

- Twelve (12) groups used the Hughes Center during October for a total of 207 hours. Events included baby showers, fitness classes, a wedding reception, a Pope County Retired Teachers meeting and KidsFest.
- The Parks Commission met on October 14. (Minutes Attached)
- Community in Unity was held in James Park on October 3 & 4. The annual event features gospel singing and old fashioned games for the youth and elderly. If you are interested in next year's event, please contact the small group of community organizers which includes Phyllis Foster Walls and Chandra Jackson. The group thanks all of the local merchants who have supported the event by donating door prizes each year.
- The trails committee met on October 7 at the Hughes Community Center. Members viewed a PowerPoint presentation on the status of the current plan and shared ideas on funding for future projects.
- Employees Jerry Burris, Bennie Hampton and Dalton Huffman attended a T-Square safety meeting for city employees held on October 16 at City Hall. The topic was tractor and skid steer safety.
- In safety matters, the department performed inspections on all fire extinguishers, vehicles, jobsites, offices and all park buildings. A fire drill was conducted at the Hughes Center when maintenance personnel were present in the building.
- The Boys & Girls Club began their flag football league play at Vick Field. This year they have 12 teams participating. Games are played on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. The season will end on November 7.
- The softball season wrapped up play in October at Pleasant View Park and Shiloh Park. This year's winners were Jonathan Vincent LLC, Where My Pitches, Sponsorless, Maxx and Fletcher Oil. A fall USSSA State tournament was played on October 4 with 27 teams participating.
- The splash pad was closed and winterized for the season. The equipment has been placed in storage and the area locked for safety. The splash pad continues to be very popular with kids and parents alike. The Department rented 15 pavilions in October with the most being the City Park pavilion.
- The Department received project funding in the amount of \$76,305.00 for a General Improvement Grant through West Central Arkansas Planning and Development District for the Prairie Creek Trail connecting North Phoenix to the Bona Dea Trails. We are working with Arkansas Tech University and the Corps of Engineers on the project. We hope to begin work the first of 2015.
- Vandalism included four incidents of vulgar graffiti at the Skate Park which required the closing of the park until it was cleaned up. After the first clean up, vandals spray painted the area again. Other incidents included damage to the restrooms at Vick Field and City Park.

- Several trees were removed from Shiloh Park and Pleasant View Park for safety reasons. Also dead limbs and low limbs were removed to create an open view to help us monitor activities in the park and to help with mowing.
- Vicki Hall of the Master Gardeners Club has planted a memories garden at Washburn Park. The seeds from the plants will be harvested each year for next year's garden. In addition, Vicki and two students from the Russellville High School Gardening Club cleaned one of the flower beds at the entrance of the park. She plans to plant a low maintenance nectar and nourishing garden there in the future. A special thanks from our Department to Vicki and her helpers for their hard work to improve this beautiful park.
- Work continues on Field 1 and 6 at Hickey Park. The renovation project by RHS includes four new dugouts, new backstops and moving and excavating Field 1. The excavation, sod work, sprinkler work on Field 1 is complete. The dugout work and backstop work is ongoing and should be completed by year's end. The scoreboards have been ordered for both fields.
- Mary Kate Brown and Will Roberts, participants in our local Punt, Pass and Kick competition, won at the state event which was held in North Little Rock.
- New security lights were installed at the play area at James School Park. All security lights were repaired or replaced and are working. The security lights at the skate park were also repaired and/or replaced.
- KidsFest was held on October 31 at the Hughes Center. This year was busier and the games were a huge success. Thanks to the Arkansas Tech Recreation Programming Class, Russellville Fire Department, Russellville Police Department, Pope County EMS, Pope County OEM, Suddenlink, U.S. Forest Service, Bikers Against Child Abuse and the River Valley Arts Center.