

TENNIS TALK October 2015
Submitted by Shelby Rhyne
Executive Director of RC Tennis Association

TITLE: There are NEW Tennis Courts in town at Williamsburg Elementary School in Reidsville

In six short hours on Friday September 11, Rockingham County gained FOUR new tennis courts. What???

These courts appeared under the watchful gaze of 500 Williamsburg Elementary students and teachers as they walked to and from the nearby playing fields. "What are they doing?" they asked. On the asphalt playground, Court One's Brian Wright and Josh Herndon carefully measured, taped and painted the lines for FOUR new tennis courts. The courts are 18 feet wide and 36 feet long. Young children (and their families) play on these smaller courts with shorter rackets, lower nets and larger, lower bouncing balls that are red and yellow...thus "a red ball court". This is the official USTA tournament court for all players age 8 and under.

Tennis magic happens when the court, racket and balls are "just right" for our young players. From almost the first moment two children pick up their rackets, the red balls begin to move back and forth across the net. Since the court is only 18 feet wide, they can easily run from side to side to return a ball. The service box is almost as long as the court so they are successful beginning a point with a serve. They have fun keeping score with clothes pins, playing cards, dice or the traditional tennis scores of love-15-30-40-deuce and ad. If hitting the ball over the net is too challenging, young players roll the ball under the net and still achieve "serve, rally, score" that is the definition of the game of tennis.

Funds for these four youth tennis courts were provided by a USTA 10 and Under (36' and 60') Line Grant with matching funds from NC Tennis and RC Tennis Association. This summer, RC Tennis partnered with the Reidsville Area Foundation and NC Tennis to give away over 200 youth tennis rackets and balls to young Kids Tennis Club players at six summer day camps. Another 300 youth sized rackets have found their way into four RCS elementary schools for PE classes and seven Kids Companion after school child care locations.

Providing equipment and new courts are two of the ways that we help Rockingham County "find themselves in the game".

For more information about tennis for all ages in Rockingham County, go to our webpage at www.rockingham.usta.com and follow us on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/RCYouthtennis](https://www.facebook.com/RCYouthtennis).