



*Recreation & Parks
Department Report
January 2019* 11

- Twelve (12) groups used the Hughes Center during December for a total of 177 hours. Events included ANO, Dr. Pugh and the Russellville Fire Department Christmas parties and the Ducks Unlimited New Year's Eve Bash.
- For the month of December there were 16 regular parties and 6 private parties at the aquatic center for a total of 50 hours. Classes in December included Try Scuba, the Arkansas Tech Beginners Swim Class, Tone Zone, Water Aerobics, Silver Fins, and Aqua Zumba for total of 51 hours. A high school swim meet was held on December 15.
- The Parks Commission did not meet in December. Minutes from previous meetings are available for viewing at www.russellvillearkansas.org Commissioner Andy Hatley completed his term on the Parks Commission in December. He served his community well and the Department greatly appreciates his service.
- Our department along with the Caddis Fly Fishing Club and Arkansas Game and Fish hosted the annual Trout Day fishing event on December 1 at Pleasant View Park pond. The Caddis Fly Fishing Club turned out in full force to help give local youth the opportunity to trout fish in the River Valley. This year 150 participants attended the event and fifty free rod and reels were distributed to kids. Special thanks the Russellville Police Department and ATU volunteers for their help at the event. Maurice Jackson, Eric Pratt, Brad Brewer and Carter Witt 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.
- The weather held off to let the annual Christmas Parade proceed on December 6. Winners of this year's parade were Pet Solutions (Grand Prize), Cogswell Towing (Santa's Choice), Bost Adult Development Center, St. John's Catholic School and AR Center for Music Education (Non-Profit) and Dance with Joy Enterprises, Inc., Patriot Transport and Saint Mary's Regional Health System (Profit). The Department wishes to thank the Russellville Police Department, the Leadership Russellville group, ATU student volunteers, Russellville Public Works and the Russellville Fire Department for all of their help. It takes a city wide effort for the parade to be successful.
- A large group of Pickleball players continue to play every morning at the Hughes Community Center. They normally play from 9:00am to noon. Pickleball is a great sport for all ages and new players are always welcome. If you would like more information on the sport, please contact David Laseter, USA Pickleball Association Ambassador at 479-857-1192.
- The maintenance department was busy in December cleaning the parks, mulching leaves and trimming trees.
- The Department received funding from the A&P Commission for a digital marquee for the aquatic center, a pavilion ticket booth for Hickey Park and bicycle racks. Arkansas Valley Soccer Association received funds for soccer goals at the Russellville Soccer Complex.