

The Northside Voice

Spring 2019 : Issue No. 12

Star Mill Project Goes to Design Review Board

The restoration of Star Mill, located at 170 Arch Street behind the future T.K. Gregg Community Center, began its early stages in February as Spartanburg's design review board took a preliminary look at the plans for the future of the building. The project design is not yet finalized but the developer does not envision major renovations and the building will retain its industrial feel. Originally the Star Hosiery Factory, the plans are to convert the building into office space.



NDG Receives 2019 Forever Green Award

ForeverGreen is an annual event that celebrates individuals and organizations for significant contributions in fields related to conservation and sustainable growth. At the 2019 ForeverGreen awards luncheon the Northside Development Group won the designation as Land Planning & Policy Champion of the year. NDG was recognized for our efforts in creating a strong and sustainable community. Upstate Forever, the group that hosted the event is a nonprofit conservation group in Upstate South Carolina that works to balance growth with the protection of natural resources.

Grand Opening of FACEZ

On February 19th, Start:ME graduate Cynthia Watson opened her cosmetology business, FACEZ by Cynthia. Friends, family, Start:ME classmates and mentors surrounded the new owner for her ribbon cutting at the new location at Venus Beauty Supply downtown Spartanburg. "This is a big step for one person, an important step for this community that we continue to build entrepreneurial businesses, particularly in the minority community," Bill Barnet, chairman of the Northside Development Group said at the event.

Cynthia received almost \$25,000 in business loans through CommunityWorks Microbusiness Loan Program, (including \$5,000 backed by NDG and the Start:ME program) to kick start her business and open her new location in partnership with Venus Beauty Supply in downtown Spartanburg.

"Facez by Cynthia" can be found at 127 E. Main St. inside Venus Beauty Supply. The business offers threading, waxing, eyebrow tints, eyelash tints and lash extensions 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturdays and by appointment on Mondays. Congratulations Cynthia!



CommunityWorks' launched the Microbusiness Loan Program in 2013 to fill a need in the entrepreneurial community for safe, affordable, and accessible loan capital for start-up and existing businesses. CommunityWorks' has helped over 162 businesses access \$3.9 million in loans for machinery, equipment, inventory, leasehold improvements, and working capital.. To learn more about CommunityWorks visit www.communityworkscarolina.org

Start: ME Class of 2019

The Start:ME program, an entrepreneurship accelerator program, works to train, fund, and promote local small businesses. During each 14-week term, mentors oversee 15 entrepreneurs to perfect their business plans, sales pitches, and product features.

Along with training and mentoring, the Start:ME program hosts community feedback nights that invite participatory sharing from local businesses to help Start:ME entrepreneurs hone their target clients, brand messaging, service offerings, and constructive comments. The extensive workshops culminate in a showcase celebration that launches the members on their business journey.

A key feature of the Start:ME program is access to capital through loans for top participants. In 2018, three entrepreneurs were selected to receive up to a \$5,000 loan, along with connecting all of the participants with local connections and relationships to help them succeed.

Programs like Start:ME help bridge the gap between the dreams of our talented, driven neighbors and the grand opening of budding local businesses.

For further information, check online at www.spartanburgNDG.com



IB Industries, New Construction Business in Spartanburg

Lauren Rodgers, a graduate of the Start:ME program and the Construction Training Program has opened her new construction business, IB Industries. Inspired by her grandfather (who was a construction worker) Lauren went through the Spartanburg Construction Training Program, a partnership between Spartanburg Regional Hospital, Spartanburg Community College, and the Northside Development Group, that offers classes, internships, and certification through the NCCER.

With skilled workers becoming harder to find, the Construction Training Program has become essential to providing enough trained workers and leaders (like Rodgers) to keep up with the market in Spartanburg. Rodgers employs 8 people, and has won contracts with several local projects, including a sub-contract on the Northside Phase One project located at the corner of Howard and College Streets.



New City Leaders

Beginning in October, 2018, the City of Spartanburg has hired a new City Manager: Chris Story. Chris has been an advocate of the Northside Transformation from the beginning, and now serves on the Northside Development Group's Board of Directors. Chris has a background in local government and a history of service to Spartanburg, having served as Assistant City Manager since 2009, and assistant Spartanburg County Administrator prior to working with the City.

