



Recreation & Parks Department Report August 2011

- Twelve (12) groups used the Hughes Center during July for a total of 135 hours. Events included meetings for the department's fall softball league, Zumba classes and signups for the Russellville Senior Softball League.
- The Parks Commission met on July 12. All commissioners were present except for Commissioner Johnston. The meeting was called to order at 12:05pm and the minutes from the June meeting were approved as written. The first order of business was the amendment to the Hughes Center policy regarding alcohol and minors at Hughes Center events. It was decided that we disallow alcohol when anyone under the age of 21 is present at events at the center. The parks fee schedule was handed out to the commissioners for review. The commission was informed that we did receive the full \$100,000.00 Wildlife Observation Grant for the trail at Illinois Bayou Park. Freedom Fest and park activities for June were reviewed. The meeting ended at 12:35pm.
- The department had five incidents of vandalism in the month of July. Incidents included four illegal dumps on Orbit Lane and the destruction of the M.J. Hickey Park sign.
- Registration for the department's adult fall softball league was held from July 11 to July 22. We had 38 teams sign up. The league will play Monday, Tuesday and Thursday nights beginning on August 8.
- Freedom Fest and the city fireworks display was on July 4 at Pleasant View Park and was attended by many and enjoyed by all. Large crowds enjoyed food, snow cones, music and games in the evening hours and at 9:15 a thirty minute fireworks display was shot. The display was our best in the twenty- one years we have shot the display. We will continue the event at Pleasant View Park next year, as the event went very well and there were no problems. We thank all of our volunteers from the Russellville Police and Fire departments, O.E.M., Pope County Sheriff's Department and Ambulance service, Arkansas Game and Fish, the Journey and the Arkansas State Police.
- The Russellville Sharks swim team hosted their swim meet on Friday, July 8 at M. J. Hickey Pool. The event included swimmers from Russellville, Alma, Clarksville, Ozark, Paris and Waldron. The crowds were large and the event was well run by the volunteers for the swim team. We look forward to working with them again in 2012.
- Parking blocks were installed at the Hughes Center east and west parking lots completing capital project #15.
- Parking blocks were installed at the upper parking lot of Shiloh Park completing capital project #17. The new parking lot added twenty new paved parking spots.
- The city received confirmation that we received the full \$100,000.00 requested from the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission for the Wildlife Observation Trail Grant. We hope to begin construction of the trail in September or October.
- Department rentals include eighteen private pool parties, seven pavilion rentals, twelve practices and two smoker grill rentals. The excessive heat has affected our park usage and reservations.

- The USSSA Mens E State tournament was held at Pleasant View Park on July 16 with twenty teams participating.
- The new backhoe was delivered on July 27. It has been used every day since it arrived and will be a welcome replacement to our old backhoe. The old backhoe was transferred to the airport.
- Our maintenance crew installed conduit under the roadway in four places at Pleasant View Park. It will be used to run electric cords for the Winter Wonderland Christmas light display put on by the Russellville Advertising and Promotion Commission.