

# The Northside Voice

April 2015 : Issue No. 1

## \$7.5 Million in Donations to Aid Redevelopment Efforts in the Northside



On February 6th, the Northside Development Group in partnership with the Northside Voyagers gathered at Harvest Park with the local community partners to announce a total of \$7.5 million in contributions to the Northside Initiative from three highly regarded Spartanburg donors. The Mary Black Foundation, the Barnet Family, and the Romill Foundation graciously provided funding to support the ongoing and future revitalization projects in the Northside neighborhood including the construction of a high quality Early Childhood Development Center and other to be determined projects and resources that supports improving the lives of Northside residents.

## Cleveland Heights Neighborhood Improvement Program Underway

The Cleveland Heights Neighborhood Improvement Program is a City of Spartanburg Northside Initiative owner occupied rehabilitation and neighborhood improvement pilot program provided by the City. In 2014, the Northside Voyagers along with City Code Enforcement staff conducted a street-by-street neighborhood and housing assessment. From the walking surveys the City prioritized initial areas for improvement. As part of the pilot program the City will provide up to \$24,000 in home improvement funding to homes that qualify. There will also be a concentrated code enforcement effort to support neighborhood clean ups. The owner occupied rehab program is currently only available on priority streets and applicants must meet threshold eligibility criteria, which include owning the home, income eligibility and have clear title. The City's current year funds provides enough funding for the pilot program on Fulton and Leonard. Other streets will be prioritized when future funding becomes available. The City anticipates funding for the 2016 Fiscal year. If you have any questions or think that you might be eligible please contact:

**Wanda Logan**, Housing Services Coordinator  
wlogan@cityofspartanburg.org  
864.596.2910



## NOFA Grant Submittal



In October 2013, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded Spartanburg a \$300,000 Choice Neighborhoods Program planning grant, to be used to develop a comprehensive Transformation Plan for the Northside neighborhood. This 400-page plan was completed in October 2014; it embodies the voice of the residents and stakeholders and serves as a road map to a build safe, strong and thriving Northside.

As a follow up to the planning grant submittal on February 9, 2015, the City of Spartanburg, the Northside Development Group, and the Spartanburg Housing Authority applied for a Choice Neighborhood Implementation Grant. This \$21 million grant, if awarded, will serve as a catalyst for future revitalization efforts. The NDG anticipates receiving feedback from its submission in June of this year. In the meantime, the NDG plans to continue leveraging other public and private resources to support the implementation of the Transformation Plan. More information on the results of this grant application process will become available in June of 2015.





# C In The Community

## Brawley Street

(article from Spartanburg Herald Journal)



On December 5th, 2014, six families moved into three, two-unit townhomes on Brawley Street in the Spartanburg Northside. Cambridge Place is a modern complex, which consists of brightly colored, energy-efficient homes with large porches and state-of-the-art appliances. The residents of Cambridge Place completed the Cambridge Institute, as part of SHA's Homeownership and Family Self-Sufficiency Programs. It was in these classes they learned budgeting, home-maintenance, and other skills to become successful homeowners.

The Brawley Street Model Block was funded by a \$1 million federal grant to the Spartanburg Housing Authority (SHA). In addition, the City of Spartanburg funded more than \$220,000 in streetscaping and other infrastructure improvements. This complex is targeted for sale to first-time home buyers in an effort to successfully transition them out of public or subsidized housing. The Brawley Street Model Block is an "early-in" project of the broader Northside Initiative, and represents the type of high quality construction and attractive design of all new residential development to come on the Northside.

Spartanburg Mayor Junie White stated at the Cambridge Place Ribbon Cutting, "This is just the beginning," the Cambridge Place Townhomes are the "new face of the Northside."



## Harvest Park is the Place to Be!



An aerial view of the Northside's Harvest Park.



Monarch Café and Fresh Food Store



Fresh produce in Monarch Café



Wofford College Bonner Scholars and Northside Development Group Interns, Emily Batista and Bre Lillie enjoying fresh muffins from Monarch Café



Northside Voyager Tony Thomas at the grand opening of Harvest Park on November 8th, 2014





## Northside Daylighting the Former “Nasty Branch” Creek, Now Called “Butterfly Creek”

A component of the Northside’s transformation plan involves daylighting a creek that has been paved over and covered up for decades. The creek, known locally as the “Nasty Branch” but to be renamed “Butterfly Creek,” will flow from College Street at Mill Pond Road to Preston Street right in front of the current Oakview Apartments and the future site of the TK Gregg community center.

