county offering a tremendous amount of **HELP** to those who use them: **Health, Enjoyment, Leisure, and Pleasure** are the benefits for those seeking such and discovering and exploring the **AMHERST OUTDOORS!**

The county maintains several parks in very attractive settings throughout the county. Some are on the historic James River and some are at the foot of the fabulous Blue Ridge Mountains.

Pack a picnic, round up the family, gather up the fishing gear, **DON'T FORGET THE CAMERA** and get out to visit each park and determine which park is the family favorite!

*County park hours are one hour after sunrise and one hour before sunset. [Please note that county code stipulates that consumption of alcoholic beverages is strictly prohibited on all county property.]

MONROE COMMUNITY CENTER 129 Francis Ave., Monroe, VA

In July, 2015, the Amherst County Recreation & Parks Department found a new home in the former Monroe Alternative School, and built as an elementary school in 1935.

There are lots of memories and stories associated with the building! Now there are an assortment of programs and activities scheduled at the center as listed in this tabloid.

For additional information, visit www.countyofamherst.com.

COOLWELL PARK, COMMUNITY CENTER & OUTDOOR AMPHITHEATER 646 N. Coolwell Road, Amherst, VA

Located on Coolwell Road, south of the Town of Amherst, this recreational park has a picnic area with grills, a picnic shelter, a play area for children, restrooms, lighted all-purpose fields (soccer, football, and softball), outdoor basketball courts, a nature trail and *an outdoor amphitheater*. The community center located in the park is available to civic organizations and school groups on a reservation basis. It is also available for rent to private individuals on a reservation (rental fee) basis. For additional information call the Recreation Department at 434-946-9371.

MONACAN PARK 1159 Monacan Park Road, Madison Heights, VA

This park is located on the scenic and historic James River. The park offers a boat ramp and boat dock for access to the river, fishing benches, a covered picnic pavilion and picnic area, a play area for children and restroom facilities. It is located in the Elon area of the county. Directions: take Rt. 130 W. to Elon. Turn left on Monacan Park Rd. The park is located at the end of the Monacan Park Road.

RIVEREDGE PARK

150 Rocky Hill Road, Madison Heights, VA

Located at the base of Rocky Hill Road, on the James River, directly across from Downtown Lynchburg, this park, which overlooks the James River Fountain, offers boat

JAMES RIVER HERITAGE TRAIL

This blacktop hiking/biking trail is part of the *Peaks of Otter Loop* on the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail [www.dgif.virginia.gov] and has two access points. One is from Percival Island Natural Area. The trail extends from Lynchburg's Blackwater Creek Trail, crossing the railroad trestle onto Percival Isle from Lynchburg. It traverses the island for about one mile along an old railroad bed. The trail continues across the James River on another trestle, and continues along the James River in Amherst County for another 1 ½ miles. This is a beautiful scenic walk or bike ride through an historical area. The trail is also accessible in Amherst County at the end of Fertilizer Road [enter via the Central Virginia Training School].

Be sure to explore the exhibit, **VIRGINIA ROCKS**, at the JRHT trailhead at the base of Fertilizer Road. This was an Eagle Scout Project completed in March, 2009, by Draper Lee, of Troop 29 BSA.

RIVEREDGE PARK TRAIL

In keeping with the county vision to create a trail extending from Riveredge Park to the James River Heritage Trail, another portion of hiking/biking trail has been completed at Riveredge Park that now extends along the James River bank beyond the Carter Glass Bridge.

VIRGINIA BLUE RIDGE RAILWAY TRAIL

Recently declared a "**VIRGINIA TREASURE**" by Governor Terry McAuliffe, this trail is idyllically located in the rolling Virginia countryside and follows the banks of the Piney and Tye Rivers along the path of the longest running, commercially successful short-line railway in America. It is part of the Sleeping Giant Loop on the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail [www.dgif.virginia.gov]. This trail provides a perfect opportunity to relive the historically significant events that developed and changed Amherst and Nelson Counties. Recent additions to this trail are a covered bridge, a caboose (original to the VBRR and under refurbishment), and a restored weigh station. The two access points are located at Piney River and Roses Mill.

