

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

SENIOR LIVING AT IT'S BEST

FUNDING AND  
COMMUNITY SUPPORT  
FOR THE BRIDGE

SCC SCHOLARSHIP FUND  
REPLENISHED

VOYAGER SPOTLIGHT

VILLAGE AT CREEKSIDE  
FUTURE HOMEOWNERSHIP

MILAN ST/RAINDROP  
ST. PHASE 1 HOUSING  
APPROVED

500 NORTHSIDE STATION  
UPDATES

WALKING TOUR GOES  
VIRTUAL FOR NORTHSIDE  
COMMUNITY PROJECTS

SCHOOLS OPEN WITH  
SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

## Cleveland Heights Neighborhood Association: Meetings Resume

The Cleveland Heights Neighborhood Association will have its next monthly meeting in November. **Location and time TBD.**

Attendees are asked to wear face masks. Updates on the revitalization efforts will be forefront on the agenda.

Please contact Linda Askari, president of the association, at **(864) 274-1790** for more information.

## NDG's New Office and CEO



NDG's new office is located at Northside Station

The Northside Development Group has moved into its new offices at **501 Howard St., Suite A** in the new Northside Lofts building.

In addition, we are welcoming our new CEO Michael Williamson to the team. The former Community Development Project Manager for the City of Greenville, SC joined the NDG staff in March of this year after an in depth selection process. Williamson states "I am excited to join the team at Northside Development Group and continue to do the work of Tammie Hoy-Hawkins, NDG, and the Northside Voyagers. NDG's role is to be a community quarterback for the Northside, identifying needs of residents and attaining resources to address those needs, through both programs and redevelopment. This work of community quarterback is what I am passionate about and is what excites me most about joining NDG. If you see me walking around the neighborhood or at a neighborhood meeting, please stop me to say hello".



Michael Williamson

Welcome aboard Michael!

## Start:Me: 2021 Ready to Roll

Start:Me is about to start its 5th year in educating prospective entrepreneurs seeking to become business owners. The 14 week micro business accelerator program, modeled after an Atlanta based program offered by Emory University, is designed to uplift Spartanburg's Northside community.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's workshops will be held via a virtual platform (online) and will be hosted by Mrs. Vernell King-Ingram. Applications for the class will be available online starting September 15th-October 30th. Scheduled interviews will be held at a later date to be determined.

After the completion of the program, the top 3 participants will be eligible for a low interest rate loan from Community Works of Greenville, SC. All graduates will leave the program with the knowledge and networks necessary to achieve their businesses' goals. Since its inception in 2016, Start:Me has graduated 40 entrepreneurs with a 86% success rate.

*Start:Me Spartanburg is a 14 week business training program that is for entrepreneurs who live, work, worship, or plan a business that will positively impact residents of the Northside Community.*

## Americorps Members In Service at NDG

The Northside Development Group would like to acknowledge the service of our two Americorps Members who help to ensure the smooth transition of our residents to a more sustainable community.

First, we would like to introduce Melanie Reyes-Cruz. Melanie has been designated to assist Lekesa Whitner (Supportive Services Manager) with the implementation of our Senior Pilot Program. This program will focus on the needs and concerns of the senior residents living in the Northside community. Through providing "light" case management services, Melanie will be instrumental in improving the quality of life of the residents we deeply cherish.

Secondly, we would like to welcome back Matthew Newton who has served at NDG in the past year and will be returning to coordinate NDG's home repair programming. Under these programs Northside residents who own their homes are eligible for home improvements such as roofing, painting, window replacements, railings, and other related repair issues. Matthew has a proven record of excellence and we are excited for his return.

The Northside Development Group applauds our Americorps Members for their commitment to the mission of improving the health and wellness of the residents we serve!





## Milan St./Raindrop St.: Phase I Housing Approved

Montgomery Development, LLC, headed by John Montgomery, is scheduled to begin construction on phase one of a three phase housing project composed of mixed income housing in the Northside community.

