

# Roaming Around Reidsville

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Quality of Life! Sometimes these words are thrown around so much that they lose their meaning, especially for cities. But the Reidsville City Council and our City staff have always taken these words very seriously as they continuously attempt to improve what Reidsville offers to our residents and visitors.

I hinted around several months ago in this column about some exciting changes planned for the City's recreational offerings. At the last City Council retreat held earlier this year, staff presented the governing board with some scheduled improvements as well as plans for the future. The Reidsville City Council believes it takes many components to create a robust, vibrant community, and a strong parks and recreation program is vital to creating a wonderful quality of life for our citizens.

So what's new you might ask? If you stop by several of these parks, you will see many improvements that have been completed in recent months, some of which that have been done in recent weeks! Many of the parks have seen upgrades to their basketball courts and either the replacement of our parks equipment or additions. At H.K. Griggs Park, the improvements have included repairing and resurfacing the basketball courts, replacing the main playground unit and adding a two-section swing set with a family swing. If you haven't seen a family swing, both parent and child can ride on it together. Try it out!

A playground unit has been added to Courtland Park, and the slide replaced on the existing playground unit. At Glendale, like at Griggs, the basketball court there has been repaired and resurfaced. Not to be outdone, several of the tennis courts at Jaycee have also gotten a major facelift! Four of the eight tennis courts have been overhauled. These tennis courts are used by the public and the school system as well as the Rockingham County Tennis Association. The paving company also recently paved the parking lot near the tennis courts. For those who use the Jaycee ballfields, this paving is definitely a welcome addition to the park's landscape! Other improvements at Jaycee are the installation of a four-section



**BEFORE AND AFTER PHOTOS** of improvements to the basketball courts at, above, H.K. Griggs Park, and below, Glendale Park.





**NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT** has been installed at H.K. Griggs Park.

swing set appropriate for every age, from infant to adult. Two swings have belts that can make them inclusive for all. Also at Jaycee Ballpark, an outdoor pickleball court is in the process of being added at the upper end of the parking lot. Pickleball is the “in” game, especially among seniors right now. Heated competitions can often be found on the inside court located at RCARE (Reidsville Center for Active Retirement Enterprises).

And, of course, we can’t forget the beautiful restoration of the Veterans Memorial at lower Jaycee Park by local industry Keystone Foods that was dedicated in May of this year.

The upgrades continue at Lake Reidsville, located at 630 Water Works Road. In addition to the new technologically savvy playground equipment installed in 2017, local Boy Scout Hunter Martin as part of his Eagle project has helped install a fishing trail there. A few more finishing touches are being added, like buoys, and it will be complete! We love it when local youth see a need and help improve their local community! The recent addition of new trails at Lake Reidsville, showcased in April, brings the total trail there up to three miles. That would be a nice workout whether you’re walking or biking!

All of these improvements have been rooted in the Outdoor Parks Amenities Action Plan based on the existing network of City parks. Parks & Recreation Superintendent Fred Thompson, aided by staff, has been working hard on this plan, especially in recent months. First, Reidsville’s parks were designated into different categories. We have Citywide Parks, such as Jaycee, Courtland and H.K. Griggs. There are neighborhood parks like those at Barnes Street, Cambridge, Glendale, Oaks and Woodland. Our “specialty” parks are Lake Reidsville as well as our downtown parks, such as Market Square, Mural Park and Kelly’s Way. Another “specialty park” is the Jaycee Recreation Complex, which includes lower Jaycee Park where the basketball courts are located and the ballfield area where our tennis courts and baseball/softball fields can be found. Lake Hunt’s park area is classified as a Rural/Basic Park or Natural Area.

Newer to our “parks system” is the notion that residents can access our school sites. While people have been using the walkways and ballfields located at our schools for many years, the City is now stressing that Public School Playgrounds can be utilized at our area elementary schools, including Monroeton, Moss Street, South End and Williamsburg, when not in use by the school system.

More improvements are in the works! Fred Thompson and the Parks & Recreation Department are looking at grant opportunities for a dog park at Jaycee Park and a community partnership to install a splash pad at Lake Reidsville Park, among others. Thompson is also planning to form a group to gauge

interest in a skate park, also at Jaycee Park. Hopefully, we will have more on these improvements at a later date.

A ribbon cutting for the recently completed improvements is being planned, hopefully, for sometime in August.

We hope you will come out and enjoy the latest improvements to our recreational amenities. We also hope that you'll agree with us that Reidsville is working hard to improve the quality of life for its residents!

In other news around the City, don't miss:

**Lake Reidsville Disc Golf Open on August 5<sup>th</sup>.**

This one-day C-Tier PDGA event includes Open Divisions and AM Divisions. Tee time starts at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 5. To learn more about the event, you can visit the links on the PDGA's Event Schedule or visit Discgolfsce.com or email the coordinator Tyson Harton at [tyson99duke@gmail.com](mailto:tyson99duke@gmail.com).

**Ice Pop Cool Down & Bicycle Registration on August 8<sup>th</sup>.**

The Reidsville Police Department will be holding an "Ice Pop Cool Down: Bicycle Registration" at Courtland Park between 2-4 p.m. on Wednesday, August 8. It's a great way for the officers to connect with the kids and get those bicycles registered!

**Downtown Cruise In on August 10<sup>th</sup>.**

These monthly cruise-ins are sponsored by the EZ Street Cruisers Car Club. 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. If interested in participating, contact Lou at 508-320-8751 or check out [www.ezstreetcruisers.com/](http://www.ezstreetcruisers.com/)

**"The Lion King" Hits the Big Screen at Market Square August 11<sup>th</sup>.**

Hakuna Matata! No worries because the "Movies @ Market Square" series continues in August, featuring the Disney classic, "The Lion King". Bring your chairs and blankets for this free movie shown on the lawn of Market Square in downtown Reidsville on Saturday, August 11, starting around 8 p.m. (dusk).

**Night Catfish Tourney @ Lake Reidsville August 11<sup>th</sup>.**

If movies aren't your thing, head on over to Lake Reidsville, 630 Water Works Road, which will be hosting another Night Catfish Tournament. The hours are 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Saturday, August 11, and the cost is \$10 per person. Call the lake at 336-349-4738 if you have any questions!

**Kickball with Cops on August 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Who doesn't love a good game of Kickball? Especially when you're playing it with some of Reidsville's finest! That's right ... youth are invited to play "Kickball with Cops" on Wednesday, August 15, at Lake Reidsville, 630 Water Works Road. The event is planned from 2-4 p.m.

**Back to School Bash on August 17<sup>th</sup>.**

The Reidsville Police Department is planning a "Back to School Bash: School Safety Info" event at Market Square in downtown Reidsville on Friday, August 17. Bring the kids from 12-2 p.m.

**Bluegrass comes to Market Square on August 25<sup>th</sup>.**

"Music on the Square" in August at Market Square in downtown Reidsville showcases the popular Bluegrass playing of *The Trailblazers*! The Wilkesboro-based band will be hitting the stage from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Bring a chair! It's free! And the Beer Garden sponsored by the Reidsville Chamber of Commerce will be open!

**Other Happenings at Market Square.**

And as usual, the Downtown Farmers Market at Market Square continues every Saturday, Tuesday and Thursday from 7 a.m.-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.

**Get Your Zumba On!**

As usual, "Fitness on the Square" continues from 6-7 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays, weather permitting, at Market Square. No rhythm required! And it's free!