

- Twelve (12) groups used the Hughes Center during October for a total of 147 hours. Events included registration for a bass tournament, Senior Olympics, a utility meeting for Public Works, ACME Fright Night Band Concert and KidsFest.
- The Parks Commission met on October 9. (Minutes on back).
- The department had three incidents of vandalism for the month of October. The incidents were property damage in the restrooms at Washburn Park and City Park.
- Reservations for the month of October included 12 pavilion reservations and one smoker grill rental.
- Safety inspections were conducted on the park buildings. Emergency lights, grinders and weather radios were inspected. The annual inspection of the fire extinguishers was conducted by the Universal Fire Company. In other safety matters, a fire drill was conducted at the Hughes Center and all employees attended a defensive driving class.
- Josh Baker was hired as a part time worker until he begins his internship next year. Josh has helped in our continued effort to maintain the parks to the highest standards.
- The 7th annual Community in Unity was held in James Park on October 5 & 6. Rain and hail dampened the event this year but the faith based community volunteers were still able to hold the parade. Mayor Bill Eaton and Sheriff Aaron Duvall helped lead the parade.
- The USSSA Fall State Tournament was held at Pleasant View and Shiloh Parks on October 19 & 20. Fifty-five teams from all over the state competed into the wee hours of Sunday morning before champions were crowned in four different age groups.
- The 5th annual 40 Acres of Hell Race was held on October 6. The race is a cross between a triathlon and an adventure race. The main skills are kayaking, cycling and running. The kayaking portion began in Lake Dardanelle State Park and ended in our new, beautiful Illinois Bayou Park. This year 26 athletes participated in the race. Funds raised from the event support the FOP Shop with a Cop program.
- The low bid was accepted from Williamson Construction Company for installation of the Splash Pad at City Park. The contracts were signed and notice to proceed given. Construction has already begun and should be completed within 60 days.
- Hickey Pool was winterized for 2012. The rest of the park will be winterized in November.
- KidsFest was held on Halloween and was a great success as it usually is. All the kids were dressed up in costume along with the Tech students and volunteers operating the booths. Many of the parents were dressed in costumes and everyone was having fun. Thanks go out to our volunteers, sponsors and the A.T.U. recreation programming class.
- The vault toilets/rest rooms at Illinois Bayou Park were set in place and back fill material added on October 31. The pre-cast concrete rest rooms are well located to service both the park area and the new trail. I'm sure it will be appreciated by fisherman, families on picnics, trail users and all our park patrons.
- The Advertising and Promotion Commission awarded funding to the Parks Department so we could open Pleasant View Park a month earlier in 2013. This will allow us to secure additional tournaments in March which will bring many more visitors to the Russellville area.
- The Advertising and Promotion Commission awarded funds to the Parks Department for advertising, promotion and operations of our events and tournaments for 2013. The Commission additionally granted funds for improvements to Hickey Park and Pleasant View Park. Those projects will begin as soon as we have the go ahead to proceed.