With Chris Story's move to City Manager, Mitch Kennedy was hired as the new Assistant City Manager. He was previously Director of community services for the city. Kennedy serves on many local organizations and is an active leader in the Spartanburg community.

Congratulations to Chris and Mitch!

C Community Spotlight

Yard of the Month Contest



Congratulations to Mrs. Teresa Wray, honorary first recipient of the Donald L. Wray Memorial Yard of the Month Contest. During his time in the Northside Mr. Wray took great pride in having a beautiful home and well kept yard, planting flowers and grooming them into a lawn anyone would be happy to have as their neighbor. This program is a collaborative effort between the Northside Neighborhood Association and the Northside Voyagers to recognize community members that work hard to make the Northside a beautiful place to be.

Northside Neighborhood Association

If you are interested in participating in the monthly Neighborhood Association meeting, please call [864-598-0097](tel:864-598-0097). Your participation is vital to giving a voice to the community! Please visit meetings on the second Thursday of every month, 6pm, at the Cleveland Academy media center, 151 Franklin Street.

The Journey Continues

The Northside Voyagers in June will honor the addition of seven new members. The original Voyager team worked together to train new Voyager recruits, preparing them to help lead community engagement and decision making efforts that support the continued journey to "Transform, Transcend, and Triumph" the Northside redevelopment effort.

The new members trained for seven weeks in the "Kai-Zen" method of "becoming good through change" which was the same training as the original Voyagers. With so many new projects underway, the new recruits will be able to assume their new roles as Voyagers with plenty of opportunity for engagement. "We are very grateful that these individuals feel that community service is as important to them as it is to us and have decided to join the team," said Debby Moore, a founding Voyager. The energy and added knowledge they bring will undoubtedly keep us moving forward in achieving our goals and staying focused on the mission and vision set forth for the Northside. When asked her motivation for becoming a community activist, New Voyager Hattie Shippey said "I like helping people, and after seeing what the Voyagers are doing in this community, I wanted to be a part of that."

This will be the third class of Voyagers since 2012. The graduation ceremony took place on May 23rd from 5-6 pm at the Pavilion at Harvest Park, followed by a meet and greet at the Monarch Cafe (498 Howard St.). Please join us in celebrating this event as the journey continues!

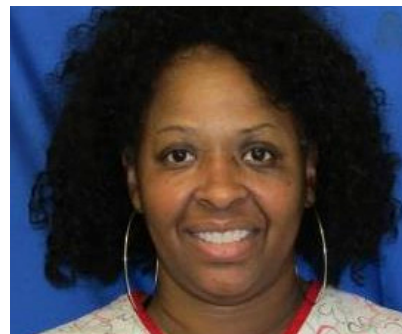
THE NEW TEAM MEMBERS ARE:



Cynthia "Elder" Bell



Rosa Berry



Angela Huey



Minnie Johnson



Hattie Shippy



Jeffrey Shippy



Monique Watson

U Project Updates

Northside's Mixed Income Housing and Mix Use Commercial Development

Work has begun on the corner of Howard and College for the Northside's Mixed Income Mixed Use project. Grading and site work has started on the Mixed Use side of the street which included excavation of rock through blasting and removal of dirt that will be eventually moved across the street on the old parking lot of Spartan Mill to prepare for a 90 unit mixed income apartment development scheduled to start 2nd quarter of 2019.



The first Phase of the development consists of a \$14M Mixed Use project consisting of two buildings at the east corner of Howard Street: the main building and a clinic for VCOM. The main building will have office space on the first floor that will include offices for Access Health, NDG, and other organizations, with two floors of apartments above, as well as a portion dedicated to Wofford College's Community Sustainability program. Wofford's space will have classroom and community engagement space for students and community partners with housing above. The Mixed Use development will be complete early 2020.

Dr. T.K. Gregg Community Center

The official groundbreaking for the new Dr. T.K. Gregg Community Center was held on November 30th. The \$16 million City led project, being constructed by Harper General Contractors, is a collaborative effort between the City, NDG, and other area partners.

In an interview with the Spartanburg Herald Journal, Erica Brown (District 6 Representative) said "The Dr. T.K. Gregg Community Center is about people. It is about our Northside residents, and it is about our residents across the city. It represents more opportunities for a healthier, more vibrant city, It will be about programs that help enrich the lives of our youth, and lift up those in need through our afterschool programs, financial literacy classes and the like."

Construction is expected to be completed in the first half of 2020.



