



## ***Recreation & Parks Department Report January 2011***

- Fifteen groups used the Hughes Center during December for a total of 181 hours. Events included the PACA Christmas Gala, Russellville Peewee Football Banquet and Christmas parties for ANO and JW Aluminum.
- The Parks Commission met on December 14. Chloe Lieblong was elected commission chair for 2011. Chloe has served as a member of the parks commission for thirteen years and this is her fourth time to be elected chair. Other agenda items discussed by the commission were the 2011 capital tax budget and upcoming events for the department.
- The department did not have any vandalism reported in the month of December. This was a welcome relief from previous months.
- The Caddis Fly Fishing Club, Arkansas Game and Fish and our department hosted the annual Trout Day at Pleasant View Park. Caddis Fly Fishing Club spokesman, Jerrold McKaughan, stated that this year's event was the largest since it began with approximately 200 participants. The event is held each year in December and is a great way to try your hand at trout fishing.
- The City of Russellville presented the annual Christmas Parade on December 2. Santa arrived in Russellville pulled by a specially built parade float made just for him and Mrs. Claus. Thanks to the City Mall and the hard work of our maintenance department making this a special treat for the area children. The parade had many beautiful floats this year. Oakland Heights Assembly of God was selected as the grand prize winner; Community Christian School was first in the non-profit division with St. John's Catholic School placing second and Star Industries in third place. Commercial winners were Russellville Family Clinic in first, All That Dance, Inc. in second, and Marine Corps League in third place. Santa's Choice went to the Branded by Christ Cowboy Church. A special thanks to the many city employees who volunteered in the staging area.
- The department held a safety meeting on December 15. Topics discussed were holiday safety and cold weather safety.
- The Winter Wonderland light display at Pleasant View Park was extremely successfully its first year. Christie Graham, Executive Director of the Tourism and Visitors Center, reported that 4,000 cars entered the display with many who returned for repeat visits to enjoy the display.
- The maintenance department decorated the Hughes Community Center for the Christmas holidays.
- New sidewalks were installed at the lower field at Shiloh Park. The sidewalks make the dugouts wheelchair accessible and will improve the overall accessibility and appearance to the area.
- High winds on December 11 and 12 blew several limbs down in many of our parks. The parks were all cleared and limbs taken to recycle works. The wind screens on the north side of the tennis courts at City Park were replaced due to the same hard winds.
- The set up work on the new parking lot at Hickey Park was completed. This new lot will funnel traffic out to East 16<sup>th</sup> Street instead of running it through the middle of the park. When weather permits in 2011, the lot will be asphalted.