



**Recreation & Parks
Department Report
May 2018**

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- Fourteen (14) groups used the Hughes Center during April for a total of 183 hours. Events included a Pope County Forfeited Lands Tax Sale, River Valley Health Expo, Teresa Gallegos for AR Senate District 16 Campaign Meet & Greet and an Arkansas Center for Music Education Community Band Concert.
- For the month of April there were 21 parties held at the Aquatic Center for a total of 46 hours. The Special Olympics held a swim meet at the center for a total of 2 hours. During the month we had 24 Water Aerobics classes, 12 Boot Camp classes, and 4 Kayak Rolling classes for a total of 40 hours. The US Swim team and the Special Olympics practiced a total of 44 hours. The home school group came and did swim lessons and swim classes for a total of 24 hours. The Arkansas Tech ROTC hosted their dive certification class here where 19 students participated.
- The Parks Commission met on April 12. The minutes are available for viewing at www.russellvillearkansas.org.
- The department had 18 pavilion rentals and 25 practice field reservations for Shiloh and Pleasant View Parks in April.
- The Russellville Recreation and Parks Department summer softball league began play with 27 teams participating this summer. Games are played on Wednesday and Thursday nights at Pleasant View Park. Other softball leagues beginning play at the same parks are the Russellville Church League with 14 teams participating and the Boys and Girls Club with 14 teams. They also formed the Pope County Girls Softball League that has 43 teams from Russellville, Pottsville, Dover, Atkins and Hector.
- Work began on cleaning and preparing Hickey Pool to open for the summer season. Applications were taken for the pool staff in April. The pool is scheduled to open on Saturday, May 26 at 12:30pm.
- In safety matters, the department performed inspections on all fire extinguishers, vehicles, jobsites, offices and all park buildings. A fire drill was conducted at the Hughes Center.
- Several employees attended a defensive driving class at City Hall which was presented by the Arkansas Municipal League. The class was very informative and will help our employees be safer drivers not only at work but when they are off the clock too.
- A temporary sign for the Russellville Aquatic Center was installed. The information on the sign will help people who stop by when the facility is closed. Future plans include a permanent sign that will be more decorative.
- A new layer of mulch was added under most of our park units. This will act as fall zone protection and help keep our kids safe.
- Several civic and church groups conducted community service projects in our parks this month. The projects included picking up litter, sticks and brush, weeding flower beds and cleaning up shorelines.
- The River Valley Arts Center held pARTy in the Park on April 28 in City Park and the Hughes Center. The event is held annually and was very successful this year.
- Grading on the pavilion site has started at the Veterans Memorial Park. The pavilion has been ordered and should ship soon. The River Valley Veterans Coalition is doing a great job with the park.