

1300 N. Phoenix Ave.  
Russellville, AR 72801  
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RUSSELLVILLE  
**AQUATIC  
CENTER**



M. J.  
**HICKEY  
POOL**

1312 E. 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Russellville, AR 72801  
479-968-6612

## **City Council Report – May 2025**

### *Reporting for the Aquatic Center during the month of April 2025*

Best news of the month was the installation of the automatic door openers on our entry and exit doorways, making the Aquatic Center fully accessible! Thank you Mayor Teague for pushing this through.

Rentals and Special Events for the month of April included 24 parties and our annual Aqua Egg Hunt. Due to weather conditions, we had to refund and/or reschedule 5 parties. The egg hunt hosted 130 children ages 1-12.

Gary Knudsen, WSIT, taught a water safety instructor class, certifying four staff members to be able to teach swim lessons. Zoe Keen held a First Aid/CPR/AED certification class for two new Recreation employees and Janna Martin certified 4 new hires in a lifeguard certification class. We hosted the Regional Leadership class for a quick tour of the Aquatic Center and we are hopeful they will meet their fundraising goal to add a slide to the outdoor pool.

Hannah Pate, Assistant Aquatics Manager, was baptized by fire this month, with multiple days of thunderstorms for the month. The Aquatic Center had to close on 04/02 – 04/03/2025 due to a power outage. As a result of this power outage, a pipe burst in the pump room causing multiple electrical issues. Hannah, along with Parks and Rec maintenance, facilities maintenance and Burton Pools and Spa were able to get everything back on line within a couple of days. Hannah now knows most of the pump room equipment inside and out which accelerated her learning exponentially.

Our spring swim lessons began and we instructed 30 children from pre-school to level one. Other classes and programming for the month were the usual: Deep and shallow water aerobics and Aqua Zumba. We split the 11:00am shallow water class into two classes and we added 6 participants on the first day. As you may know these classes fill up fast with people always trying to get in. Try Scuba and the Scubability classes met several times throughout the month.

Justin Fielder, Head Guard, led the charge in getting M.J. Hickey Pool ready to open for the summer season. At this time we are just waiting for the temperature to rise. Jacob Fruechting was kind enough to spend several hours consulting the new full time staff. His expertise is missed and we are thankful for his dedication to continue to serve the community.

Finally, we held our monthly lifeguard in-service training to keep ourselves vigilant for the thousands of guests and patrons that visit the aquatic center. We had 110 new and/or renewed memberships for the month and day passes were as follows: 705 eleven and under, 797 twelve and over.