

- Six (6) groups used the Hughes Center during July for a total of 136 hours. Events included signups for the senior softball league, a RRPD softball meeting, the Pope County Library Summer Reading Program Kinder Concert and a shrimp and catfish dinner fundraiser for the Pope/Yell County Single Parent Scholarship Fund. Also, pickle ball players meet at the Center every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday in the mornings. The public is invited to come out and learn how to play.
- The Parks Commission did not meet in July. The next meeting is scheduled for August 12.
- The Department had 15 pavilion reservations, 23 pool party reservations and 5 practice field reservations for the month of July. Park usage by the general public was also very high for the month. City Park seems to always be full of families enjoying the splash pad, pavilion, play units or just relaxing in the shade.
- The Boys and Girls Club Sharks swim team completed their season at M.J. Hickey Pool. The pool was also utilized for near drowning training by the Arkansas National Guard in July. Pool use normally slows down in August, so it is a good time to go for a swim and not be too crowded.
- The Learn to Swim program completed their third and final session in July. The Department would like to thank Gary Knudsen and all of his instructors on doing such a great job teaching 144 participants the art of swimming. Living around our beautiful lake, everyone needs to learn how to swim.
- The USSSA C Youth state tournament was held July 4 through July 6 at Pleasant View Park, Shiloh Park and Clarksville. There were 98 teams making this our largest tournament of the year.
- The Fourth of July fireworks display was held at 9:15 at Old Post Park. This year's display was packed with spectators who were treated to the best fireworks show ever shown in Russellville. Special thanks to the Kiwanis for providing concessions for the show. We also want to thank the police and fire departments for all of their assistance. A lot of hard work went on to put on this year's display so again thanks to all who helped. We are already looking forward to next year's show.
- Signups were held for the department's adult fall softball league from July 14 through July 25. We had 30 teams sign up for our fall season. Games will begin on August 12 and run through October 21. Games will be played on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday nights at Pleasant View Park.
- The Department performed safety inspections on vehicles, jobsites, offices and all park buildings. Any safety issues that were discovered were repaired. A fire drill was conducted at the Hughes Community Center on Saturday, July 26.
- Work on the renovation and repairs of the soccer fields continued in July. We filled in all of the low areas and top dressed all of the fields except the two fields the adults are currently using. We will continue the first two weeks of August with more top dressing, fertilizing, weed control and watering. The work seems to be paying off as after the last hard rainfall there were very few places holding water. We used about 280 tons of material, our backhoe, loader and the spreader. We replaced 6 sprinkler heads, repaired two broken pipes and one controller. The entire system is now operational and ready for the fall season.
- Lynn's Tree Service removed several dead trees that were a hazard in the parks. Those parks included Illinois Bayou, Washburn, City and James School Park. We are planning on pruning and removing several more trees in the fall and winter months.

- We had two incidences of vandalism for the month. The worst park seems to be Hickey where vandals are creating a large amount of cleanup from petty acts. We are also having someone drive around barricades to illegally dump more furniture and trash at Orbit Lane. We have added barriers and are monitoring the area.
- Clearing and grubbing work began at Orbit Lane in preparation for the construction of the new trail. The trees and foliage in the area have grown substantially and several trees and limbs have fallen. The estimated completion date is June 2015.
- The three flags on the Russellville sign at Washburn Park were replaced. We hope to do some landscaping around the sign in the winter months. Anyone wishing to take on this project or assist us with this please contact us.