Phase I will consist of 44 townhouse units. Each unit will be 3 stories with 3 bedrooms and 3 and a half bathrooms, and most of the units will also have a two car garage. A second and third phase are on the table for the near future. The Northside Development Group will be subsidizing 25% of the units to ensure a mix of affordability levels in the community. The remaining 75% will be leased at market rate. The land transfer from NDG to Montgomery Development is expected to take place within the next 30 days, with development to begin shortly after.

## Senior Living at It's Best The Ellington

Construction is underway for the newest development of affordable senior housing to come to the City of Spartanburg. Developer Drew Schaumber has worked diligently in cooperation with The City of Spartanburg, The Northside Development Group, and The Northside Voyagers to bring this vision to reality.

The Ellington senior living complex will consist of 50 units of affordable apartments with a choice of 1 or 2 bedrooms. Amenities include walk-in closets, laundry room, sun room, gym, and a community clubhouse. Those 55 years old and up are eligible to apply for residency and rents start at \$502/month for a 1 bedroom unit at 60% of AMI (Area Median Income).

The Ellington will serve as a balance to the ratio of affordable and market rate housing in the Northside community (a concern of many residents) and will be built near The Brick Lofts, which is a 100% market rate housing development also located on Magnolia St. NHE will be the managing the property and will begin accepting applications for residency 6 months prior to completion of the project according to Mr. Schaumber.

**The project is scheduled for completion by the Fall of 2021.**

## 500 Northside Station

In August of 2019, Creative Builders began site work on 90 units of mixed income housing at the corner of Howard St. and College St. The apartment complex will consist of 1-3 bedroom units, 80 of which will be dedicated as affordable.

After a few delays, construction has resumed and there may be temporary road closures during the process. The public is asked to use caution while traversing the area. The two developments on the corner of Howard and College street have been dubbed "The Northside Station," chosen in reference to the history of the railroad system that once flourished in the Northside community. Completion of this project is expected in the Fall of 2021.

If you would like to be added to the waiting list for these units, please call **(864) 598-0097**.

## Village at Creekside: Future Homeownership!

The Northside community is positioned to welcome its first development designed solely for homeownership. Located on Manning St. and slated to begin infrastructure improvements at the close of 2020, The Village at Creekside will be a mixture of townhouses, brownstones, and single-family dwellings.

Of the 35 units to be built, about 25% will be marketed as affordable. The Northside Development Group anticipates that these properties will be ideal for first time home buyers seeking residency in the Northside community, as well as larger single family homes for well established families.

The City of Spartanburg and NDG are offering qualifying homeowners down payment assistance to purchase within the Northside community. As a compliment to The Village at Creekside, and located nearby, NDG has several lots available for purchase for those seeking to build to suit. If you are interested in learning more about these opportunities, please contact NDG offices at **(864) 598-0097** for further assistance.



Village at Creekside Townhouses Sketch



## Walking Tour Goes Virtual

The Northside Development Group is working in collaboration with Smithalee Productions to create a “virtual walking tour” of the redevelopment efforts associated with the Northside Initiative. This tour, which will be available online, will focus on all projects that have been developed since the Initiative began in 2013.

Visitors to the site will experience a visual tour through the community with narration provided by NDG staff. Lee Smith, owner of Smithalee Productions, has worked with NDG in the past providing exceptional services. With the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, NDG feels it is imperative to our belief in transparency and inclusivity that we provide a safe platform for everyone to experience the exciting transformations underway in the Northside community. It will be an enjoyable new way for us to share with everyone!

Stay tuned!

## The Bridge: Funding and Community Support

The Bridge at Green Street has operated as an Outreach Center serving the residents of the Northside community since 2016. Recently The Northside Development Group was able to donate two thousand dollars to The Bridge from a grant received from SCACED (South Carolina Association for Community Economic Development).

The purpose for the donation was to provide relief to residents who have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Valerie Forsberg, Director of Services at The Bridge, they have assisted 3 families and have the potential to serve 5 more. The allotment for each family will be \$250. These funds were used to provide residents with utility and rent assistance.

