

Roaming Around Reidsville

By Angela G. Stadler
Public Information Officer
City of Reidsville

Parks and recreation in cities has sometimes had a “tough row to hoe.” (For younger readers, that means it can be a large undertaking that is especially difficult.) Why do I say that? Cities provide a variety of much needed services such as water and sewer and trash pickup. They do Code Enforcement and protect their citizens with a police and fire department presence. While many municipalities offer parks and recreation, it is often considered a “nice to have” and is one of the first things to get cut when city budgets are tight.

Yet Reidsville officials have always recognized the importance of parks and recreation in our citizens’ lives. Providing recreational opportunities is a “quality of life” issue for those who live here. What would a City be if it didn’t have neighborhood parks, trails and ball fields in which kids and adults alike can roam and play?

The City of Reidsville is especially lucky to have Lake Reidsville and Lake Hunt. While Lake Reidsville is a City water supply, it is so much more. Opened to the public in 1983, Lake Reidsville is the only municipally owned facility of its kind in Rockingham County. This 750-acre lake and park includes campsites, a quality disc golf course, walking/cycling trails, an amphitheater, basketball courts, picnic shelters and a regulation soccer field. We often refer to it as Rockingham County’s little known gem.

And Lake Reidsville is about to get even better! The Murray Family has graciously donated approximately 40 acres of land adjacent to the lake to the City of Reidsville. This generous contribution opens up a lot of additional recreational properties at the lake. Potential recreational uses include additional trails and camping or, perhaps, something “outside the box.”

The City of Reidsville is currently in a land use planning process to determine how the property can best be developed and managed for public use. Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) is assisting the City as part of the Pathways 2.0 Initiative, which is made possible by the Reidsville Area Foundation and DRBA’s municipal members. The Initiative helps to develop outdoor recreation across Rockingham County.

"It's such an honor to be part of this process," says Jenny Edwards, Program Manager, Dan River Basin Association. "The Murray family has been involved in community meetings from the beginning and



Reidsville Chamber President Diane Sawyer speaks to the crowd gathered for the opening of the Lake Reidsville Trails. A final meeting on a Master Plan for the recently donated Murray property is scheduled for Tuesday, May 15.

provided us with a copy of Margaret Murray's book of poetry, some of which was written about this land. All this is really helping us understand the beauty and family memory of this property. It's a special place."

Two public comment sessions have already been held to create a working master park plan. The lastest was held April 12 at the grand opening of the Lake Reidsville Trails. If you are interested in having a say about the potential uses of this 40-acre piece of property, you still have another opportunity at the final draft review meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 15, 2018. That meeting will be held from 5-7 p.m. at the Reidsville Parks & Recreation Center located at 201 N. Washington Avenue.

If you can't make the meeting, here is a link to the survey that is being done by DBRA and City of Reidsville Parks & Recreation: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MurryPoint>

So far, officials have been pleased with the response from the public and feedback on the possible uses of the property.

"Residents and visitors are excited about the new land donation next to the Lake Reidsville Park," noted Frederick Thompson, Parks & Recreation Superintendent for the City of Reidsville. "They see a great potential to expand the hiking/mountain bike trail and to add several other additional outdoor recreation amenities, confirming that Reidsville is a great place to live."

The addition of the Murray property to Lake Reidsville is only the beginning of the City of Reidsville's recreational plans. As I noted earlier, the Reidsville City Council is committed to not only supplying its residents with the everyday services that a City provides but also enhancing the quality of life for our citizens. But I don't want to give it all away! There will be more in the coming months, most likely highlighted here in Eden's Own Journal, about the City's future plans for recreation.

In other news around Reidsville:

Farmers Market Opens at Market Square.

May 5th launches the season for the Downtown Farmers Market at Market Square. This opening day of the market starts at 7 a.m. and ends at 1 p.m. or until items run out! Visitors to the market will find a variety of items. SNAP/EBT, Farmers Market WIC, Debit and Credit are accepted. Interested in becoming a vendor? You can call Judy Yarbrough at 336-349-1099 to reserve a space. The Farmers Market is held every Saturday, Tuesday and Thursday from 7 a.m.-1 p.m.

Downtown Cruise-Ins Continue Each Month.

A very popular attraction in the City from April until September is the cruise-ins held in downtown Reidsville on the second Friday of each month. Last month kicked off the cruise-ins, which are sponsored by the EZ Street Cruisers Car Club. EZ Street also coordinates the annual car show, which is a big draw at the City's annual Fall Festival in October. Held rain or shine, the cruise-ins feature cars that are from the year 1987 or older. Downtown streets close at 5:30 p.m. for the cruise-ins, which are held from 6-9 p.m. It is a great chance to see some beautiful cars and catch up with old friends. Several of the downtown

restaurants usually stay open for the night as well. If interested in participating, contact Lou at 508-320-8751 or check out www.ezstreetcruisers.com/

Get Your Zumba On!

"Ditch the Workout, Join the Party!" That's right ... "Fitness on the Square" returns to Market Square beginning May 7. This popular class features the Zumba fitness craze. The best part – it's free! Join the class from 6-7 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays, weather permitting. No rhythm required!

Rockingham County Art Rocks!

Don't forget to check out this wonderful fund-raising event which benefits the Rockingham County Arts Council, the Fine Arts Festival Association of Rockingham County and UMAR of Reidsville. At Market Square from 6-9 p.m. on May 11, Art Rocks features an auction of Troutman rocking chairs decorated by local artists. There will also be music, and food and beer/wine available for purchase. For more information, email artrocksinrockinghamcounty@gmail.com.

Single Bass Tourney Scheduled at Lake Reidsville.

Lake Reidsville will be the site of a Single Bass Tournament (three fish limit!) on Saturday, May 12. The cost is \$25 per person. To find out more, call the Lake Store at 336-349-4738.

Spring Rabies Clinic Offered.

The Reidsville Police Department's Animal Control Division is hosting a Spring Rabies Clinic sponsored by Belmont Small Animal Hospital on Saturday, May 12, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. The clinic will be held in the rear lot behind the Police Department located at 220 West Morehead Street. The cost is \$7 (cash only). A three-year vaccination is available if you present a current certificate. All cats and dogs should be brought in carriers or kept on leashes. For more information, you can call the Reidsville Police Department at 336-349-1010.

Movies @ Market Square Begins.

Who you gonna call? The classic *Ghostbusters* from 1984 will be the first offering for "Movies @ Market Square" starting at 8 p.m. (around dusk) on Saturday, May 12. Who can forget this trio fighting off the supernatural demons trying to take over New York? Bring your chairs and blankets for this movie shown on the lawn of Market Square. It's free!

"Paddling Days" with Get:Outdoors.

Get: Outdoors, Reidsville Parks & Recreation, Dan River Basin Association and the Reidsville Area Foundation are presenting "Paddling Days with Get:Outdoors" on Saturday, May 19, at Lake Reidsville. This free event will allow participants to try out one of 50 kayaks or stand-up paddleboards from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the lake, located at 630 Water Works Road. Refreshments will be served. For more info, call Reidsville Parks & Recreation at 336-349-1091 or Get:Outdoors at 336-294-3918. Come out for this fun event at Lake Reidsville!