

A Very Special Farewell

BY ANDY BAKER, FARM PARK ADMINISTRATOR

Imagine driving into Farmpark for the first time. When you come over the top of the hill what would you expect to see? When you get inside how would you expect to be greeted and treated? For Sally Hosken, Farmpark's assistant administrator for 16 years, that was a constant question and concern. Periodically, she would drive in the main drive to remind her of what a visitor would experience. Sally was always disappointed when Lake Metroparks staff would bring their families in the back way to visit, rather than getting the full impact of the visitor experience by coming through the front of the Visitor Center.

When Sally first heard of Farmpark, she actively sought employment in the new venture. With a background in historical interpretation, she was hired in March of 1989 and charged with developing programs for the still evolving facility. She helped interview and then worked with Darwin Kelsey, Farmpark's first administrator, to establish many of Farmpark's first programs and events, including Fall Harvest Festival and Country Lights. To our Almanac readers, Sally was the author of many of the articles featuring Farmpark staff and volunteers. During special events Sally, with her curly red hair and pleasant smile, could often be seen greeting visitors and treating them the way she would want to be treated.

I have been fortunate to work with Sally for the last 16 years as



colleague and friend. The success of Lake Metroparks Farmpark owes much to her enthusiasm, energy and intelligence. Sally retired this winter and along with her husband Bob, has set off on a new adventure as a very active grandmother for two lucky little girls. While we will miss her, we know that there will be many others in the future that will be influenced by her positive spirit.