BROTHER BASIL NATURE TRAIL

Located at Coolwell Park, this ¼ mile trail, located behind the outdoor amphitheater
Go exploring and check it out!

APPALACHIAN TRAIL

Approximately 25 miles of this trail passes through Amherst County from the Nelson
County line to the James River, crossing over the James River Foot Bridge into Bedford
County. There are many beautiful and scenic trails that run through the mountains of the
county. Enjoy the sights from Mt. Pleasant, Cole Mountain, Tar Jacket, and Rocky Row
Run, just to name a few.

HENRY LANUM MEMORIAL TRAIL

***This trail was named after Henry L. Lanum, Jr., a long
time trail maintenance***

supervisor for the Natural Bridge Chapter of the

Appalachian Trail Club. Located in

the Mount Pleasant National Scenic Area, this 4.8 mile loop leads to the
4,071 foot summit of Mount Pleasant with panoramic 360 degree views high atop
Amherst County!

OLD HOTEL TRAIL

A 5-mile loop, when combined with the Appalachian Trail, across the meadows on the
summit of Cole Mountain with fantastic views of the Amherst foothills and the western
valley.

VIRGINIA BIRDING & WILDLIFE TRAIL

From the Atlantic Ocean of Virginia's eastern border, to the towering Mt. Rogers at its
southwest corner, the Commonwealth includes every bird and animal habitat that occurs
naturally between Maine and Florida. Virginia also offers a long history, rich culture,
and tradition of warm hospitality to welcome visitors.

Within Virginia's 43,000 square miles of diverse natural habitat, you can find some 400
species of birds, 250 species of fish, 150 species of terrestrial and marine animals, 150
species of amphibians and reptiles, and a wide variety of aquatic and terrestrial
invertebrates. The Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail celebrates this diversity. In fact,
it is the first statewide program of its kind in the United States. All three phases of the
trail link wildlife viewing sites throughout the state have been completed: The Coastal,

Piedmont, and Mountain Phases.

Amherst County has several trail loops listed in the Mountain Phase trail system. The ***Peaks of Otter Loop*** includes the James River Heritage Trail along the southern border of the county. The ***Sleeping Giant Loop***, includes Mt. Pleasant Scenic Area, Mill Creek Lake, Stonehouse Lake, Thrashers Lake, as well as the Virginia Blue Ridge Railway Trail.

For further information or for a map of one of the three phases, visit the Amherst County Recreation Department or contact the Virginia Tourism Corporation @ 1-800-VISITVA or visit www.dgif.state.va.us.

SOUTH PEDLAR ATV TRAIL SYSTEM

The Terrapin and Rattlesnake trailhead parking lots are posted along Rt. 130. For more information contact the Glenwood /Pedlar Ranger District of the National Forest Service @ 540-291-2188.

For an Amherst County Parks & Trails Guide, visit www.countyofamherst.com

For a calendar of hikes sponsored by the Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club, visit www.nbatc.org

****SCENIC AREAS****

Amherst County has been promoted as “Virginia’s Most Civilized Wilderness”. Part of the rationale for this ‘Claim to Fame’ is that nearly 1/3 of Amherst County (northwest) is located in the **GEORGE WASHINGTON NATIONAL FOREST**. Hunting, camping, hiking, nature and wildlife watching enthusiasts enjoy the benefits of the GWNF in Amherst County. Scenic view sheds, overlooks, waterfalls, and more – it’s all here! For additional information, visit www.fs.fed.us.

BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY

Outstanding scenery and recreational opportunities make the Blue Ridge Parkway one of the most popular units of the National Park System. “America’s Favorite Drive” winds its way 469 miles through mountain meadows and past seemingly endless vistas. Split-rail fences, old farmsteads and historic structures complement spectacular views of distant mountains and neighboring valleys.” Access to the Blue Ridge Parkway in Amherst County is on Rt. 60 and Rt. 130/501. For more information, visit www.blueridgeparkway.org

MOUNT PLEASANT NATIONAL SCENIC AREA

Located in the Glenwood and Pedlar Ranger Districts of Amherst County, this 7,580 acre area is part of the George Washington National Forest and is accessible by Route 60 West. It is part of the *Sleeping Giant Loop* on the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail [www.dgif.virginia.gov] Mount Pleasant National Scenic Area offers excellent opportunities for solitude and serenity and is very popular for various forms of dispersed recreation including hiking, hunting, and fishing. The core of the Mount Pleasant National Scenic Area is remote in appearance. Motor vehicles are permitted only on open roads. For additional information, visit www.fs.fed.us.

