

- Ten (10) groups used the Hughes Center during August for a total of 214 hours. Events included the Arkansas Center for Music Education Concert, Arkansas Department of Health Simulated Media Briefings and parties for the Arias, Guterrez and Sierra families.
- The Parks Commission did not meet in August. The next scheduled meeting is September 9 at noon in the Hughes Center. The public is invited to attend.
- Department employees attended a safety meeting on outdoor power equipment conducted on August 1 by Rickey Burroughs of the Arkansas Department of Labor.
- Bids for new backstops on Fields 1 and 6 at M.J. Hickey Park were opened on August 7 at City Hall. The bid was awarded to Hardrock Construction.
- The Department's fall softball league began play on August 12 with 30 teams participating. They will play on Tuesday and Thursday nights. Games begin at 6:30pm and are played at Pleasant View Park.
- The smoker grill was utilized by the Pope County Senior Citizen Center for their annual Burger Fest event.
- Terry Thomas, long time Athletic Director, was promoted to Assistant Director of Recreation and Parks effective August 18. The much deserved and much needed promotion will ensure stability within the department and help with the expansion of our trail system and park master plan. Terry is currently busy training Matt Gray who was promoted to Athletic Director on August 18.
- The River Valley Disc Golf Association held the War on the Shore disc golf tournament on August 23 at the Russellville Disc Golf Course. The tournament had 75 players participating with \$1000 in cash and \$2000 in merchandise distributed to the winners.
- Two softball tournaments were held at Pleasant View Park in August. A team held a benefit tournament with 10 teams participating to raise money to attend the World Tournament this year. ATU held a showcase tournament for college scouts with 17 teams participating on August 23.
- Vandalism occurred in three parks during the month of August. Incidents included a damaged gate at Orbit Lane, bathrooms were trashed at James Park and concession product was found on the bleachers at M.J. Hickey Park. The power to the Hickey Park concession was shut off causing the concession food to spoil.
- Work concluded on the soccer complex with finishing touches on top dressing, seeding, field prep and fertilizing. We have begun a watering schedule that will run through September and part of October to make sure the grass seed and grass have optimal chances to produce. All of the soccer goals have been placed back on the fields and anchored to comply with Jonathan's Law. We remind everyone they may not bring goals out to the complex and leave them.
- M.J. Hickey Pool was closed out and winterized for the season on August 18. The pool equipment was placed inside, the pool water was treated, the backwash tanks were cleaned, the broken equipment was discarded and the facility cleaned. New chairs were purchased for next season. This was a very good season for lack of needed repairs.
- We had two different storms in August that blew down tree limbs, blew over trash cans and scattered trash in several of our parks.
- The docks at Illinois Bayou and Ouita Parks were cleaned and the walkways and wood decks were treated with sealer in August.
- Lynn's Tree service removed stumps in City Park, at the Hughes Center, Washburn Park, the ski area and Illinois Bayou Park. This will improve our park appeal, make mowing easier and reduce trip hazards.