

1300 N. Phoenix Ave.  
Russellville, AR 72801  
479-890-SWIM

RUSSELLVILLE  
**AQUATIC  
CENTER**



M.J.  
**HICKEY  
POOL**

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

## **City Council Report – September 2025**

### *Reporting for the Aquatic Center and M.J. Hickey Pool during the month of August 2025*

For the month of August, M.J. Hickey pool hosted the Knights of Columbus Back to School Summer party, the Office of Emergency Management's annual training, finished out the summer water aerobics classes, the Russellville High School swim team and partnered with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission for the second year to offer youth beginner kayak classes. These kayak classes are so well received by the public. Some people were even asking for a kayak camp next summer. The last day for public swimming was August 10th. Early morning lap swimming is ongoing until the weather changes. During our annual closure for maintenance at the Aquatic Center, we allowed patrons to utilize Hickey for laps and exercise. We had a great turnout with several people visiting for the first time.

The Aquatic Center partnered with Jill Belongia, JB Wellness founder and owner, to provide a relaxing sound bath in the therapy pool before opening hours on Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup>. This was well received and registration was full. In addition to JB Wellness, we also hosted the Arkansas Tech University International Students for a fun night of swimming.

Rental revenue for the month of August was \$4,475. Memberships, including insurance program reimbursements, brought in \$6,202. Daily Admissions, \$13,278, included the Dardanelle and Russellville summer camp attendance for June and July. Every Tuesday and Thursday the clubs combined brought around 150 swimmers on a weekly basis.

In total, we had 43 parties and pavilion rentals between both facilities. The Central Arkansas Racers and the Special Olympics swim teams resumed practices in the evenings. We are planning a continuation the dive skills camps from the summer to turn into an ongoing fall special program.

During our August staff meeting and in-service training, Renea Craig with the Arkansas Department of Labor went over chemical safety and PPE with the lifeguard staff. We currently employ 27 lifeguards for the fall. Justin Fielder, former Head Guard, resigned due to the course load requirements for nursing school. We are extending an offer to an internal candidate and hope he will begin the first week of September.