



*City of Reidsville Press Release – Release Date October 30, 2017*

# Teen Center Program Teaches Youth ‘Budgeting 101’ Skills

*In Collaborative Partnership with First Carolina Bank*

The Reidsville Teen Center on Sprinkle Street isn’t just a place to play games and do homework. Reidsville Parks and Recreation, through the Teen Center, is launching programs designed to engage teens and their families in obtaining career and life readiness.

The latest outreach is “Budgeting 101”, a partnership with First Carolina Bank to help teach youth, and by extension, their families how to make good financial decisions.

On October 17, Miranda Ashley and Susan Harrover of First Carolina Bank met with a group of interested students and their parents, ranging in ages from 8 years to 60-plus, to present an exercise showing them the outcome of their day-to-day spending.

Ashley explained that they used the North Carolina Bankers Association’s Dollars Decision Game.

“The game teaches participants how to create a personal budget while relating their educational level to potential future income,” she said.

Whether they spend their funds on fast food, clothing, transportation, rent or other things, this educational tool shows the youth how their money works.

“This program was important on many levels because it teaches financial literacy that isn’t always stressed enough in today’s culture,” said Quintin Robertson, the City’s Recreation Program Supervisor. “Once an individual has a job and gets a paycheck, outside of spending it on material things, they learn how to invest and make smarter decisions for their future.”



At right, Miranda Ashley and Susan Harrover of First Carolina Bank discuss how to make good financial decisions at a “Budgeting 101” workshop held jointly with the City of Reidsville at the Reidsville Teen Center on October 17. Above, youth and their families play the North Carolina Bankers Association’s Dollars Decision Game.



Teen Center Supervisor Portia Parris has been charged with executing this direction and vision for the Center by helping to provide such life skill, educational and leadership programming. The Center has been involved in several new initiatives, such as the “Road to Success” program stressing career readiness and planning, “Teen Talk” and “Real Talk” about decision making.

Tom Wiggins, Assistant City Manager of Community Services, said this program with First Carolina Bank highlights the use of successful partnerships between the City, community organizations and private businesses to enhance our community’s quality of life and educational opportunities. All of these efforts are part of a larger City initiative that includes employment soft skills boot camps for adults and a continuing partnership with Rockingham Community College.

“We have a vested interest in our teens to succeed in life because it not only benefits them but also it reflects positively on our community as well,” Wiggins noted.

“We appreciate the opportunity to partner with the City of Reidsville Teen Center and look forward to working with them again in the near future,” Ashley said.