



## *Recreation & Parks Department Report January 2014*

- Nine (9) groups used the Hughes Center during December for a total of 112 hours. Events included the Trout Day seminar, Cogswell Motors Christmas party, the Pearson's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party and the annual Ducks Unlimited New Year's Eve party.
- The Parks Commission did not meet in December. The commission meets the second Tuesday of the month at noon in the Hughes Community Center. The public is invited to attend the meetings.
- December weather hit hard early in the month. All area Christmas parades were canceled due to the harsh weather and unsafe conditions it created.
- The weather also created havoc on the trees in the parks. Many trees were damaged and maintenance removed and disposed of the numerous limbs. The large oak tree in City Park was cordoned off for safety reasons until its limbs could be trimmed by a commercial tree company.
- The annual Trout Day was rescheduled due to the weather. It will be held on January 11 from 9:00am to noon. The event is hosted by the Caddis Fly Fishing Club, Arkansas Game and Fish and the Russellville Parks Department. The pond is stocked with trout now and will be restocked prior to the new date. Please come out and try to catch your supper.
- Winter Wonderland began on December 11 and wrapped up its season on December 22. Parks maintenance assisted with the setup and take down of the light displays again this year. Many people enjoyed visits with Santa, the live animals and the beautiful light displays again this year. With winter wonderland in place at the Park it was necessary to close for certain days and some specific hours of the day.
- Chris Olson held a "Tis the Season" 10K run at the Russellville Soccer Complex. The race was a fundraiser for Choices PRC. Chris reported a good turnout and looks forward to next year.
- The Department held a safety meeting on December 11 for all park employees. Drew Latch, public information officer for the Russellville Police Department, was the guest speaker. The meeting was very informative and employees learned ways to stay safe and to help keep the public safe.
- Maintenance and repair work was done on several pieces of park equipment which included mowers, trucks and heavy equipment.
- The water tower property was cleaned up and organized to increase maintenance efficiency, eliminate safety hazards and improve the appearance of the property.
- Use of the Hughes Center gymnasium was high in December with area schools being out and youth basketball leagues starting in the area.