

The Northside Voice

May 2016 : Issue No. 4

Neighborhood Initiative Program Update

As mentioned in the last issue of the Northside Voice, the City of Spartanburg has received funding as part of the South Carolina State Housing Finance and Development Authority's Neighborhood Initiative Program (NIP). The aim of this program is to help stabilize communities through the elimination of slummed and blighted properties. Most of these properties have been condemned for some time and have been hotspots for crime. The hope is that, with the removal of these properties, crime will decrease, and the neighborhood will be more stable. The City of Spartanburg is partnering with the Northside Development Group to implement this program. NDG is responsible for the purchasing, asbestos abatement, and demolition of each home. Each home is tested, and cleared of hazardous materials prior to demolition. After demolition, each parcel will have a three-year lien to prepare the site for redevelopment. NDG and the City work to identify the priority sites that will help to alleviate the most blight and improve surrounding parcels. Currently, a total of 14 homes have been demolished. Several more homes are expected to be demolished through this program.

The NDG will be distributing door hangers in areas where demolition will occur to inform residents of houses included in the program and detail the information about the Neighborhood Initiative Program (NIP). Any questions about the program may be directed to the NDG either by email or phone: info@spartanburgNDG.com, 864.598.0097



225 Milan



579 Vernon

Oakview

In our last issue we discussed the City of Spartanburg taking possession of the Oakview property. As part of the Northside Redevelopment Plan, the Oakview Apartments have been identified as the future site for the Dr. TK Gregg Community Center. The City is now managing the property through the Vista Capital Management Group, and will continue to operate the Oakview Apartments as a multifamily site through the end of the year.

In December the Northside Voyagers and NDG team members spent several days at the Oakview Apartments, hosting informational meetings and working with residents one-on-one to give each household individual attention to define what support they will need to move forward. During the one-on-one meetings residents completed a supportive services survey with basic information on their current

status, and their hopes for the future. NDG is working with residents one on one to address the needs they defined and host informational meetings and trainings on how to help residents meet their goals. Sessions include financial wellness check-ups, budgeting, and educational and employment trainings and opportunities.

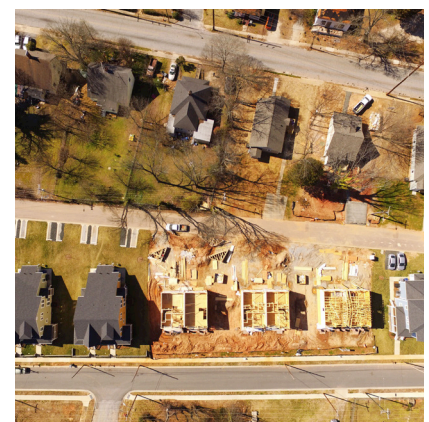
Residents are working with Kesa and the case management staff at the Spartanburg Housing Authority to identify a new housing option using their Housing Choice Voucher, as well as working with Kesa to develop a successful family plan that meets their short and long-term goals.

Oakview will not be taking any new residents, and it is still important that residents of Oakview Apartments maintain good standing and meet all lease requirements, including the payment of rent and utilities.

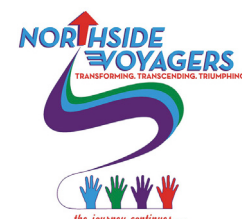
Brawley Street Phase 2

Many of you may have noticed Phase 2 Brawley Street housing development is now underway. The project was held up briefly by rain, but Homes of Hope, a nonprofit affordable housing developer, is now building 8 new units of mixed income rental housing that will serve families earning 50%-120% of the area median income. They expect to offer rents from \$575-\$895 for the 3 bedroom 2 bathroom units. Construction is expected to last until August. Northside residents will have the first choice to qualify for these rental units if they meet all other leasing requirements.

Although NDG is spearheading the project, Homes of Hope will be managing the properties. Leasing applications will be accepted later this year.



Our Partners



C In The Community

Spartanburg County Community College

\$25,000/year for 5 years scholarships



If you are a high school student, recent high school graduate or adult currently living in the Northside Community, you may be eligible for a scholarship from Spartanburg Community College (SCC) to attend college. The Northside Development Group and Spartanburg Community College have partnered to offer a new scholarship opportunity that would allow Northside residents to attend the College tuition free. The goal is to strengthen the community by providing educational opportunities that will enable career and employment opportunities for Northside residents.

