

- Twelve (12) groups used the Hughes Center during December for a total of 168 hours. Events included the Ducks Unlimited annual New Year's Eve banquet, a seminar for Trout Day and Christmas parties for Cogswell Motors, ANO and Beacon Tire.
- The Parks Commission met on December 9. (Minutes Attached)
- Department employees attended a safety meeting on December 3. The topic was hand safety and was presented by Rickey Burroughs of the Arkansas Department of Labor. In other safety matters, fire extinguishers, offices and jobsites were inspected.
- The annual Christmas Parade was held downtown on December 4. The rain did not dampen the Christmas spirit and the parade lit up the night as scheduled. Kelli Nealy, Special Events Coordinator did a great job organizing this huge event. Winners of this year's parade were Pottsville Assembly of God Church (Grand Prize), Fair Park Baptist Church (Santa's Choice), Bost ADC, Pottsville Jr. Beta Club, Regulators (Non-Profit) and Mobley Concrete, Grins and Giggles, Beacon Tire (Profit). The Department wishes to thank the Russellville Police Department, especially Charlie Falwell and Jennifer Walker, Tracie Millsap from Animal Control, Mark Vaughan and all of the Pope County Sheriff Reserve, Stephanie Beerman and the Leadership Russellville group, the RHS student banner carriers from the FCCLA Club and the students of the ATU Cadet Program. A special thanks to Kenneth Duvall and his group of merry men from the Street Department who provided the most volunteers. And last but not least, thanks to the Russellville Fire Department for bringing Santa Claus to town.
- Our department along with the Caddis Fly Fishing Club and Arkansas Game and Fish hosted the annual Trout Day fishing event on December 6 at the Pleasant View Park pond. The Caddis Fly Fishing Club turned out in full force to help give local fishermen the opportunity to trout fish in the River Valley. This year 124 participants with 68 being 14 years old or under enjoyed the event. Twenty-nine vouchers from the trout seminar held on December 2 were returned for a free rod and reel. Special thanks the Russellville Police and Fire Departments and ATU volunteers for their help at the event. Jamie Jackson and Ben Batten from Arkansas Game and Fish did a great job educating the public on trout fishing. The pond will be restocked periodically through the cold months for area residents to continue to catch trout.
- Training for our staff on the City's new Civic Plus website was held on December 2 and December 5. The Department is excited about the capabilities of the new site especially the ability to send out mass notifications.
- Security lights were added to the Pleasant View park concession building for added security. The lights were all repaired and updated as needed to ensure you will be able to monitor the area at night. We also repaired and replaced lights at the skate park to assist us in curbing vandalism at that park.
- Tree removal, pruning and general cleanup were done at several of our parks in December. We will continue working on several trees in our parks in the next few months.