



**Recreation & Parks
Department Report
July 2017** *mark*

- Thirteen (13) groups used the Hughes Center during June for a total of 128 hours. Events included Friends of the NRA Banquet, Arkansas Blood Institute Guns vs. Hoses blood drive and parties for the Gutierrez, Gonzales and Lopez families.
- The Parks Commission met on June 8. Minutes are available for viewing on www.russellvillearkansas.org
- The department has 16 pavilion rentals and 12 pool party reservations in June.
- The grand opening of the Russellville Aquatic Center was held on Thursday, June 29. Public swimming was paid for by St. Marys and the community came out in large numbers to see their new facility. There were goodie bags and tee shirts handed out to the public along with commemorative coins. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held at 4:00pm with a large crowd on hand to help open the facility officially. Everyone seemed to have a good time and were pleased with their new aquatic center.
- The ASA Youth District tournament was held on June 9 and June 10 at Pleasant View Park with 53 teams participating this year. The ASA Youth State tournament was held the following weekend with 28 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.
- Two sessions of the Department's Learn to Swim Program were held in June with 81 kids participating. There is one more session scheduled for July 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 which began on June 30 at M.J. Hickey Park. There were 16 teams from all over the state in Russellville participating in the tournament.
- The USSSA 10 & Under and 12 & Under C State Tournament began play on June 30 at Shiloh and Pleasant View Parks with 58 teams participating. The rain on Friday put the field preparation into overdrive. Thanks to Terry Thomas, Assistant Parks Director, Matt Gray, Athletic Director and Alex Garza for putting in the extra effort to get the fields playable for 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 21 at M.J. Hickey Pool.
- The Arkansas River Valley Amateur Radio Club held a field day operation at Washburn Park on June 24 and June 25. 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.
- The annual children's fishing derby was held on June 10 with 68 young fishermen participating. Congratulations to James Lane who won overall heaviest fish and the heaviest fish in the 4 - 6 age group, Harper Price for heaviest stringer in the 4 - 6 age group, Owen Staton for the heaviest fish and Kharley Saul for the heaviest stringer in the 7 - 9 age group, Tyler Gibson for heaviest fish and stringer in 10 - 12 age group. This is one of our favorite events we offer to area youth as everyone has such a good time.
- The water pump for the new soccer complex well was installed. The sprinklers were tested and the system worked well. This will be a great asset to the soccer complex and will allow us to keep the fields green.
- With summer's arrival so have arrived the vandals. A rash of vandalism hit in June with the standard restroom equipment damaged or stolen and a tree was set on fire at James School Park. We urge the public to use our facilities and report any vandalism to the Hughes Center at 479-968-1272.