****CAMPING****

LYNCHBURG NW/BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY KOA

A family campground in the Blue Ridge Mountains, full of fun and activities including swimming, ATV trail, special events; along with a camp store and gift shop and much more. 6252 Elon Road; Monroe, VA [Rt. 130 west of Elon and a mile east of the Blue Ridge Parkway. For more information, call 434-299-5228 or visit www.koa.com/campgrounds/lynchburg

****HORSE BACK RIDING****

Amherst County is rich in outdoor beauty! From the mountain tops to the valleys, there are breathtaking views. What better way to experience those views than on horseback. There are several options in Amherst County for boarding horses and taking lessons.

COUNTRY MEADOW FARMS - located at 162 Buffalo Ridge Rd; Amherst.
visit www.equestiranpasson.com or call 540-817-5982

ROYAL DELIGHT STABLE - located at 378 Alcock Rd; Amherst.
visit www.royaldelightstables.com or call 434-660-6979

RIVERS EDGE FARM - located at 172 Deer Crossing Lane, Madison Heights.
visit www.facebook.com/RiversEdgeFarm

****OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST IN AMHERST COUNTY****

AMHERST COUNTY MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Open Tuesdays through Saturdays and located at 154 South Main Street, Amherst, The mission of the ACMHS is to discover, collect and preserve objects related to the history and genealogy of Amherst County. For additional information call 434-946-9068 or visit <http://members.aol.com/achmuseum>

MONACAN INDIAN MUSEUM

Open Tuesdays through Saturdays and located at 2009 Kenmore Road, Amherst, the Monacan Ancestral Museum is staffed and operated by volunteers within the tribe, committed to preserving the rich legacy of the Monacan tribe's history and culture.

SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE FINE ARTS GALLERY

See noteworthy traveling exhibitions, innovative student works, and pieces from the college's extensive collection. For more information, visit www.sbc.edu

REBEC VINEYARD

Commanding an expansive view of the Blue Ridge Mountains and located on the historic farm, Mountain View, listed both on the National Register of Historic Places and As a Virginia Landmark. Rebec is a working vineyard with on-premises shop offering tastings, gifts, and a full selection of the vineyards' wines.

Located at 2229 N. Amherst Highway (5 miles north of Amherst).

Call 434-946-5168 or visit www.rebecwinery.com

LAZY DAYS VINEYARD

Located at the base of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Lazy Days Vineyard & Winery offers a broad spectacular view of the natural beauty of Virginia. Close to both Charlottesville and Lynchburg, it's easy to reach Lazy Days and enjoy their Virginia Wines. Located at 1351 N. Amherst Hwy, Amherst, VA. Call 434- 381-6088 or visit

www.lazydayswinery.com

ANKIDA RIDGE VINERYARDS

Far away from the cities on a steep eastern slope of Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains, sets a little vineyard. The views are majestic and the mountain air is clean and fragrant with seasonal perfumes that are infused into the grapes themselves. Located at 1302 Franklin Creek Road, Amherst. Call 434-922-7678 or visit ww.ankidaridge.com.

LOOSE SHOE BREWERY

Our large comfortable **taproom** features 12 taps that offer a variety of craft beers to suit every palate.

Located: 198 Ambriar Plaza, Amherst, VA

For additional information, call 434-946-BEER or visit www.looseshoebrewing.com

MORRIS ORCHARD

Enjoy the splendor of the orchard in bloom in the spring; come for The peaches and blueberries in the summer; and enjoy picking your own apples off the tree in the fall. There is also a gift shop and petting zoo!

