

The Northside Voice

Fall 2017 : Issue No. 8

Northside Community Meetings

The Northside Development Group and the Northside Voyagers will be working with Arnett Muldrow & Associates to conduct a branding and marketing initiative for the Northside Neighborhood and its projects.

The purpose of the effort is to create a consistent image for the community and its partners that continues to build on local pride and engagement, uplift and honor the neighborhood history, while also promoting the investment and opportunities for the future Northside. All residents and community partners are invited to

participate in this opportunity to share ideas, historical knowledge, and perspective for the future.

Please come share the Northside history and any new ideas you might have!

OCTOBER 12TH, 6PM

Northside Neighborhood Association meeting in the Cleveland Academy Library; food will be provided.

OCTOBER 20TH, 12:30PM

The Bridge at Green Street, 446 Brawley Street; food provided.

Employment Available Through Construction Training Program

A new Construction Training program has been established through a partnership between the Northside Development Group, Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, Spartanburg Community College, SC Works, and the Upstate Workforce Board. This program offers scholarships for training in various parts of construction, including framing, drywall, tile work, and other aspects of building to receive NCCER (National Center for Construction Education and Research) certification. Graduates have the opportunity to enroll in

a paid Apprenticeship program through Spartanburg Regional Hospital.

5 participants started the program in June, and new classes start in October. Employment opportunities are immediately available after graduation with possible earning potential up to \$22/hour. NDG is currently taking applications for future classes, and applicants may be eligible for scholarships.

Please call NDG at 864-598-0097 to start your application.

Looking to start or grow a small business?

Join Start:ME!

The Northside Development Group, in partnership with USC Upstate Business School, is recruiting for its second 14 week entrepreneurship accelerator program, known as Start:ME Northside. Last year 11 small businesses successfully completed the program, including lawn care, catering, boutiques, cleaning, and hair salons.

The START: ME model works by injecting knowledge, networks, and capital that entrepreneurs in a community need to be successful. The program takes a grassroots effort and connects Northside residents to larger Spartanburg area entrepreneurial resources. The goal is to take an intentional approach to uncover these local entrepreneurs and give them access to knowledge through the business school, mentors through community partners, and capital through a local community development finance institution (CDFI). This program will grow wealth from within the community by helping residents increase earnings and provide job opportunities through their businesses creating a healthier, more economically stable community.

If you have an idea for a small business, or already own a business and want to learn how to help it grow, join us for a free workshop series. Sessions will be taught by Bernell Ingram, an experienced small business trainer, and will be from 6-8:30pm at the Cleveland Academy Library.



Start:ME Northside

Sessions will be taught by Bernell Ingram, an experienced small business trainer, and will be from 6-8:30pm at the Cleveland Academy Library. Sessions will include:

- Defining Your Vision: October 10th, 2017, 6pm-8:30pm
- Developing the Character of a Visionary: October 17th, 2017, 6pm-8:30pm
- Writing the Vision I: October 24th, 2017, 6pm-8:30pm
- Writing the Vision II: October 30th, 2017, 6pm-8:30pm

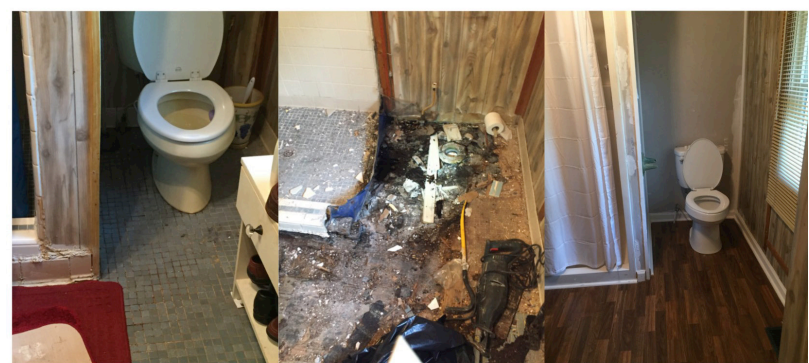
To apply for the more intensive Start:ME, please contact LeKesa Whitner or attend the intro sessions October 10th, 17th, 24th, and 30th.