The plans for daylighting the creek include the creation of a linear park that lies behind Harvest Park, and a greenway to compliment the redevelopment in the area. The planned budget for this project is approximately \$1.2 million, which will be allocated to removing piping from the creek, cleaning the area, and revitalizing the area surrounding the piping. This process is planned to begin this year.



Funding is now in-hand for daylighting the creek and the plans are about 60% complete, with a submitted application for a 404 Permit currently under review by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control (SCDHEC) permits will be applied for upon completion of the planning process. The plans will be completed in early April of this year, and the project will be opened for bids in early May.

## Upcoming Events

### Hub City Farmer’s Market

Saturdays from March 28-December 19 at Harvest Park

### “Voices on the Front Porch” at Harvest Park

Wednesdays 4- 5:30 pm  
May 6, 13, 20 and June 3 and 10

### Cleveland Park Northside Neighborhood Association Meeting

(Every second Thursday at 6pm) April 9 and May 14 at Cleveland Academy

### Young Men’s Barbecue

May 16 at 4-7pm; Chapel Street Park, Sponsored by the First AM Church and the Cleveland Park Northside Neighborhood Association

### Northside Neighborhood Party

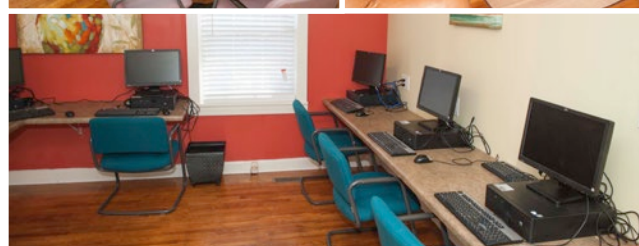
May 30 from 4-7pm at Chapel Street Park

### Northside Advisory Committee Meeting

(Every other 3rd Wednesday of the month at 8:30am)  
May 20 at Harvest Park’s Monarch Café; July 15 at the Cleveland Park Event Center – Lower Level

## A Resource for Students and Residents in the Northside

The PowerHouse, located at First African Methodist Church in the Northside, provides free Internet access and training to local community members of all ages. The 1,200 square foot facility features a lounge area and a collaboration room for group projects, in addition to a computer lab for students for completing homework or browsing the Internet. Site-wide Wi-Fi connection is provided. The programs currently offered at the PowerHouse are adult computer training, a literacy program, and Habitat for Humanity pre-qualification seminars. Hours of operation are 3pm-6pm Monday–Thursday. All community residents are invited to come and learn more about this exciting opportunity to increase computers skills and learn more about technology.



## Our Partners



# V From The Voyagers

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Northside Voyagers is to change the community one brick at a time while remembering its rich and diverse history.

## News

The Northside Voyagers are looking for new members! Anyone interested in joining should email or U.S. Mail the Voyagers with their answers to the following questions:

1. Why do you want to volunteer to be a Voyager?
2. How much time per month can you dedicate to Voyager work?
3. When are you available to begin training to be a Voyager?

The Voyagers are also looking for a musician or artist who will collaborate with a musician from the Spartanburg Philharmonic Orchestra to provide a 90-minute concert at Harvest Park in May and June of 2015. The musician selected will receive \$250.00 for their services.

Any questions can be directed to the Voyagers via the information listed below.



## Contact Information

[northsidevoyagers@gmail.com](mailto:northsidevoyagers@gmail.com)

410 Magnolia St,  
Spartanburg, SC 29303

**Phoenix Miller** – 651.274.9629

**Tony Thomas** – 864.497.8732

**Debby Moore** – 864.541.5631

**Gail Wilkins** – 864.279.5301

**Wanda Cheeks** – 864.266.7882

**Kelly Richard** – 864.357.5099



410 Magnolia St  
Spartanburg, SC 29303  
864.598.0097