



The Northside Voice

Cleveland Academy Makes History



Under the leadership of Dr. Marquice Clark and a dedicated faculty and staff, the children of Cleveland Academy of Leadership made history with the school's first "excellent rating" since its inception more than 20 years ago. The announcement came on October 16, 2023, amid a cafeteria full of parents and supportive community residents. In conversation with Mrs. Alanda Posey, who is the Curriculum and Instructional Advisor, she stated that there are several quantifiable reasons for the success: A). Strong support for faculty B). Students meeting with academic coaches weekly. C). Students receiving an additional 2 hours of structural support weekly D). Educators collaborating to build "oasis of trust" with students E). The ability to make strategic changes that support continued improvement along the way to success. Mrs. Posey went on to say that within structural cycles, students decide what is working for them and this leads to what is referred to as "success criteria". Accountability on behalf of the students is required and when each class meets its goals, students choose how they will celebrate their success. Dr. Clark has set goals to improve student efficiency in math by 70%, reading by 60%, and science by 60% by 2030. We are extremely proud of our students' achievements and the leadership at Cleveland Academy of Leadership. Go Tigers!



Voyagers Park Becomes a Reality !



On Monday, October 16, 2023, the long-anticipated Voyagers Park became a reality for the Northside community. The Northside Voyagers, along with community partners, stakeholders, and residents held the dedication ceremony on a day filled with memorable events. Located on Franklin Street near The Cleveland Academy of Leadership and adjacent to The Franklin School (early childhood development center), Voyagers Park will serve as a reminder to existing residents of the community's past, the importance of volunteerism now, and an inspiration to future generations to come. Mr. Gene Burgess with Burgess Enterprises and his team of dedicated professionals crafted the iconic sculpture that stands on site. Many hours were spent to ensure that the park was the representation that the Voyagers envisioned. The sculpture was inspired by the Voyager logo. The Voyagers are grateful for The Northside Development Group, Burgess Enterprises and all those who helped make Voyagers Park a reality for the community.

Saving for Success

For the past three years, Cleveland Academy of Leadership has partnered with Carolina Foothills Federal Credit Union to provide financial literacy education for its students so that the next generation is prepared to make wise decisions regarding money. The program is known as “Saving for Success”.



The Cleveland Opportunity Foundation, which provides opportunities to students beyond what the district supports, has adopted this program to incentivize students and families to invest in saving for their children’s education. Every Tuesday morning, Carolina Foothills Federal Credit Union receives and records deposits made by students/parents who have enrolled in the program. This weekly event creates interaction between the students and a bank officer that helps students and parents better understand the process. In the Spring of the year, March Madness is held to promote the program, and deposits made are matched up to \$100.00. The “Saving for Success” program has seen much success with those participating. If you would like more information, please contact Terri Hendrix at Carolina Foothills Federal Credit Union at www.carolinafoothillsfcu.coop or 864.594.4534 direct.

Block Party: Back by Popular Demand!



Northside Development Group held its second community block party on September 30, 2023, at 501 Howard St. - Northside Station. This year’s event had a two-fold purpose: to engage the community and support operations at Northside Development Group. QL from the radio station 104.5 “the block” emceed the event which included concert stage performances by Mad Music and the Pettinelli Group. Along with a variety of vendors (including Start:Me graduates), there were foods prepared by Chef Bill of the Monarch Café, food trucks, children’s games, face painting, live dancing, Parks and Recreation Play Mobile and fitness instruction from Courtney Denise Lyles. Community partners and stakeholders joined residents in the 4-hour celebration which had as its goal to bring more interaction within the community to get “neighbors knowing neighbors”. The event was a huge success and NDG is looking forward to hosting next year’s block party. If you are interested in being a sponsor, contact Isaac McJimpsey at 864.529.5743 or isaac@spartanburgndg.com.

New Church Comes to The Northside

After 13 years of meeting at various locations throughout Spartanburg, Grace Presbyterian Church will soon make its home in the Northside community. Grace Presbyterian was born out of Mt. Calvary Presbyterian Church of Walnut Grove in the county of Spartanburg. The church building was purchased in 2021 after seeking a location downtown, preferably

near a college campus. With the stated purpose of “reaching people for Christ and equipping them to be servants”, lead Pastor Justin Kendrick also stated that Grace Presbyterian is a church that loves the Spartanburg community and will work diligently to create more economic and racial diversity amongst its congregation. Renovations at the Northside location have already begun and will continue until July of 2024, with an anticipated move-in date of August 2024. Staff will include Christy Evans- Director of Women and Children Ministries, Ethan and Claire Greer- Directors of Youth Services, and Eric Sparks- Minister of Music. The congregation is currently meeting at the Chapman Cultural Arts Center in downtown Spartanburg. For more information go to www.gracespartanburg.com