All Northside applicants will work with SCC financial aid staff to complete the Federal Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to determine their eligible for federal and state financial aid. The Northside Scholarship will cover any tuition amount not covered by these options.

Students will work with Jennifer Little in SCC's Career Service Office to help determine the best educational path for each resident interested in the going to the College. Residents interested in this opportunity should first contact Northside Development Group Case Manager, Kesa Whitner to set up an appointment.

Spartanburg Community College offers over 100 programs of study that lead to high-growth, high-demand jobs in healthcare, advanced manufacturing, business, and other fields, as well as University Transfer programs that allow students to continue their education to earn a bachelor's degree at a public, four-year college or university in South Carolina. Spartanburg Community College offers small class sizes, strong student support services, and flexible class times. Visit www.sccsc.edu/northside for more information.

Cleveland Heights Neat Sweep and ReBuild

On April 23, 2016 the City of Spartanburg, the Northside Development Group and the Northside Voyagers held an all day Clean City Neat Sweep and ReBuild in the Cleveland Park area of the Northside. Over 25 City staff members and volunteers aided 35 homeowners with trash and debris removal, mowing, weeding and general yard clean up.

In addition to this neat sweep, the Episcopal Church of the Advent in Spartanburg brought nine volunteers to rebuild a front porch floor located at 212 Fremont Street. One of the Cleveland Family historic homes in the Northside. The Advent is one of NDG's sponsoring partners for the Cleveland Heights Neighborhood Improvement Program and will commit to providing volunteers through out the year for small projects.

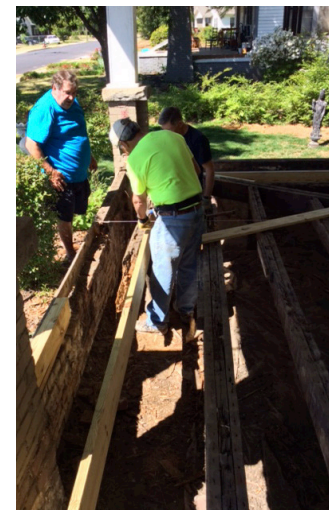
Christmas in Action, a non-profit that focuses on housing rehabilitation, also hosted their Spring ReBuild project on April 23rd, which included volunteers painting a porch at 722 North Vernon Street in the Northside.



City Staff



Councilwoman Erica Brown



Advent Volunteers at 212 Freemont

Owner Occupied Home Repairs

The Northside Development Group has initiated an owner occupied rehabilitation program to support emergency and minor repairs needed by existing homeowners in the Cleveland Heights area.

The Northside's Cleveland Heights Neighborhood Improvement Program (CNIP) will provide opportunities for home repairs for homeowners, starting on Howard and Leonard Streets.

Northside Voyagers will serve as CNIP Field Coordinators who reach out to residents wishing to begin the application process and as a central point of contact to access information about the program.

As of April 2016 seven homes have been approved and are in the process of beginning their repairs. Four additional homes have been

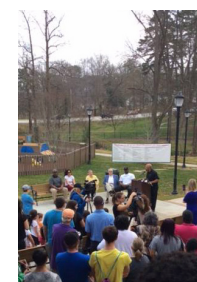
approved by the Housing Advisory Committee and will be choosing their contractors soon. For more information about this program please contact the NDG office.

The NDG has partnered with Community Works Carolina for case management support, and the Butterfly Foundation to leverage additional emergency repair funding through the South Carolina Housing Trust Fund in the hopes of making an even greater impact on the homes. The Mary Black Foundation, The Episcopal Church of the Advent, Carolina Foothills Federal Credit Union, BB&T, Carolina Alliance Bank, and the South Carolina Association for Community Economic Development have also partnered with the NDG to provide funding and support for this program.

Cleveland Park Playground Grand Opening

In October, last year community members came together for an intensive week of service to jumpstart the progress on the new playground at Cleveland Park. With Spartanburg County Parks Department Development and Public Relations Manager Marcia Murff in the lead, a total of over 10,000 community volunteer hours were filled during a six-day period, with all skill levels, from beginner to professional. Anyone who came to visit the site during that week would have seen a cheerful hubbub of progress as local groups and individuals worked together to build.

