



*Recreation & Parks
Department Report
February 2018*

- Thirteen (13) groups used the Hughes Center during January for a total of 281 hours. Events included the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, Keep AR Kids Warm coat giveaway and an Arkansas River Valley Gun Club party.
- For the month of January there were 6 parties held at the Aquatic Center for a total of 13 hours. The Russellville Cyclone Swim team also hosted a swim meet in which 150 swimmers from 6 schools competed. During the month we had 21 water aerobics classes, 14 Aqua Zumba classes and 4 kayak rolling classes for a total of 39 hours. The Russellville Cyclone Swim Team, US Swim team and the Special Olympics all practiced a total of 74 hours. Also, Leadership Tech and the Mayor of Russellville hosted a breakfast at the Aquatic Center for approximately 40 attendees in our party rooms.
- The Parks Commission did not meet in February. The next meeting is scheduled for March 8 at noon in the Hughes Community Center.
- The AARP began training for the upcoming tax season. They offer tax assistance from February 5 until April 11. February operating hours are Monday through Thursday from 9:00am to 4:00pm. A big thank you to Dr. Steve Gann for taking over this wonderful program so it could continue in 2018.
- Community Service, Inc. began the First Tee Program on January 16. They meet every Tuesday at the Hughes Center from 3:45pm to 5:00pm. Sam Taylor does a great job each year and makes this a fun program for the kids.
- Quarterly safety inspections were conducted by the department. All fire extinguishers, emergency lights and exit lights were working properly. An unannounced fire drill was held in January and no problems were encountered. We continually strive to make sure we provide as safe a work and recreation environment as possible.
- Maintenance staff removed and stored all of the downtown Christmas lights. The displays help beautify our downtown area each holiday season. It might be time to consider replacing some and purchasing more decorations.
- Arkansas Game and Fish Commission stocked trout in the Pleasant View Park pond on January 10. They continue to stock the pond monthly after Trout Day until the weather warms so our residents can trout fish in the River Valley through the winter.
- Someone set fire in the restroom at the soccer complex. Apparently they were cold enough to need a fire to keep warm. The damage is estimated at \$2,000. A police report was filed.
- Complete inventories of all park facilities equipment were completed in January.
- All of the Hughes Center tile floors were stripped, sealed and waxed.
- The Department said goodbye to long time Director Mack Hollis on January 26 at a reception held at the Hughes Community Center. His vision and dedication helped the parks system grow from eight parks to twenty-three parks almost doubling the acres in the park system. He was instrumental in developing numerous trails for the City. His latest and largest endeavor was the addition of the Russellville Aquatic Center. We wish him a very happy retirement.