Voyager Spotlight

In the “Voyager Spotlight” for this edition of The Northside Voice is Mrs. Monique Watson. Mrs. Watson was a graduate of the third cohort to become a Northside Voyager. Joining the team 2018, Mrs. Watson has been an unwavering advocate for social justice for all residents of the city of Spartanburg. As a resident of the Southside, Monique became a Northside Voyager through the idea of exporting the Voyager concept to other communities in similar conditions as the Northside, with the goal of providing leadership and advocacy where none existed. In her volunteer efforts, Mrs. Watson works with Second Harvest/Metrolina Branch which provides food bi-monthly to residents of Spartanburg County and surrounding areas. Through her service as a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Monique advocates for those in need of mental health services and the support systems available. She serves as co-chair for the Live Healthy Spartanburg Policy Council, as well as the Southside Sankova Committee which focuses on the redevelopment of the Southside community. “To whom much is given, much is required” is Monique’s guiding anthem and she believes in supporting those who give by pouring into their cups. The Northside Voyagers are proud to have Monique on our team. Congratulations Monique!



START:ME EXPANDS



On Saturday November 11, 2023, the City and County of Spartanburg sponsored “Doing Business in The Mix” in downtown Spartanburg. This collaborative effort was orchestrated to promote a thriving economy through the support of small minority businesses. 40 vendors participated and provided information about their businesses and what they offer to promote entrepreneurship. This family-friendly event featured children’s activities, music, food trucks, and a variety of specialty items offered for purchase by participating vendors. The list of participating organizations includes The Northside Development Group, Amplify, PowerUp Spartanburg, Leap, LISC, BEMC, Minority Business Connect, One Spartanburg, City and County of Spartanburg, Village Launch, YMA, and SCACED (South Carolina Association for Community and Economic Development). Start:Me Spartanburg has over 100 graduates and with this collaborative effort, the hope is to expand small minority business ventures throughout the city and county of Spartanburg. Plans are to have another event in the Spring of 2024.



NEW MEMBER JOINS NDG TEAM



In June of 2023, The Northside Development Group hired Ms. Precious Rivers as the latest addition to the team. In her role as Office and Programs Coordinator, Ms. Rivers will ensure scheduling and administrative duties are carried out efficiently. She will also assist community residents in obtaining available resources for long term sustainability purposes. As a former employee of the Spartanburg County Solicitor's Office, where she served as a paralegal assistant and program director of the Solicitors Worklist Check Unit, Precious brings a wealth of experience to her new role at NDG. Ms. Rivers loves interacting with all people and takes pride in supporting the upward mobility of the Northside residents. In her off time, Precious enjoys singing with her church choir, time with family and friends, and supporting worthy causes throughout the greater Spartanburg community. Her personal motto is "treat people the way you'd like to be treated". The staff at NDG enjoy interacting with Ms. Rivers and see her as a welcomed and important addition to our mission.



BirthMatters: Changing Lives

BirthMatters is a small yet impactful organization that plays a crucial role in the Spartanburg community. With over 15 years of dedicated service, BirthMatters offers doula and prevention services that have had a significant impact. The organization has served over 500 families and more than 8000 youth since its inception. With approximately 400 infant deaths and 14 maternal deaths reported annually in South Carolina, there is an urgent need. As a comprehensive wrap-around service, BirthMatters provides a wide range of resources to support its clients, including therapist (at no cost), breastfeeding support, culturally congruent care, and referrals. BirthMatters is located within the Northside community, specifically in partnership with The Northside Development Group. This partnership holds great value in the community as it provides a central location where community members can easily access a multitude of resources in one block. For more information about BirthMatters and how you can support this organization, contact amber@birth-matters.org or 864.692.4784.

REDEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Northside Development Group continues to collaborate with community development partners to provide both market rate and affordable housing. With some developments still on the drawing board, others are underway. NDG's partnership with Oak and Ave. Property Group has yielded 11 new single-family home builds for the Northside community.

A proposed project to build 18 townhomes with Oak and Ave. Property Group is in the final stages of negotiations, with 30% of those dwellings to be sold as affordable units. Mr. Raymond Davis, CEO of Habitat for Humanity, announced recently that the organization will be adding a total of 6 home builds in '23 and '24 to add to an ever-growing stock of homes created through partnership.

Carolina Foothills Federal Credit Union has partnered with NDG and The Cleveland Academy of Leadership to build 3 new homes for the families of children who attend the school. Village at Creekside is underway and will consist of 31 units of mixed-income housing including brownstones, townhomes, and single-family dwellings. Although home ownership is one of the main objectives of the Northside Initiative, the desire for rental units has also been expressed by the community.

A Phase II project of townhome rentals is slated to begin soon with Montgomery Development Group of Spartanburg, to address those needs. The Northside Development Group congratulates all those who have become new neighbors through these partnerships and will continue to assist those desiring the opportunity to become a part of this burgeoning community.

For more information on the home ownership program, contact Gigail Petty at gigail@spartanburgndg.com or call (864) 598-0097, ext. 7.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming events

Start:Me 2024 Cohort 8- January 16- April 16, 2024

Check out our calendar of events at

NDG EVENTS CALENDAR – Northside Development Group (spartanburgndg.com)