In addition to financial support, The Bridge also provides food assistance on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am- 12noon (drive-thru), and clothing assistance on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9am-12noon (\$3/ bag-face masks required). All other programs have been temporarily suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Donations are accepted Monday-Thursday from 8am-6pm and are greatly appreciated. There is still funding available if you have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 virus.

Please contact Tchenavia Singleton at [\(864\) 699-4450](tel:8646994450) for more information. The Bridge is located at [446 Brawley St. Spartanburg, SC 29303](https://www.google.com/maps/place/446+Brawley+St,+Spartanburg,+SC+29303).

## Schools Open With Safety Precautions in Affect

With the COVID-19 pandemic still bearing down on our communities nationwide, many are wondering why and how our schools are operating in these conditions. The Franklin School Early Learning Center has been in operation since June 17th of this year. Shawna Bynum, director of The Franklin School, has taken extra measures to maintain a sanitary environment during the school day. With many parents choosing the “virtual” schooling option, faculty and staff at TFS have found it to be less stressful in keeping the children distanced and focused on learning.

Students at Cleveland Academy of Leadership, the local elementary school, are attending class 2 days per week and utilizing web-based learning at home for 3 days per week. Children arriving at school are required to have their temperature taken before entering the facility.

District 7 policy requires staff, faculty, and students to practice social/physical distancing with limited interactions at all times. Handwashing and the use of essential protective equipment is strictly enforced. District 7 has offered students “take home meals” on remote and eLearning days to help support their nutritional needs. All parents are advised to contact the District 7 technical support team if they are experiencing difficulty accessing Wi-Fi.

Marilyn Mackey provides technical support for Cleveland Academy of Leadership and can be reached at [\(864\) 641-2472](tel:8646412472) or [mmackey@spart7.org](mailto:mmackey@spart7.org)

## SCC Scholarship Fund Replenished

For the past five years The Northside Development Group has partnered with Spartanburg Community College to provide scholarships for individuals who reside in the Northside community. These scholarships are crucial to the desired outcomes sought by dedicated, focused individuals seeking to improve their lives.

The intent of this program is to provide 5 scholarships per year to 5 deserving participants. Individuals are not required to repay the funds but are expected to complete any program that they choose to enroll in. Recently, NDG received new funding and is ready to meet the needs of those who are serious about achieving their goals. If you, or anyone you know, are interested in accessing education or job training programs, please contact NDG offices at [\(864\) 598-0097](tel:8645980097) for more details.

### VOYAGER SPOTLIGHT:

## Rosa Berry

Rosa Berry is in the Voyager spotlight for the month of September. Rosa has lived in the Northside community for the last 20 years. She has served diligently as the secretary of the Cleveland Heights Neighborhood Association for the past 2 years. In the Spring of 2019, Mrs. Berry completed training to become an advocate for her community as a Northside Voyager. When asked to comment on Rosa receiving this award, a fellow Voyager stated: “Rosa is always there to help. She is a dedicated team player who loves her community”.

Congratulations Rosa!



# Northside Voice is going digital!

NDG strives to provide accurate and timely updates to our neighbors and partners through the Northside Voice newsletter. However, most of our recipients prefer to read our newsletter online. To meet this need, NDG will be sending out future newsletters via email, as well as posting on our website.

If you would like to sign up for NDG's mailing list, please follow this link:  
[spartanburgndg.com/newsletter](http://spartanburgndg.com/newsletter)

*NDG will only send out periodic notices to this email and will never share your information outside of NDG staff.*

If you would like to continue to have a newsletter mailed to you, please fill out the form below and mail (or hand deliver) to the NDG office.

**501 Howard Street  
Suite A  
Spartanburg, SC 29303**



**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ZIP CODE:** \_\_\_\_\_

## 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](http://www.butterfly-sc.com/events.html)

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

The HUB City Farmers Market: 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!

### Northside Neighborhood Association

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 Monday of every month, 6pm, at the Cleveland Academy media center, 151 Franklin Street.