Housing Trust Fund Emergency Repair Program

In 2015, The Northside Development Group initiated an owner occupied home rehabilitation program to support emergency and minor repairs needed by existing homeowners in the Cleveland Heights area. This program provided funding through a five-year forgivable loan to eligible homeowners in the Cleveland Heights Neighborhood. As of September 2017, 25 homes have been approved for repairs, and all \$325,000.00 funds have been committed to Northside homeowners.

In an effort to continue providing repairs to existing homeowners now that the Cleveland Heights Neighborhood Improvement Program is coming to an end, NDG has gained approval to coordinate emergency repairs 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, accessibility ramps, and many other projects.

To apply for emergency repairs, please call Carolyn at 864.598.0097



Before

During

After

The Franklin School

A new Early Learning Center in the Northside Breaks Ground at the Corner of Howard and Franklin Streets October 2017

The Franklin School, a full-day, full-year early learning center serving approximately 160 children, age 6 weeks to 5 years old, will be built near Cleveland Academy of Leadership.

The Franklin School will 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. Children living in the Northside will be the priority when enrollment begins in 2018. Anticipated opening is January 2019.

JOIN US FOR THE GROUNDBREAKING EVENT

A groundbreaking celebration for The Franklin School will be held at 100 Franklin Street (on the corner of Howard and Franklin) on October 19 at 10:00am. All residents are invited!



Butterfly Creek and Linear Park to Open in November

The previously piped Butterfly Creek runs from College to Preston street behind Harvest Park. Bioretention ponds have been installed in the now free-flowing stream, and mitigation is nearing completion.

Sossoman Construction has installed sidewalks for the walking and biking paths, and the walking bridge on Farley Street (from Howard to Brawley) should be complete at the end of October.

Most of the trees have been removed from the site to make way for the greenway path, with new trees to be planted in December during the final stabilization phase of the project. The new park will run from College to Preston Streets, and create safe walking trails for residents.



Community Spotlight:

The Mary Black Foundation

Founded in 1985, The Mary Black Foundation is a private non-profit organization established to improve the health and wellness in Spartanburg County. The foundation's primary goals are to impact, partner, and invest in people and communities to ensure a stronger community and transformed lives!

The Mary Black Foundation is the lead entity in creating the Franklin School Early Learning Center in the Northside, scheduled to open in January 2019. All of us at NDG are thankful for the Mary Black Foundation partnership. Together we have, and still are improving and transforming lives. We look forward to continuing our partnership!



C In The Community

Northside Neighborhood Association New Leadership

Your Neighborhood Association has new officers!

Elections were held on September 21st to elect a new panel of officers to serve as leaders in your community, providing a voice to issues important to you and your neighbors. Your new officers are:

PRESIDENT
Linda Askari

SECRETARY
Sharika Caldwell

CHAPLAIN
Daniel Montgomery

VICE PRESIDENT
Wanda Cheeks

TREASURER
Sylvia Means

Interested in participating?

If you are interested in participating in the monthly Neighborhood Association meeting, please contact one of your neighbors listed above, or call 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.



Linda Askari,
President



Wanda Cheeks,
Vice President



Sylvia Means,
Treasurer

Landscaping Pilot

A new partnership between the Northside Development Group and Hope Ministries of the Upstate has created a small Pilot Program to help employ individuals with a criminal background in landscaping.

Hope Ministries is a nonprofit that includes a transitional housing facility in the Northside community. Hope Ministries, in partnership with Upstate Superior Solutions, is providing leadership and supervision

for the participants and their work, and the Northside Development Group is providing guidance and work opportunities on NDG owned lots.

The program was only able to accept two participants at this time, for positions starting at \$8.00 an hour. So far participants are very excited to be part of the program, and hopeful that this will help create future job opportunities.



C Changes at NDG

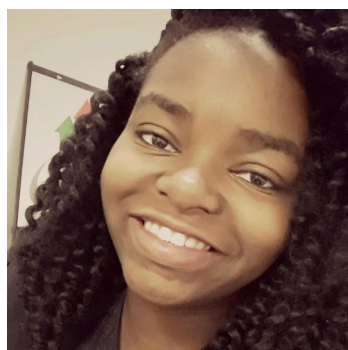
Two New Team Members!