[closed January – March]

Located at 226 Tobacco Row Lane. Call 434-929-2401

POPLAR GROVE GOLF COURSE

Poplar Grove Golf Club is the final design of golf legend Sam Snead. Teaming up with Ed Carton, formerly of the Tom Fazio design group, Sam Snead's final design effort reflects a culmination of a lifetime in championship golf. 129 Tavern Lane; Amherst, VA. 434-946-9933

SHADOW RIDGE GOLF COURSE

The 9-hole "Shadow Ridge" course at the Shadow Ridge Golf Club facility in Amherst, Virginia features all the hallmarks of Virginia golf. Designed by Chuck Sales, the Shadow Ridge golf course opened in 1993.

Located at 361 Pierces Mill Rd
Amherst, VA 24521-
United States

P: (434) 946-2008

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Shadow-Ridge-Golf-Club-AmherstVa/245939698925811>

WINTON COUNTRY CLUB

Winton has been an important part of the rich history and the proud traditions of central Virginia for decades. Winton is located three miles north of the town of Amherst within the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. When you are there, you will feel worlds away from the hustle and bustle, but you are, in fact, only a short distance from Lynchburg and Charlottesville.

Winton's 18-hole championship golf course is recognized as one of the finest courses in Virginia and it has the added bonus of having no surrounding residences, which is becoming more and more unique. Winton also boasts a junior Olympic swimming pool and on-site restaurant as well as a banquet facility and the historic Sarah Henry Manor which predates the Revolutionary War.

For additional information, visit www.wintoncountryclub.com

**AMHERST COUNTY
RECREATION & PARKS
DEPARTMENT**

Office Location:

Monroe Community Center
129 Francis Ave.
Monroe, VA 24574

Mailing Address:

PO Box 556
Amherst, VA 24521

Office Hours: Mondays – Fridays
8:30AM – 5PM

Office Number (434) 946-9371

FAX Number (434) 946-9370

E-Mail slchristian@countyofamherst.com

Web Site: www.countyofamherst.com

Sara Lu Christian	Parks & Recreation Director
Alan Bumgarner	Recreation Specialist
Brenda C. Toney	Senior Office Associate

**Amherst County Parks, Recreation &
Cultural Development Board Members**

District 1:	Stevie Angus	(434)907-2348
District 2:	Roni Tuggle	(434)942-6953
District 3:	Christy Kreuziger	(434)942-7127
District 4:	JoJo Allcock	(434)929-4029
District 5:	John Mann	(434)929-1508

The Amherst County Parks, Recreation and Cultural Development Board (ACPRCD Board) meets the second Monday of each month at 6:30PM in the Monroe Community Center to review budget, activities, and discuss the future of leisure services in Amherst County. These meetings are open to the public. Individuals and groups are welcome and encouraged to bring matters concerning recreation and parks in the county to these meetings. In order to get on the agenda, please call the Recreation Department at least

three weeks prior to a scheduled meeting date.

****REGISTRATION INFORMATION****

REGISTRATION: Unless otherwise noted, pre-registration is necessary and will be done on a first-come-first serve basis. Registration for classes may be done by telephone, e-mail, or coming by the Recreation office. Registration for sports leagues must be done in person.

FEES: Unless specified, all fees must be paid prior to the day of the activity. Make checks payable to the *Amherst County Recreation Department*. Your payment will confirm your registration.

LATE CHARGE: A late fee will be charged for registrations accepted after a specified registration deadline.

REFUNDS: You may request a refund provided you give a 24 hour notice prior to the activity beginning. Refunds are also given when insufficient enrollment cancels the activity.

CANCELLATIONS: The Amherst County Recreation Department reserves the right to cancel a program due to insufficient registration or to make late changes. All registrants will be notified of these changes.

INCLEMENT WEATHER & POSTPONEMENTS: All class/activities are cancelled for the day when schools are closed due to inclement weather. In the event schools close early, the Recreation Department will make a decision for that program for the evening. Announcements will be made on the Recreation Department's cancellation line - 434-946-9371.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, DRUGS & SMOKING: are strictly prohibited at the recreation programs and on county grounds.

For further information, call the Amherst County Recreation Department at 434-946-9371 between the hours of 8:30AM and 5PM, Mondays – Fridays.

