



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Liberty Resident and Parks Supporter Earns State Recognition**

**LIBERTY, Mo.** – The Liberty Parks and Recreation Department is pleased to announce that long-time Liberty resident Jodi Capps has been awarded the 2020 Missouri Park and Recreation Association (MPRA) individual citation award. The Liberty Parks and Recreation Department staff presented Capps with this prestigious award at the March 9 City Council meeting.

The award is given to someone who is not employed within the parks and recreation industry, but who has made an outstanding contribution to recreation and/or parks.

“Jodi has dedicated tremendous passion and energy to supporting Liberty Parks & Rec for nearly 30 years,” said Donna K. Taylor, assistant director for Liberty Parks & Rec. “Her efforts have helped to expand a vibrant department, improve facilities and support residents through programs that would otherwise be beyond the scope of traditional funding sources.”

During the development of the Liberty Community Center in 1990, Capps was instrumental in the \$700,000 fundraising effort to expand the planned 400-seat auditorium to a 700-seat performing arts theater that has hosted countless concerts,

plays, recitals and other special events since it was completed. Six years later, Capps was appointed to the Parks & Recreation Board, which serves as an advisory committee to staff, and served in that role through 2002.

In 2015, she stepped up yet again when asked to serve on the Liberty Parks & Rec Foundation Board, which was established in 2006 to create a parks expansion fund for neighborhood parks, green space, and to provide financial assistance to aid low-income youth and families to access programs through scholarship assistance.

In her role on the board, Capps was instrumental in transitioning the Foundation from two small fundraising projects each year to a 10-week annual campaign. In 2017, the annual campaign's first year, the foundation raised \$62,455. Capps took on the role of chairperson of the Foundation in 2018 and helped lead an annual campaign that raised \$80,465. In 2019, the annual campaign exceeded all expectations by raising \$101,225, more than \$20,000 beyond the Foundation's goal.

Through Capp's participation and leadership, the Liberty Parks & Rec Foundation has raised nearly \$250,000 over the past three years in support of kids, family and community. All campaign donations are first used to help support sports, programs and membership scholarships to ensure community children have the opportunity to participate alongside their peers in the department's activities, programs and Liberty Community Center use. Once scholarship needs are met each year, funds are used to develop and implement highly desirable programs and projects that would be unattainable without additional funding.

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