

# Roaming Around Reidsville

**By Angela G. Stadler**  
Public Information Officer  
City of Reidsville

The City of Reidsville is excited about our economic future as the long awaited Interstate 785, now fully funded and scheduled on the STIP (State Transportation Improvement Plan) by the State, gets closer to becoming a reality. I have been with the City of Reidsville since 1998, shortly after the I-785 designation was approved in 1997. While it was always discussed as a future possibility, efforts in recent years to get the project completely funded have really been advocated by local leaders.



Pictured with their Team Reidsville Interstate 785 shirts at the Reidsville Market Transportation Forum are, from left: Mike Mills, NCDOT Board Chair Mike Fox, Senator Phil Berger, Diane Sawyer, Jeff Garstka, Councilmember Terresia Scoble, Robbie City and Councilman James Festerman.

With some persistent pushing by the City, as well as the invaluable support of Senator Phil Berger, the State has agreed to extend this project to our City's northern most interchange (Exit 153) with pre-construction on the actual lanes to start in 2025. The upgrades of the interchanges will start earlier, in 2020 and 2021. The project has also had the backing of the City of Eden, Rockingham County, Caswell County, the City of Greensboro, Guilford County and the Piedmont Triad Regional Council. Each realizes that the I-785 designation will affect us all positively. It is hoped that Virginia officials will help get the interstate extended to Altavista, Virginia, and beyond.

On Friday, September 13, 2019, the Reidsville Chamber of Commerce and NCDOT hosted a panel discussion of the project at the Pennrose Park Country Club. Answering questions posted by Moderator/Chamber President Diane Sawyer, Senator Berger, NCDOT Board Chairman Mike Fox, NCDOT Division 7 Lead Engineer Mike Mills, Reidsville Councilman James Festerman and the City's Economic Development Director Jeff Garstka gave some historical context for the project, along with the reasons why the Interstate 785 designation is so crucial to the area.

As Senator Berger so eloquently said in a quote that came out in the Reidsville Chamber of Commerce's "Box Score" column, "The I-785 project is vital to the economic future of Reidsville, Rockingham County, and the surrounding area. It will give folks in our region easier and quicker access to more employment opportunities, better access to health care, and more cultural and entertainment options. At the same time, it will enable people from the Greater Triad and beyond to come to our communities to enjoy everything we have to offer, which will help grow our local economies. It has been a pleasure to work together with the leadership in Reidsville and Rockingham County to see this important project become a reality."

The importance of Interstate 785 cannot be overlooked. One, it will allow us to move faster as travelers driving from Reidsville to the Greensboro and Guilford County area and beyond. That same speed and ease will also be experienced by businesses and industries moving product from place to place, thereby making Reidsville and Rockingham County more attractive as industries look to relocate.

"Interstate 785 will be a large part of Reidsville's future success in attracting industry, commercial business and full-time residents," said Reidsville Mayor Jay Donecker in that same "Box Score" column. "Many of our citizens probably don't realize how important it is to have a 'blue shield' highway passing through our city. I want our residents to understand what this project will contribute to Reidsville's short- and long-term sustainability and growth. I also want to stress that the City of Reidsville is one 100% behind this and other road improvements that will enhance our connectivity to other major highways/metro regions of the State and East Coast along with increasing our visibility to businesses and potential residents.

"The Reidsville City Council has always taken action based upon the long-term vision and is a 'Can Do City,'" the Mayor continued. "City Council and staff will continue to advocate for projects such as 785 on behalf of our growing population of City residents. There is always room for one more on Team Reidsville!"

It was definitely a team effort that brought all of this about. Go Team Reidsville! Check out the Reidsville Chamber of Commerce site at [http://business.reidsvillechamber.org/news/details/i-785-box-score-september-2019?fbclid=IwAR1WVrM3zm2EPhy7Hro5cnwTgXAq-Qj2jf1X54evt6\\_M6EnZ0e37RGS8tlo](http://business.reidsvillechamber.org/news/details/i-785-box-score-september-2019?fbclid=IwAR1WVrM3zm2EPhy7Hro5cnwTgXAq-Qj2jf1X54evt6_M6EnZ0e37RGS8tlo) to see the full Box Score and *Rockingham Update* at <https://www.rceno.com/RCENO/video-the-city-of-reidsville-market-transportation-project-forum-september-13-2019/> to see a video of the transportation forum.

### **Reidsville's Fall Jubilee – October 19, 2019**

Team Reidsville, led by Main Street Manager Missy Matthews, is also hard at work on getting ready for Rockingham County's premiere festival, the Reidsville Fall Jubilee. I'm not just bragging (well, maybe a little!), but the Fall Jubilee was named the best local festival in RockinghamNow's 2019 Readers' Choice Awards.

Over 100 vendors will be showcased at the Fall Jubilee, which starts at 10 a.m. and continues until 9 p.m. Homemade crafts will be on hand, along with a variety of items and great gift ideas. And, don't forget all that wonderful festival food, like turkey legs, funnel cakes and more. As usual, the event will include two stages. The Morehead Street stage will highlight local talent in 45-minute slots. You might see someone you know among the ensemble of singers, dancers and performers so don't forget to stop by.