After much anticipation, the playground official opened on Saturday March 12th. Tony Thomas, Northside Voyager, gave the opening remarks before Spartanburg mayor Junie White, and Councilmen Michael Brown and Jane Hall spoke to the eager crowd. Tony said that "People came in droves. After the ribbon cutting they were so excited that they almost knocked us over to get in." Many of the volunteers from the park build returned to see their handiwork completed, along with community members wishing to see the new playground and remember their family and friends affected by the children's train derailment in 2011. Any questions about the project can be directed to Marcia Murff at: (864) 494-1801 or marcia.murff@spartanburgparks.org



Tony Thomas giving opening remarks



Ed Memmot and Dr. Russell Booker



View of Playground

S Community Partners Spotlight



HUB City Farmers Market

The HUB City Farmers Market is a non-profit committed to increasing the supply, demand, and access to healthy, local food in Spartanburg County. The market invites local farmers and artisans to market their produce and wares every Saturday from March to December, and Wednesdays from June to August, and a winter market monthly from December to February so that the Spartanburg community will have access to healthy produce. They also make 400 stops a year with the Mobile Market produce truck in an effort to increase access to healthy foods for community members who do not have access to reliable transportation.

The Market is more than just a place to buy fresh fruits and veggies; it is an experience to encourage people to care about what they put in their bodies. There are also weekly activities for kids, as well as educational opportunities. Part of the market is the Urban farm, a place for community members and school groups to learn what goes into growing produce, and is also the main supplier of the Mobile Market.

The market has had several big changes this year, including the beginning of their SNAP campaign and a new director. The SNAP campaign was created through a partnership with the United Way and is being spearheaded by their new SNAP Champion Jamie Gibson, who was brought on through a USDA grant. Jamie's role will include programs to increase participation in the SNAP campaign and create a successful model for markets in other communities to use to create similar program. Contact Jaime at 585-0905.

The market's new director, Caroline Sexton, came to them from the Spartanburg County Historical Association, where she was the executive director. Caroline has a background in history, but through her work in Spartanburg found a love with working with her community, and wanted to make a difference. She had been a longtime HUB City Farmers Market shopper, and says that her "ideal Saturday starts at the market", so she jumped at the chance to take on this role.

Butterfly

The Butterfly Foundation and Monarch Café have many exciting classes and events coming up this summer. They have everything from Monarch Jr. cooking classes, to Sushi and Sake themed Cocktails and Cuisine. Cocktails and Cuisine programs are cooking classes with the goal of having fun rather than gaining work experience. If you would enjoy a night out to learn a new skill and eat some great food, you can sign up for \$25 per person! Here is a list of dates:

- Friday May 27th: Cocktails & Cuisine (cooking class): Mexican themed
- Friday June 24 : Cocktails & Cuisine (cooking class): BBQ Themed
- Friday July 28: Cocktails & Cuisine (cooking class): Southern Chic

Culinary Job Training Class 14 begins July 18; referral forms are due June 30th

Culinary Job Training program is a 15-week program designed to prepare individuals for a career in the food service industry.



The first step in applying for the Culinary job Training Program is to be referred. Referral forms are at the Butterfly Foundations offices (498 Howard St) or on their website www.butterfly-sc.com.

Individuals wanting to apply for the program must be referred. Referral can be filled out by anyone, i.e Counselor, Pastor, Family Member, Case Worker, Probation officer, etc. Once the referral form is received via in person or fax (864-707-2224), our Culinary program coordinator will contact the individual and set up a time for an interview. Butterfly is accepting referral forms until June 30th for Class 14.

Also, don't forget that the Monarch Café's food store 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!

V From The Voyagers

Voyager Spotlight: Joy Downing

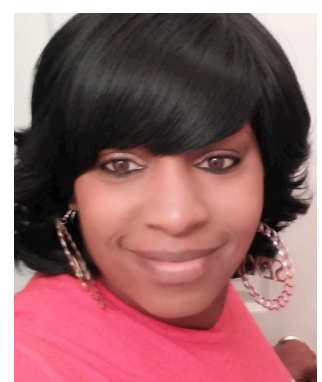
Joy Downing, a recently graduated Northside Voyagers, is originally from Philadelphia, but has lived in South Carolina since 1994. She first lived in Oakview Apartments when she moved to the Northside about 8 years ago. She has been through the Butterfly Foundation's Culinary program, which is where she met members of the Northside Voyagers. "I was touched by what I heard, and I wanted to be a part of a group that was doing so much to help the Community" Joy said. Joy talked to Tony Thomas about how to get recruited, and says it was a "blessing and honor" to join the group this past year.

