

- Twelve (12) groups used the Hughes Center during October for a total of 221 hours. Events included Liberty Tax classes, the U.S. Forest Service Employee Day, two fishing tournament events and the city employee appreciation luncheon.
- For the month of October there were fifteen regular parties and four private parties at the aquatic center for a total of 42 hours. Class sessions were held for Try Scuba, Water Aerobics, Tone Zone, Silver Fins and Aqua Zumba for a total of 57 hours. Events in October included a Scuba School, a swim coach safety training and a Pumpkin Plunge which had an excellent turnout. The aquatic center partnered with Drewry Farms, who provided the pumpkins and the aquatic center offered other fun-filled events such as face painting and pumpkin painting.
- The Parks Commission met on October 11. Minutes are available for viewing at www.russellvillearkansas.org
- The department had 14 pavilion reservations in the month of October.
- In safety matters, the department performed inspections on all fire extinguishers, vehicles, offices and all park buildings. A fire drill was conducted at the Hughes Center. All first aid kits were inspected and restocked.
- Park employees attended the annual safety review of hazard communication on October 16 at City Hall.
- The softball season wrapped up play in October at Pleasant View Park. Congratulations to this year's winners Fletcher Oil, Dunham & Faught Ironmen, PFG, Kicking Bases and Cornwell Funeral Home. We appreciate each team that played in our league and hope to see you back in the spring.
- The Russellville Youth Baseball Association (R.Y.B.A.) completed their fall league play in October. There were 16 teams participating this fall. Special thanks to Eric Groff and the RYBA board members who did an excellent job operating the summer and fall baseball seasons.
- KidsFest was held on October 31 at the Hughes Center. Heavy rains didn't slow down all the little ghost and goblins one bit. The Department enjoys providing a safe place for kids to enjoy the holiday. Thanks to the Arkansas Tech Recreation Programming Class, Russellville Fire Department, Pope County EMS, Pope County OEM, U.S. Forest Service, CSI First Tee, Bikers Against Child Abuse, River Valley Arts Center, Arkansas Game and Fish, Russellville Police Department, Pottsville Volleyball Teams, Arkansas Alliance of Bloodhound Search Specialist and the Arkansas State Police.
- The support beams for the new pavilion at Veterans Memorial Park were installed in October. The roof will be installed soon and the project will be completed.
- The lighting project for the upper field at Shiloh Park has been completed. The Department has scheduled the final grant inspection with Michael Sprague, Grant Project Manager from the Outdoor Recreation Grants Program.
- Ritchie Rankin was hired to join the maintenance crew for the parks department. He is a much needed addition to our department.
- TR Santos has resigned his position as director of the aquatic center. He is moving on to a new job in Pine Bluff. The Department wishes him the best of luck.