



**Recreation & Parks  
Department Report  
January 2018**

- Twelve (12) groups used the Hughes Center during December for a total of 155 hours. Events included Christmas parties for the Russellville Fire Department and ANO, an ANO offsite retreat, an Arkansas Center for Music Education community band concert and the annual Ducks Unlimited New Year's Eve party.
- In December the Russellville Aquatic Center had ten regular party rentals, five private parties, a special event and a swim meet for a total of 44 hours. The first Movie Night at the Aquatic Center was held on December 15 and it was a big success. Approximately 50 swimmers enjoyed the movie An All Dogs Christmas Carol. More movie nights will be held in the future.
- The Parks Commission met on December 14. Minutes are available at [www.russellvillearkansas.org](http://www.russellvillearkansas.org). Commissioners Theresa Herrick, Marvin Collier and Tommy Hindsman resigned from the commission in December. They served their community well and the Department greatly appreciates their service. There will not be a meeting in January as a search for new commissioners is underway.
- Our department along with the Caddis Fly Fishing Club and Arkansas Game and Fish hosted the annual Trout Day fishing event on December 2 at Pleasant View Park pond. The Caddis Fly Fishing Club turned out in full force to help give local youth the opportunity to trout fish in the River Valley. This year 140 participants attended the event and fifty free rod and reels were distributed to kids. Special thanks the Russellville Police and Fire Departments and ATU volunteers for their help at the event. Maurice Jackson, Eric Pratt, Jamie Jackson and Carter Witt from Arkansas Game and Fish did a great job educating the public on trout fishing. The pond will be restocked periodically through the cold months for area residents to continue to catch trout.
- The annual Christmas Parade was held downtown on December 7. Winners of this year's parade were Orr Auto Mall (Grand Prize), Tusk IV (Santa's Choice), Fair Park Baptist Church, Bost Adult Development Center, Pet Solutions (Non-Profit) and Beacon Tire, Air Tech and West Fraser (Profit). The Department wishes to thank the Russellville Police Department, Russellville Animal Control, the Leadership Russellville group, the RHS student banner carriers from the FCCLA Club and the students of the ATU Cadet Program, Russellville Public Works and the Russellville Fire Department for all of their help. It is truly a city wide effort that makes the parade so successful.
- Erosion control work was completed along the Orbit Lane Trail under the Pleasant View Road bridge. Riprap and concrete will hopefully curtail the erosion from the wake from boats and the public throwing the rocks into the water.
- James School Park restrooms were winterized for the season in December. It is the last of our restrooms that are winterized each year.
- Several lights were replaced in the gymnasium at the Hughes Center. All lighting was checked in the building and repaired or replaced as needed.
- A large group of Pickleball players continue to play every morning at the Hughes Community Center. They normally play from 9:00am to noon. Pickleball is a great sport for all ages and new players are always welcome. The Department is currently working on converting the tennis courts to Pickleball courts at Shiloh Park. If you would like more information on the sport, please contact David Laseter, USA Pickleball Association Ambassador at 479-857-1192.