Joy is currently part of the United Way of the Piedmonts Nonprofit Fellowes Program. During this 6 month program Joy will attend sessions with other Spartanburg community leaders to learn more about the critical role nonprofit organizations play in our community and to learn skills to become even better equipped with the skills necessary to serve as an effective volunteer leader.

Favorite thing to do: Joy loves to cook, and some day hopes to own her own restaurant.

Favorite Northside Memory: Taking her daughter on the Easter Bunny and Christmas Spartan Tech bus.

Tips for Spartanburg: Visit the CSI Crime Scene Exhibit at The George in Spartanburg- it is set up with true story crime scenes, and great for anyone who wants to work in Criminal Justice, or just wants to have fun!



C Changes at NDG

Tribute to Curt

NDG said a farewell to Curt McPhail, the Northside Development Group's first Project Manager. He has taken a new position with Wofford College. Curt spent several years working with community leaders and partners to help lead the Northside Initiative. Curt originally started his work on the Northside with Stop The Violence, an effort to help lower crime. Curt recently took a position at Wofford College as the new Executive Director of the SPACE where he will now work with students on career development and entrepreneurship opportunities. He will also still work with the Northside Initiative as part of Wofford's ongoing partnership with NDG. Curt played a vital role in creating lasting partnerships as part of the Initiative, and his contributions will continue to help the Northside's plan come to fruition. Tammie Hoy Hawkins, who worked along side Curt for the past 3 years, will continue to provide support and leadership as part of the Northside efforts.



Curt McPhail

Welcome to Kesa

LeKesa Whitner (more often referred to as Kesa) joined the Northside team as a Case Manager this past December. Kesa grew up in the Northside neighborhood and other areas of Spartanburg, and has invested most of her professional life to working with the Spartanburg Community. Kesa worked at the Spartanburg Housing Authority under the Youth Build Grant, and operates her own non-profit to benefit children in Spartanburg. Through a partnership with CommunityWorks, Kesa will provide support to residents on the Northside including but not limited to financial wellness, budgeting, access to training, education, employment, owner occupied home rehabilitation, and other housing services. Her role is to help Northside families and individuals build a successful plan for the their future. Please reach out to her or the NDG office if you are interested in these types of supportive services. She can be contacted at: (864) 764-1515.



Steve Rush and Daryl Dalton

It is with a heavy heart that NDG reports the untimely death of former Co- Chair of the Northside's Choice Neighborhood Housing Committee Steve Rush. Steve was the Senior Vice President and Commercial Banking Officer for the Carolina Alliance Bank, which is a partner in the Northside Initiative. Condolences may be expressed to the family at www.JMDunbar.com.

NDG must also express condolences to the family of Daryl Dalton, former Director of Planning, Development, and Resident Services for the Spartanburg Housing Authority. Daryl passed on April 20th after suffering a heart attack the week before. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Kentucky Missions and the Green Street Church Project; both through First Baptist Spartanburg.

Upcoming Events

Monarch Café - Open Daily at 498 Howard Street

Northside Advisory Committee Meeting - May 18 at 8:30am at Wofford College

Education and Community Session At Oakview Apartments - On June 15th Adult Education and Vocational Rehabilitation will be present for opportunities available through local programs

Health Care Career Fair hosted by Spartanburg Regional Hospital at Harvest Park - June 24th at Harvest Park 498 Howard Street. Learn about employment opportunities in health care and how best to apply. Be prepared to meet with employment staff and share your resume.

Cleveland Park Northside Neighborhood Association Meeting - Every second Thursday at 6pm at the Cleveland Academy of Leadership.

Recent Events

On April 24th, JW Woodward Funeral Home held a community wide Jazz Festival at Harvest park honoring Jazz Month and celebrating a 100 years of community engagement. Thanks to Kay and Stinson for their continued support of the Northside.



Kay Woodward, Stinson Woodward Ferguson and Debby Moore



Jazz Fest Attendees



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