

Roaming Around Reidsville

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Over the next year or so downtown Reidsville will be transformed by a streetscape project recently approved by the City Council. Staff members have been working for months on the proposal, which was first presented to Council at its retreat earlier this year. The end result will be an even more beautiful downtown area.

Based on a plan developed by Insight Architects for the City back in 2005, the project will not only improve the downtown's aesthetics, it will also help eliminate some existing problems that have occurred along Scales Street over recent years. One of the first phases of this plan will address a sinking issue experienced at Mural Park located at the corner of Scales and Gilmer Streets. Fencing has barricaded part of the park area for several months, and this project will not only fix this problem but also replace the beautiful brick pavers there. The retaining wall will need to be rebuilt and shrubbery removed, but Mural Park will remain a focal point of the downtown area, even better than ever.



Crepe Myrtles, similar to those shown here, are planned for Scales Street as part of the streetscape project.

The project also will upgrade and replace asphalt and decorative stampings found in the 100 and 200 blocks of South Scales Street and remove and replace existing sidewalks along the street. As many have been aware, the City took down the trees along the street because their roots had grown so large underground that they had made the pavement uneven and a tripping hazard. Some of the tree roots were making their way into existing storefronts so a solution needed to be found. This project will make those much needed repairs while also repaving South Scales and Gilmer Streets as part of the process.

Existing light poles will be replaced with decorative light poles with banner arms and electrical boxes. These changes will help the City in a variety of ways as we can use these poles for appropriate signage and to help provide electricity during street festivals and the like. Looking ahead, the City also thought this would be a good time to review and upgrade the electrical and fiber options on both sides of the street. Downtown cameras and the current free downtown Wi-Fi access points will also be replaced and upgraded.

As the trees were removed downtown, some people commented on the bareness while others have liked that more of the buildings could be seen. The City's plan is to replace those previous trees with 28 Crepe Myrtles and border grass. Crepe Myrtles were selected because their roots system are not as aggressive. Well lights around the bottom of each tree will provide up-lighting and maintain that lovely picturesque view that people enjoyed so much when the trees were adorned with white lights at night. Unfortunately, this will mean that the decorative planter boxes will have to be removed, but the City plans to reuse them at our local parks, Lake Reidsville and in our proposed Depot District.

Once the project begins, it is estimated to take anywhere between 8-18 months. City staff will be able to do some of the work, but current staffing and material availability may impact the project. As roads are paved and sidewalks are replaced, we know there may be times when our citizens will be inconvenienced. Please, bear with us. Once it's done, we have no doubt that downtown Reidsville will prove to be even more of a lovely destination spot for visitors and a source of pride for our residents.

In other news in and around Reidsville:

Visual Art Program at Teen Center

The Visual Art Program continues at the Teen Center, 506 Sprinkle Street, with mural and kitchen painting on April 29th and May 1st from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. The event is open to teens and adults who want to help out.

Fire Hydrant Flushing Starts May 2

The Reidsville Fire Department will begin flushing fire hydrants throughout the City starting Monday, May 2, weather permitting, which will continue over the next several months. This flushing, needed to clear sediment from water lines and to ensure hydrants are functional, may create some dingy water briefly. Be careful washing clothes if you know hydrants are being flushed nearby.

Center for Workforce Development Groundbreaking

While this event is in Wentworth, we are happy to see the Groundbreaking Ceremony planned for the Center for Workforce Development at Rockingham Community College. The event is set for 10 a.m. Tuesday, May 3, on the RCC Campus in Parking Lot B adjacent to the main entrance of the campus. If it rains, the program will be moved inside the Advanced Technologies Building's Auditorium.

National Day of Prayer

The United Ministers of Reidsville & Vicinity and the Ministerial Alliance have jointly planned a National Day of Prayer event around the flagpoles in front of Reidsville City Hall at noon on Thursday, May 5. All citizens are welcome to join and pray for our nation.

Shred It Event

The Reidsville Appearance Commission is bringing back this popular event set for 9 a.m. until 12 noon on Saturday, May 7, or until the truck is full. The RAC, in conjunction with the City of Reidsville, will host this

free shred event in the parking lot behind Reidsville City Hall. Those with items to shred should enter the parking lot from North Main Street. Bins will be provided to dump documents into, but no plastics or boxes are allowed, only paper products. Come early to make sure you get those documents shredded!

Rabies Clinic

The Reidsville Police Department will host a Rabies Clinic in the parking lot behind the PD and City Hall from 2-4 p.m. on Saturday, May 7. Cost is \$8 cash per animal. Please make sure your animal is confined, cats either by crate or carrier and dogs by lease, to ensure everyone's safety.

2nd Downtown Fridays Returns

The annual Car and Motorcycle Cruize-In returns to downtown Reidsville beginning Friday, May 13, and continuing the second Friday of each month through August 12. The event, set for 6-8:30 p.m., will feature music, food and games for the kids. The Chamber of Commerce will provide a beer garden.

Lake Reidsville Fishing Tournaments

Fishing tournaments are planned at Lake Reidsville, 630 Water Works Road, in May. A Bass Tourney is set for May 14th and a Catfish Tourney for May 28th. Call Lake Reidsville at 336-349-4738 for more details.

Youth Volleyball Registration.

Youth Volleyball for ages 7-17 registration is under way. Interested parties can go to the following link, <https://apm.activecommunities.com/reidsvillerec/home>, to sign up. Check out the Reidsville Parks & Recreation Facebook page for updates on ongoing programs and events or you can call 336-349-1090.

Rockingham County Senior Games

The games are continuing throughout Rockingham County until May 19th with some events scheduled at RCARE here in Reidsville. Check out RCARE's Facebook page for updates.

"Fitness on the Square" on Mondays

"Fitness on the Square" with free Zumba classes started back in April at Market Square in downtown Reidsville. Every Monday, weather permitting, through June 27, you can exercise with Certified Instructors provided by the YMCA. Times are 6:30-7:30 p.m. "Fitness on the Square" is sponsored by Cone Health/Annie Penn Hospital and the YMCA, along with TEAM REIDSVILLE. For more info, call the Events Hotline at 336-347-2381 or go to downtownreidsville.gov.