



The Northside Voice

Northside Development Group Elects Mary L. Thomas as Board Chair



In October of 2022 the Northside development Group welcomed Mary L. Thomas as it's new board chair. Having served on the board since its inception, Ms. Thomas replaces former Spartanburg mayor Bill Barnet, who has served as board chair since the Northside Initiative began in 2009. Ms. Thomas is well known throughout the Spartanburg community for her ability to inspire others in their service to our community through promoting grassroots leadership. Ms. Thomas also serves as the Chief Operations Officer for the Spartanburg County Foundation and Executive Director of The Robert Het Chapman III Center for Philanthropy, which is the first of its kind in the state of South Carolina. Ms. Thomas brings a wealth of knowledge to build on the current successes of the Northside Initiative and we are grateful for her on-going support as the journey continues. Congratulations Mary!

Cleveland Academy of Leadership Achieves Highest Report Card in its History



After years of “Below Average” and “Unsatisfactory” ratings on their school report cards, in the 2021-2022 school year, Cleveland Academy of Leadership earned an “Average” rating for the first time in the school’s history. Not only that, they were two points away from a “Good” rating.



Access to a quality education is imperative for the success of residents in the Northside community for generations to come. Congratulations to the students at CAL and their families for this achievement!

Voyager Spotlight



In the Voyager Spotlight for the third quarter edition of the Northside Voice is Elder Cynthia Bell. Elder Bell has been a Voyager since 2019 and was part of a class of 8 individuals who also became Voyagers. She is a native of New York and resided in the state of Florida before settling in Spartanburg. Elder Bell also serves as a Chaplain alongside her husband of 31 years, who

is also a minister. On a monthly basis they visit incarcerated individuals to provide inspiration and hope for a better life. Elder Bell’s ministry also includes outreach by providing food, clothes, and personal hygiene items for those in need. Recently Elder Bell and the Northside Voyagers sponsored 250 gift bags for the homeless residents of our community with a promise to provide more. When not ministering, Elder Bell loves traveling and sharing new, exciting experiences with her family and friends. Because of her humble spirit and self-less service to the community, and the Northside Voyagers organization, Elder Cynthia Bell is in the “Voyager Spotlight”



The Hub Is Now Open



Creating flourishing retail space in the Northside community has always been another integral component of the Northside Initiative. With the completion of construction on The Hub in September of 2022, this part of the vision has become a reality. This project, a partnership between NDG, Wofford College, the City of Spartanburg, SRHS, Fletcher Development, and Harper General Contractors began in 2021. Tenants include the Wofford Book Store, Sully's Steamers (already a community favorite), and Moe's Original BBQ. Knowledge Perk Coffee Shop will open later this year. There is additional space still available for lease. For more information on this development and the leasing process, please contact Mr. Michael Fletcher at mfletcher@fletcher-development.com or (864)380-1881.

Spartanburg Celebrates Unity Week



The City of Spartanburg held the 36th Annual Unity Week Celebration from January 9th-16th in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King. The week-long celebration included events such as Arts Appreciation/Reception Day, Kindness Day, Walk as One, and United Way Day of Service. The keynote speaker for the last day of the celebration was Dr. Rosalyn Clark Artis, who is the President & CEO of Benedict College. The theme for the week was “The Need, The Hope, The Desire for a Beloved Community.” Sponsors included The BMW Group, Denny’s, Spartanburg Housing, SRHS, Spartanburg Water, and Wofford College. To learn how you or your organization can participate in future Unity Week events, contact Kathy Glenn-Hill at khill@cityofspartanburg.org or (864) 596-2905.

HOMEBUYERS WORKSHOP COMING SOON



Homeownership is one of the key components of the visioning for the Northside community. On March 15, 2023, the Northside Development Group, along with Park National Bank, will hold its first homebuyers' workshop of the year. Through previous engagement, it was determined that budgeting and credit were priority topics for potential homebuyers. Sabrina Prazak, Community Home Loan Lender for Park National Bank will facilitate the workshop which will run from 6 p.m.- 7:30 p.m. at the Dr. T.K. Gregg Community Center located at 650 Howard St. Spartanburg, S.C. 29303. For more information on the homebuyers program offered by NDG, please contact Tony Thomas at tony@spartanburgndg.com or (864) 598-0097, ext. 2.



