

- Twelve (12) groups used the Hughes Center during June for a total of 191 hours. Events included Friends of the NRA Banquet and Bike and Build. An avid group of Pickleball players are meeting in the gym at 9am on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Anyone wishing to learn this fast growing sport is welcome to come learn the game.
- The Parks Commission met on June 10 (Minutes attached).
- Rafter and Home Improvement Company replaced the shingle roof with a new metal roof on Pavilion Two in Hickey Park. This is an ongoing process to improve the park facilities and save on future expenses by changing our shingle roofs to metal.
- The Department began a restoration project to restore the soccer fields at the complex. The project includes filling in low spots, top dressing, aerating, filling holes, seeding, fertilizing and some sod replacement. Due to the extent of the project some of the fields will be closed and the complex may be locked part of the summer. We appreciate everyone's patience.
- In safety matters, all fire extinguishers in all vehicles, heavy equipment and park buildings were inspected. Self inspection forms for all job worksites and offices were completed for the month of June.
- Another tree was uprooted from high winds at Washburn Park and shingles were damaged on the Pleasant View Concession during the storm on June 6. No one was injured from the tree falling. The month seemed to be defined by the high number of storms and rain showers. Between the daily rains and sunshine this has been a banner year for mowing already.
- New dock bumpers were installed on the Ouita Park docks on June 11. The boat launch area has become one of the favorites among local fisherman as it is always quite full. We appreciate the heads up on the need for repairs from Ron Knost. We encourage everyone who sees a concern in our parks to contact us at 479-968-1272 so we can look into the concern.
- The children's fishing derby was held at Pleasant View Park pond on Saturday, June 7. There were 79 registered participants but about 200 people were at the site to fish, watch, help and enjoy the fun. Everyone seemed to have a wonderful time spending quality family time at this event. We encourage everyone to come out next year and join in the fun and watch your kids catch a fish.
- The Splash Pad has once again been a huge success so far this year. There have been large numbers of kids using the pad every day. We want to ask patron to help us keep the park safe and clean by watching your kids and placing your litter in the proper trash receptacles. Please also remember it is not meant to be a drinking fountain or used by pets.
- Bike and Build passed through our City again this year raising funds for Habitat for Humanity. The group stayed at the Hughes Center the night of June 16 before continuing their ride. Thanks goes out to Spence Roberts at Italian Gardens and McDonalds for providing dinner and breakfast. Also thanks to Jeff Priore the local sponsor.
- Kamrie Ewing of Kamrie's Colorful Creations held the first Pooch Palooza dog show on Saturday, June 14 at the Hughes Center on the west parking lot. Kamrie's Colorful Creations is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to children in need. The event was very successful with 27 dogs entered into several categories and \$1,000 was raised for the children. A lot of people brought their dogs to watch the event and many were hoping that it would be held next year.
- The replacement pickup truck for Unit 2 was placed into operation on June 18. We are back to a full fleet of trucks now.

- The new tractor was placed in operation on June 23. It will be used primarily to pull the new fifteen foot finish mower. With this addition and both fifteen foot finish mowers we hope to get a handle on mowing our parks.
- Security cameras were installed in the Hughes Community Center by Edwin Walker of Digital Alarm Systems. This much needed security system will record activity and allow staff to monitor the building, gym and parking lots. This should assist us in maintaining a safe environment for staff and public.
- Two sessions of the Department's Learn to Swim Program were held in June with 99 kids participating. There is one more session scheduled for July. Gary Knudsen and all of his instructors are doing a great job helping area youth learn to swim.
- We had eight (8) incidents of vandalism for the month of June. The most and worst were at Hickey Park. Incidents included criminal mischief on five separate occasions at Hickey Park. The dugouts were painted with spray paint, the pressbox was broken into and the fire extinguisher was sprayed all over, a door and a baby changing station were destroyed. Graffiti was discovered twice in City Park and there was an illegal dumping of yard waste at Illinois Bayou Park. We ask the public's help in controlling this ever increasing problem by using the parks and reporting any unsavory behavior to 911.
- The Russellville Youth Baseball Association hosted the USSSA 9AA State Tournament on June 27 – 29 at M.J. Hickey Park. There were 23 teams from all over the state in Russellville participating in the tournament.
- There were four softball tournaments at Pleasant View and Shiloh Parks. The largest was the ASA 8 & Under District tournament that had 56 teams participating. A total of 117 teams participating in these tournaments were brought to our community in the month of June.
- There were fifteen pool parties scheduled at M.J. Hickey Pool in June. Dates usually book up pretty quickly in June and July but there are a few dates left. You may contact the Hughes Center to get more information on booking a party at the pool.
- The Russellville Boys & Girls Club swim team "The Sharks" hosted a swim meet with 220 swimmers on June 27 at M.J. Hickey Pool. Teams from Russellville, Alma, Clarksville, Scott County and Paris participated. There were approximately 500 people attending and the meet was a great success. The Sharks swim team is for kids ages 5 to 18 and who are able to swim unassisted for 25 yards. Anyone that is interested in joining should call the Boys & Girls Club.