

Roaming Around Reidsville

By Angela G. Stadler

Public Information Officer

City of Reidsville

As the deadline for this “Roaming Around Reidsville” column was approaching, the City was making plans for a ribbon cutting for the new walking trail extension at Lake Reidsville to be held around the end of June. It reminded me as we slowly return to our new normal after the emergence of the COVID-19 Pandemic that the City is blessed to have a great network of trails for its residents to use.

Walking a trail fills so many of our needs right now, especially in our COVID-19 world. Let’s be honest. Many of us have probably put on a few extra pounds because so much of our activity has been restricted as we have had to stay inside more than normal. Now that the weather has turned beautiful, minus many of those rain clouds we have been experiencing recently, walking an outdoor trail is a perfect activity for those exercising alone or with the family.

The 2.25-mile trail extension at Lake Reidsville is the City’s newest offering, a wonderful addition to the nearly three miles of existing hiking/biking trail. This new natural surface extension goes along the water’s edge by land donated to the City by the Murray family about a year and a half ago. The Dan River Basin Association (DRBA), through funding by the North Carolina Trails Grant program, has spearheaded this project for the City as the organization has sought to help the City develop Lake Reidsville as even more of a recreational source for residents and visitors. Part of that goal is to develop this land as part of the Mountains-to-the-Sea Trail route through North Carolina. The walking trail is just another amenity out at the lake, which already offers disc golf, camping,



The natural walking trail at Lake Reidsville, above, and the Jaycee Trail. below.



boating and picnic areas. And while you're out there, Lake Reidsville is located on the North Carolina Birding Trail so be on the lookout for some of the beautiful bird life to be found on the 750-acre park & lake property.

But you don't have to go to Lake Reidsville to enjoy a good walking trail. In the heart of the City you will find two trails – Jaycee Park and Sherwood. The Jaycee Park Trail is 1.3 miles long and connects Reidsville Middle School and Reidsville High School with the Jaycee Park recreational area. The Jaycee Trail Extension takes you a little farther to lower Jaycee Park located on South Scales Street. Another neighborhood gem is the .78-mile Sherwood Trail that connects Courtland Park to Sherwood Drive.

And if you are looking for more than just exercise and hanging out with nature, you might be interested in the walking tour created by the City's Historic Preservation Commission that highlights historical buildings in Reidsville. Three different tours are included in the informational brochure that is available online on the City's website, reidsvillenc.gov, or at Reidsville City Hall, 230 West Morehead Street.

The "Roam Reidsville" walking (and maybe a little bit of driving) tour showcases historical buildings and attractions in the downtown area. You can use your cell phone to download the QR Code app and learn more about the various sites on the tour. They include Reidsville City Hall, the Municipal Building/Police Department, the Reidsville Branch of the Rockingham County Public Library, the "Budding Future" sculpture, American Tobacco Company, Kelly's Way, the Rockingham Theatre, Mural Park, Market Square/Meet Me at the Square, The Penn House and RCARE/Senior Center. The "Roam Reidsville" informational cards are available at Reidsville City Hall or online, again at reidsvillenc.gov. Look under Planning a Visit on the website and then "Roaming Reidsville" to learn more about all of these tours.

And back in May, we talked about in this column all of the beautiful artwork that can be found throughout the downtown area, which makes for a wonderful walking/driving art tour as well. You can go to riseupreidsville.com and click on Team Reidsville to find information on the Downtown Reidsville Art Tour.

A few other items

Independence Day Celebration.

Don't forget! The Reidsville Parks & Recreation Department will hold a fireworks only celebration this year for Independence Day. Usually held at Lake Reidsville, this year the fireworks will be launched from Jaycee Ballpark beginning around 9:30 p.m. on Friday, July 3, 2020. You won't be able to get into the ballpark, which will be closed to ensure safety during the

launching of the pyrotechnics, but you should be able to see the fireworks in various areas around Jaycee Ballpark.

Downtown Farmer's Market.

While many of the usual City activities have been postponed or cancelled due to COVID-19, the Downtown Farmers Market at Market Square has been open since the beginning of May. You can still get your fresh fruits and vegetables, but realize that entry into the market, etc. will be a little different as visitors must practice social distancing rules. Hours are 7 a.m. until 1 p.m. Saturdays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

And a final reminder!

Don't forget to fill out the 2020 Census! The City of Reidsville was slightly over 58% participation when this column went to press. Census workers will soon start canvassing neighborhoods to reach those residents who have failed to respond. Why do we keep emphasizing how important the accurate reporting of our population in Reidsville is to the City? The Federal Government distributes approximately \$675 billion annually to local and state governments and exactly how much a municipality or State gets is based on population. The more people you have, the more money you get. Receiving such grants can also free up monies that cities can then put toward events such as the Independence Day celebration. It also affects economic development because census data is used by business owners and developers to decide where they will open new stores or expand their operations. And a final reason is that population counts help decide our electoral districts, which affects who represents you on the State and National level. If you've done it already, encourage your neighbors and family to **FILL IT OUT! Go TEAM REIDSVILLE!**