In addition to the local stage, Market Square will be home to several up and coming acts. From 11-12:30 p.m., area favorite **Jacob Vaughan** will start the musical offerings by strumming his own special brand of country music. From 1-2:30 p.m. **Banjo Earth** will make you feel like you are in the Appalachian Mountains. The band's influences range from Bill Monroe to Ravi Shankar so you won't want to miss it. From 3-4:30 p.m. **Radio Revolver** plays both timeless and modern hits that you are sure to remember. Taking the stage from 5-6:30 p.m., the **Megan Doss Band** covers many favorite country tunes as well as

top 40 pop dance hits and class rock 'n roll. Capping off the day of music will be ***Sleeping Beauty*** from 7-9 p.m. They specialize in music from the 70s and 80s up until today's tunes guaranteed to have you dancing the night away at Market Square.

How about the younger members of your family? The Fall Jubilee's Kidz Zone will feature family entertainment, including amusement rides and an expanded "Touch A Truck" area designed to delight. Throw in from noon until 4 p.m. a Petting Zoo, which will make you a hit with your kids!

Lucky City Brewing Company is in charge of this year's car show, labeled the "1<sup>st</sup> Annual LCB Cruise and Shine". The number of entries will be limited to the first 100 cars and open to all classes of vehicles. There will be three judging categories – Mayor's Choice, Fire Chief's Choice and the People's Choice. Registration is only \$10 and check-in starts at 8 a.m. All cars must be in place by 10 a.m. to be judged with actual judging starting at 11 a.m. Trophies will be awarded at 2 p.m.

I like that these classic cars bring a little bit of "history" to the Fall Jubilee, but it won't be the only history on view throughout the day. This year the historic Governor Reid House, the last home of Governor David Settle Reid, will be open for visitors. Take a step back in time to 1881 when this colorful yellow and green house was built. While still occupied for many years after the Reids passed away, the house had deteriorated before being purchased in 1979 by the City's Historic Properties Commission and renovated in the 1980s. Many of the furnishings are original to the house, several of them donated by Governor Reid's granddaughter, Lucile Reid Fagg. The home, located at 321 Southeast Market Street, will be open from 12 noon until 5:00 p.m. the day of the Fall Jubilee. Big Apple Farm Supply will provide transportation via a short "hay ride" to the site or visitors may walk over to the house. Also, outside the house you can see the Reidsville Fire Department's oldest vehicle, a 1919 American LaFrance Pumper, on display. More information will be available at the City's Information Booth located near Market Square. (And get staff on hand to tell you about the City's plans for its 150<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2023 ... can you say Sesquicentennial?)

Truly, the festival should have something for everyone. We hope to see you at the Reidsville Fall Jubilee on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>!

But there are a few other events happening in October ....

#### **Other Upcoming Events:**

- Every Saturday, Tuesday and Thursday, come check out the **Farmer's Market** at Market Square in downtown Reidsville. Fresh vegetables and other offerings are available from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. SNAP/EBT, Farmer's Market WIC, Debit and Credit cards are accepted so make sure to stop by. The Farmers Market ends on October 31<sup>st</sup> so this is your last chance!
- Mural Park will be busy from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, October 4, as some of the downtown merchants, spearheaded by La Boutique's Theresa Moore, celebrate "**Girls Night Out**" for Breast Cancer Awareness. The "Pink Day" festivities will include music at the park and specials offered by those merchants who are open. Try and stop by to support this worthy cause.
- Saturday, October 5: **Junk in Your Trunk** returns to Market Square in downtown Reidsville. The event starts at 8:30 a.m. and lasts until 1 p.m. You must register in advance to participate. Don't forget .... One person's junk is another's treasure! Come check it out!

- Also on Saturday, October 5, the Reidsville Outreach Center will hold its first ever **“Empty Bowls” fundraiser** from 5:30-7 p.m. at First Baptist Church on South Main Street. Bowls are being made and donated by the Pottery Guild and students of Rockingham Community College. Local businesses are donating the soup. I have a special place in my heart for the Outreach Center, one of the three projects that helped the City of Reidsville gain its All-America City designation in 2008.
- City staff will have booths at the **Reidsville Business Showcase**, an annual event of the Reidsville Chamber of Commerce. The public is invited to visit the showcase from 4-8 p.m. on Friday, October 11, held at the Salvation Army on Barnes Street.
- Want to go fishing? Lake Reidsville will host a **Team Bass Tournament** on October 12. The cost is \$50 per team. Call Lake Reidsville at 336-349-4738 for more details.
- A fundraising **disc golf tournament** will be held at the Lake’s Edge course at Lake Reidsville on Sunday, October 13. Participants sign in from 8:30-9 a.m. and tee off at 9:30 a.m. for the “Cash for Casstevens” tourney.
- The Reidsville Police Department is planning **“Coffee with a Cop”** on Wednesday, October 16, at 9 a.m. The location was still to be determined by the time this went to press, but be on the lookout for the site on the City’s social media.
- Lake Reidsville will be the site of the **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Dawg Show** starting at 10 a.m. on Saturday, October 26. Call the Lake at 336-349-4738 for more details.