

- Ten (10) groups used the Hughes Center during June for a total of 186 hours. Events included the Friends of the NRA Banquet, three events by the Pope County Library and a visit by our friends the Bike and Build group on their way from the east coast to the west coast.
- The Parks Commission did not meet in June. The next schedule meeting is at noon on Thursday, July 14 at the Hughes Community Center. The public is invited to attend.
- The department had 26 pavilion reservations and 11 pool party reservations in June. A very busy month for pavilion use at our city parks. We are glad to see the community utilizing our parks.
- The ASA Youth District tournament was held on June 10 and June 11 at Pleasant View Park with 47 teams participating this year. The ASA Youth State tournament was held the following weekend with 26 teams.
- 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.
- 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 15 before continuing their ride. Thanks goes out to McDonalds for providing breakfast. Also thanks to Jeff Priore the local sponsor. We look forward to seeing the Bike and Build folks again next year.
- Two sessions of the Department's Learn to Swim Program were held in June with 94 kids participating. There is one more session scheduled for July. Gary Knudsen, Danya Johnson, Brett Kelley and all the instructors are doing a great job helping area youth learn to swim. We strongly recommend that everyone learns how to swim in the River Valley.
- The Russellville Youth Baseball Association hosted the USSSA 9AA State Tournament on June 24 – 26 at M.J. Hickey Park. There were 22 teams from all over the state in Russellville participating in the tournament.
- The Russellville Boys & Girls Club swim team "The Sharks" began practicing at M.J. Hickey pool in June. 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. The Sharks swim meet is scheduled for July 15 at M.J. Hickey pool.
- The Arkansas River Valley Amateur Radio Club held a field day operation at Washburn Park on June 25 and June 26. To prepare in case of a catastrophic event, the group participates in a 24 hour emergency preparedness event where equipment is set up and the group communicates with people across the nation and the world.
- James School Park basketball courts were updated with new metal halide sport lights on the south courts. The additional lighting will not only benefit the public with more lighted courts but assist in the development and operation of their basketball league.
- The controller at the splashpad was changed to a simpler and more efficient model. The splash pad has experienced heavy use its first couple of months of operation in 2016. It has been a well received addition to City Park.

- Keener Construction has completed setting the curbs for the parking lot at Veterans Park. We hope to have the lot completed in July or August so we can move forward with phase two of the project.
- Monthly storms blew over a large pin oak at Veterans Park and blocked two portions of the walking trail. The tree was removed and the area cleaned and made safe for use.
- Two large pine trees at the Hughes Center were removed for safety reasons after one was struck by lightning in April and the other was infested with pine beetles.
- There were two incidents of vandalism in the month, one at the skate park and one at City Park. Both were graffiti and both cost us manpower, time and supplies to repair. We remind the citizens to get out and use your parks as vandals usually won't do anything when people are present.
- Someone drove through about fifty feet of fence at the northeast corner of Vick field. The repairs will be made as soon as possible. The area was made safe at the time of discovery.