Community Health

Flu Shot and Mammogram Clinics



The Northside Voyagers, in partnership with NDG, DHEC, and Access Health, held its first flu shot clinic at the Dr. T. K. Gregg Community Center on Monday October 24, 2022. In an ongoing effort to overcome barriers to better health outcomes for local residents, DHEC set up shop at the center to provide this service to residents “where they live.” The flu shot clinic was the second event made possible, through partnerships, to address the health needs of underserved communities. In June of 2022, The Bearden-Josey Center for Breast Health partnered with the Northside Voyagers to provide mammograms for Northside residents. The community’s response for both events was that of gratitude and thankfulness. To learn how to set up a flu shot clinic in your neighborhood, contact Jervelle Fort of DHEC at fortjc@dhec.sc.gov or (864) 833-0000.

GATEWAY ART PROJECT REVEALED



On February 2, 2023, the long anticipated reveal of the Gateway Art Project took place at the corner of Howard and College Streets in the Northside community. Residents from across the city of Spartanburg were present to share in the occasion. The Northside Gateway Art Project is a partnership between The Northside Development Group and the Northside Gateway Art Committee, which consisted of Northside stakeholders and arts professionals. Cheryl Stewart and Sarah Tignor were commissioned to co-chair the project. Over 160 artists, nationwide, were vetted for the project and Olalekan Jeyifous, a Brooklyn based artist, was chosen. The Gateway Art is an expression of the cultural identity and economic vitality of the Northside community with the intent on inspiring healthy lifestyles. The site will also serve as a place of engagement for all to enjoy.



Homeownership Continues to Grow



The Northside Development Group recently celebrated in the closing ceremonies for two of its homeownership program participants. Stephanie Douglas, a longtime resident of the Northside community, purchased a new home at 517 North Forest St. Franklin Johnson, also a longtime resident, purchased the home he has resided in for 4 years at 615 Fulton St. Both individuals were assisted through the process by The Northside Development Group staff and community partners. NDG continues to find innovative and unconventional strategies to make homeownership a reality for those who live, work, and play in the Northside community. Soon, Stephanie Douglas and Franklin Johnson will be featured in The Northside Development Groups' documentary series known as "Transformation Tuesdays," where new homeowners in the community are featured and celebrated for this life-changing experience. Congratulations Stephanie and Franklin for your hard-earned achievement of homeownership!



REDEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS



- **Oak & Avenue Property Group, a community development partner, will continue to make homes affordable in the Northside in 2023. Future homeowners will have a choice of four names to choose from: The Dawkins, The Bomar, The Ballew, and The Lyles.**

- **Aden St. Warehouse, a re-development of 96k square feet of warehouse space with the goal of improving local amenities, supporting local employment, and cultivating space for residents to be successful in the Northside, is working with financial institutions to receive necessary tax credits. Located in the heart of the Northside community, this project will house such amenities as restaurants, office spaces, large outdoor greenspaces, and a variety of other economic opportunities. Rob Howell and The Avison Young Group is leading the effort to procure necessary funding for the project, which is slated for completion in 2024.**

- **Creekside Village, a mixed-income housing development including 31 units of townhomes, brownstones, and single-family homes, is currently under construction with the laying of its first foundations in September of 2022. Rick Quinn, a developer out of Greenville, S.C. anticipates completion of the first brownstones in late Spring of 2023.**

Along with these developments, NDG has several individuals in the pipeline to homeownership that are at various stages of the process and will be featured in our “Transformation Tuesdays” series that highlights new homeowners in the community. To learn more about these projects and homeownership opportunities, contact the Northside Development Group at (864) 598-0097, ext. 2.



UPCOMING EVENTS

2023 Saturdays Farmers Market Schedule

Saturday March 18th
Market runs from 11am -2pm

Homebuyers Workshop

Wednesday March 15th
Workshop begins at 6pm

Check out our calendar of events at

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