P Program Updates

Employment Available through Construction Training Program

A Construction Training program has been established through a partnership between the Northside Development Group, Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, Spartanburg Community College, SC Works, Spartanburg Chamber of Commerce, and the Upstate Workforce Board. This program offers scholarships for training in various areas of construction, including masonry, framing, drywall, tile work, and other specified building trades. Participants receive an NCCER (National Center for Construction Education and Research) certification. Graduates have the opportunity to enroll in a paid Apprenticeship program offered in partnership with SCWorks and Spartanburg Regional Hospital.

48 participants have taken classes through the program since June 2017. Employment opportunities are **immediately** available after graduation with the potential to earn up to \$22/hour. Plumbers are in particularly high demand.

The Chamber of Commerce is currently taking applications for future classes, which may include Construction Core classes, plumbing, electrical, and other trades. Applicants may be eligible for scholarships. If you already have experience in the construction field, NDG will be assisting Harper Corporation and Creative Builders in taking applications for projects related to the Northside.

For more information please call Terrance Hawes at the Chamber of Commerce (864) 594-5040, or call NDG at (864) 598-0097.

Housing Trust Fund Emergency Repair Program

NDG is dedicated to assisting homeowners in the Northside to stay in their homes. NDG is currently assisting homeowners through the South Carolina Housing Finance and Development Authorities Housing Trust Fund (HTF) program. Homeowners in the Northside with qualifying income may be eligible to receive up to \$8,000.00 in emergency repairs for projects such as roofing, HVAC, and accessibility ramps.

To apply for emergency repairs, please call Carolyn at (864) 598-0097.

The Franklin School: Open!

The Franklin School Early Learning Center officially opened on January 7th with 135 students. Some slots may still be available for 3 year old, and the waiting list is open for children age 6 weeks to 5 years old. The Franklin School is still working to fill a few slots with well-qualified teachers who value creativity and hands-on activities that promote optimal brain development in a loving and nurturing environment



The Franklin School is a full-day, full-year early learning center with the capacity to serve up to 160 children, age 6 weeks to 5 years old, with a focus on early learning through discovery: a holistic child development and learning program, using an evidence based curriculum with STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) inspired classrooms. For more information about the school and enrollment call Shawna Bynum, The Franklin School Director at (864) 586-7130.

E Upcoming Events

June 14th / 10am - 1pm

Spartanburg Regional Hospital Job Fair
HCFM Pavilion, 498 Howard Street

July 6th / 8am - 12pm

Bounce House for Kids
During the Farmers Market at Harvest Park

July 11th / 6pm

Neighborhood Association Meeting
Cleveland Academy Library

July 17th / 8:30am

Northside Advisory Committee Meeting
Cleveland Park Event Building

July 20th / 8am - 12pm

Hot Pepper Day
During the Farmers Market at Harvest Park

July 27th

Southern Chic Wine and Dine - \$50/person
Monarch Cafe

July 27th / 8am - 12pm

Northside Appreciation Day
During the Farmers Market at Harvest Park

August 8th / 6pm

Neighborhood Association Meeting
Cleveland Academy Library

August 17th / 8am - 12pm

Tomato Day
During the Farmers Market at Harvest Park

August 23rd / 6pm - 8pm

Start:ME Alumni Gathering
George Dean Johnson School of Business

September 12th / 6pm

Neighborhood Association Meeting
Cleveland Academy Library

September 18th / 8:30am

Northside Advisory Committee Meeting
Cleveland Park Event Building

D Don't Forget!

Monarch Café

Open Daily
498 Howard Street

Open Tuesday-Thursday for lunch buffet style! Located at 498 Howard Street, they also have groceries and accept SNAP benefits! Anyone that receives SNAP can spend their benefits locally on fresh, healthy foods! So stop by the Monarch Café today to see their wonderful programs, have a snack in the café, and take home some fresh produce for dinner!

Be sure to stay up-to-date on events sponsored by The Butterfly Foundation. Check their website for more information on upcoming events:
www.butterfly-sc.com/events.html

**The HUB City
Farmers Market**
498 Howard Street

The Farmers Market at Harvest park is open for the season! Come visit on Saturdays from 8am-12pm at 498 Howard Street for fresh produce and other vendors!

P Our Partners



Northside Development Group
698 Howard Street
Spartanburg, SC 29303
864.598.0097