We are glad to welcome two new members to the NDG team: Rebecca and Naomee Williams.

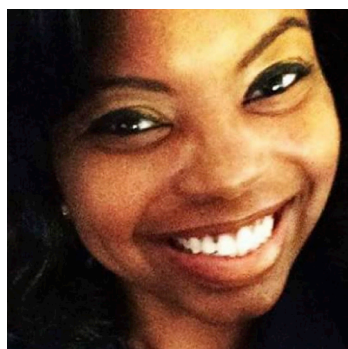
Naomee Williams is resident of the Northside, a recent graduate of Spartan High, and newly enrolled at Converse College. She served as NDG's summer intern, providing assistance in many areas, including general office support and Social Media management. Naomee will continue interning throughout her first semester at Converse.

Rebecca Williams, also a member of the Northside Community, is a recent graduate of USC Upstate with a degree in Business Management. She has come to NDG through the United Way of the Piedmont's branch of the AmeriCorps VISTA program to assist in programs under NDG's Case Manager.

WELCOME TO THE TEAM!



Naomee Williams



Rebecca Williams

Don't Forget!

Monarch Café
Open Daily
498 Howard Street

The Monarch Café's has groceries and accepts 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: butterfly-sc.com/events.html

Farmers Market
Saturdays, 8am-12pm
498 Howard Street

The HUB City Farmers Market runs from April 1 - Dec. 16, 2017 at the Northside Harvest Park.

V From The Voyagers

Voyager Spotlight: Gail Wilkins

Gail Wilkins moved from Greenville to Spartanburg seeking shelter in a home for abused women. The shelter was able to provide help and housing for 60 days before helping her move to independent housing. Due to her age, Gail was placed in the Archibald Rutledge complex through the Spartanburg Housing Authority. Gail has always been outspoken, and was quickly asked by her fellow residents to participate in the Resident Council. She went on to serve as the president for 3 years during her stay. As president, she lead monthly meetings to address the needs of the Archibald community, and helped to convey those needs to the management. Gail has always been protective of vulnerable populations, especially the elderly, and has always put great effort towards ensuring their needs are met. She especially loved being a caregiver to the elderly, and “spoiling her old people”.

At the beginning of the Northside Initiative, Valerie Forsberg (formerly of SHA, now with First Baptist) called a meeting of Archibald residents that were active in the community to participate in a panel of Northside residents that would later become the Northside Voyagers. Gail immediately took to the idea, and used the opportunity to learn more about people and working in the community.

Gail’s hope for the future is that the community will come together to utilize the positive changes being made to lift themselves beyond

any obstacles to love and support one another. She advocates for setting aside distrust and complacency, and has high hopes that the new Franklin School Early Learning Center will help young parents become more involved with their children and the community. She sees education as the key to success, whether it be early in life, or continuing later in life to better yourself.



“Being a Voyager is not about us, it is about the community.”

Upcoming Events

October 12th / 6pm
Neighborhood Association Meeting
Cleveland Academy Library; Food Provided

October 19th / 10am
Franklin School Early Learning Center Groundbreaking
100 Franklin Street

October 20th / 12:30pm
Community Meeting- Northside Branding
Bridge at Green Street (446 Brawley); Food Provided

October 27th / 7pm - 11pm
Freedom Friday Business Mixer
Monarch Cafe; \$10 Entry; food, music, cash bar

November 3rd / 2pm
Butterfly Creek Ceremony
Farley Street

November 9th / 6pm
Neighborhood Association Meeting
Cleveland Academy Library

November 10th / 6pm - 9pm
Cocktails and Cuisine: Thanksgiving Twist Hands On Cooking Class
Monarch Cafe 6pm-9pm
\$35 per person

November 15th / 8:30am
Northside Advisory Committee Meeting
Cleveland Park Event Building

December 14th / 6pm
Neighborhood Association Meeting
Cleveland Academy Library

January 11th / 6pm
Neighborhood Association Meeting
Cleveland Academy Library

January 15th / 8:30am
Northside Advisory Committee Meeting
Cleveland Park Event Building

March 21st / 8:30am
Northside Advisory Committee Meeting
Cleveland Park Event Building

P Our Partners

