



Recreation & Parks Department Report August 2009

- Nine (9) groups used the Hughes Center during July for a total of 147 hours. Events included a City Hall Renovation Meeting, Candejas Quincenera, Senior Softball Signups and the Police Pension Board Meeting.
- The Parks Commission met on July 8. Agenda items included choosing the Christmas Parade theme and plans for the new concession at M.J. Hickey Park.
- Fifteen (15) vandalism incidents were reported in July. Incidents included eight illegal dumpings at Orbit Lane, fence damage, breaking and entering and illegal dumping at Hicky Park, criminal mischief at the skate park and graffiti at the soccer complex.
- RRPD adult fall softball league registration ended on July 24 with forty-five teams registered for this fall.
- Sequoyah Park rest rooms were completed and opened to the public. This has enhanced the use of the park and should increase the number of reservations.
- M. J. Hickey Pool pavilion was completed and open to the public. The pavilion is a 20' X 20' metal pavilion with three picnic tables, a barbeque grill and a bench. The pavilion will be used by pool patrons in the summer and open to the public year round.
- The 1500 watt quartz lights at M.J. Hickey Pool were changed to more energy efficient 1000 watt metal halide fixtures. These will save the city money on energy cost as well as provide a better and brighter light for the pool.
- The parking lot for Hickey Park Field 7 was completed. This new parking lot will provide parking for Hickey Park Fields 1, 4, 6 & 7, M.J. Hickey Pool and for Russellville High School football games.
- The fireworks display was held at Old Post Park on July 4. It was a wonderful display with a good crowd that seemed to enjoy the display.
- The Russellville Competition Water Ski Club hosted the 2009 State Water Ski Tournament in Russellville on the July 25. This is the first time the tournament has been held in Russellville.
- The Russellville swim team, The Sharks, held their local swim meet on July 11 at M.J. Hickey Pool. There was a large crowd cheering on the swimmers and the local parents of the Sharks did a good job of putting on the meet and taking care of the facility.
- A check for \$6,800.00 was presented to the Recreation and Parks Department for continued work on the Illinois Bayou Park by Ron Knost. The funds were part of the proceeds from The Lake Dardanelle Big Bass Classic. We also received a \$5,000.00 grant from Entergy for further development of the park. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission has budgeted \$50,000.00 for the 2010 budget for asphalt for the park. Work continues on the park. Some community groups have expressed interest in building and paying for picnic sites at the park. That work should start in August.
- The Arkansas Valley Soccer Association hosted the British Soccer Camp July 13 - 17 at the soccer complex. The camp is a popular week long outing for the youth of the River Valley and teaches soccer skills to our area youth.
- There were 18 pool parties in July. The pool patrons have commented on how much they appreciate the shade structures and other additions at the pool. The pool operations for the summer of 2009 have run very smoothly with few problems or complaints. The staff has done a good job in providing a safe, fun atmosphere for the citizens of Russellville.
- The Radio Control Car Club has completed their car track at the Flying Field/Car Track Park. They will host a state event in August to break in the park. The area has been cleaned up and usage in the park is up.
- Elam Fulton of Russellville has been selected to represent Arkansas at the Hershey National Track and Field meet in Hershey, PA. on August 1. Elam will compete in the standing long jump which she won at the local Hershey meet and the state meet.
- Interns Thomas Powell and James Halitzka have completed there internship for the summer. They were both hired as teachers/coaches in Arkansas. They did a good job and we wish them well in their new endeavors.