

The Northside Voice

Summer 2017 : Issue No. 7

Start:ME, Businesses Access To Knowledge, Networks and Capital

The Northside Development Group in partnership with USC Upstate Business School has completed its first 14 week entrepreneurship accelerator pilot program, known as Start:ME Northside, modeled after Emory University and the East Lake community in Atlanta. Of the 20 entrepreneurs interested in the program, 14 were selected to participate in the program. The entrepreneurs spent every Tuesday 6-9pm for 14 weeks at Cleveland Academy of Leadership meeting with mentors and learning skills and practices to help them with their small businesses. They also spent countless hours outside of the scheduled time working tirelessly on their business plans, financial statements and numerous other assignments. 11 small businesses successfully completed the program.

On Saturday May 6th, The Northside Development Group along with USC Upstate's George Dean Johnson, Jr. College of Business and Economics hosted a Showcase at the Hub City Farmers Market at

Harvest Park. Each entrepreneur had a table to display their products and services to the community.

At the showcase the 3 winners of a \$5,000.00 Start:ME small business loan (chosen through a peer review process) were announced. The winners were Bars Academy (owned by Christopher Jefferson and Terrace Hawes), Clean Therapy (by Marquise and Aneika Pearson), and D's Lawn Care (by Dennis Allen). A Start:Me alumni group will be created to continue to support these businesses. Recruitment for 2018 Start:Me is now underway.

The Start ME Northside Pilot program was awarded the 2017 Micro Business Champion Award by Community Works Carolina on June 6th.

For further information, check online at www.spartanburgNDG.com



D's Lawn Care (by Dennis Allen)



Group Picture



The NDG Team accepting the 2017 Micro Business Champion Award

The Franklin School

A new Early Childhood Learning Center to be developed in the Northside



Early Learning Through Discovery

The City of Spartanburg, First Steps, Mary Black Foundation, Northside Development Group, Piedmont Community Action, School District 7, and USC Upstate are proud to reveal an exciting new concept in early learning as part of the Northside Initiative - The Franklin School.

Plans for the new Early Learning Center have been in development for over 2 years. Early renderings of the potential site and floor plans were in the Voice's Spring newsletter. The official name and logo of the Center were shared with the Northside Voyagers and Neighborhood Association last month. The official reveal was on June 22nd at the Denny's building.

The Franklin School will be located near Cleveland Academy of Leadership and will serve children ages 6 weeks to 5 years old. The School will offer full-day, full-year early learning for 160-200 children from diverse incomes. The School will focus on a holistic child development and learning program, using an evidence based curriculum with STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) inspired classrooms. A third-party organization with experience in early learning will run the center and be in charge of a highly qualified and credentialed staff to provide quality education.

For more information, check out TheFranklinSchool.org



Northside Neighborhood Association to Hold Elections

Your Neighborhood Association will be holding elections on August 10th, 2017. Residents will have the opportunity to campaign through the month of July. Positions open for candidates include: **President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain**

If you are interested in running for office, please call [864-598-0097](tel: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.

Butterfly Creek Well Underway

The previously piped creek (named Butterfly Creek by students from Cleveland Academy) runs from College to Preston street behind Harvest Park, and now runs naturally again. Mitigation on the Butterfly Creek park and greenway is well underway. Demolition has been completed in the area, the creek has been unpiPED, and the first stages of mitigation are nearing completion. Shamrock Construction along with the city are well underway with the daylight process.

A contractor will be selected once the mitigation is complete to build the linear park, greenway, trails and pedestrian bridge to be located on Farley Street. The park will include walking and biking paths, as well as native plant life.



Employment Available through Construction Training Program

The Northside Development Group is partnering with Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, Spartanburg Community College, SC Works and the Upstate Workforce Board to offer a construction trades training and apprenticeship program. This program offers training in various parts of construction, including framing, drywall, tile work, and other aspects of building. Participants will receive NCCER (National Center for Construction Education and Research) certification and have the opportunity to enroll in an Apprenticeship program through Spartanburg Regional Hospital. Participants may be eligible for scholarships to attend the NCCER certification program and a paid Apprenticeship.

Throughout June NDG received a large influx of calls from individuals interested in the program. Many were outside of the program area, but were able to be referred to other programs. From those calls, 21 people completed intake applications, 18 of which were eligible for the program. 5 participants started the program in June.

Employment opportunities are immediately available after graduation with possible earning potential up to \$22/hour. NDG is currently taking applications for future classes, please call NDG at [864-598-0097](tel:864-598-0097) to start your application process.

Cleveland Heights Homeowner Repair Program Updates

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 provides funding through a five-year forgivable loan to eligible homeowners.

The Northside's Cleveland Heights Neighborhood Improvement Program (CNIP) provides opportunities for home repairs for homeowners in certain areas of the Cleveland Heights Neighborhood. As of June 2017, 25 homes have been approved for repairs, 17 projects are complete, and 8 projects are in the process of receiving repairs. A workshop on the program was hosted June 8th during the monthly Neighborhood Association Meeting at Cleveland Academy for homeowners interested in applying for repairs.

If you are interested in the program please contact Carolyn Smith at [\(864\) 598-0097](tel:864-598-0097).



Before & After 753 Howard St.



Northside's Artlet Now Open!

Artist Eli Blasko's vision and inspiration

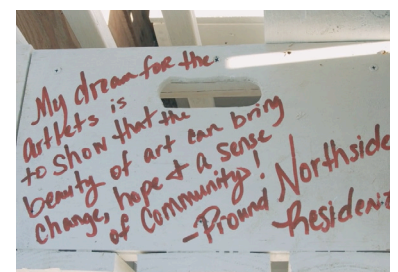
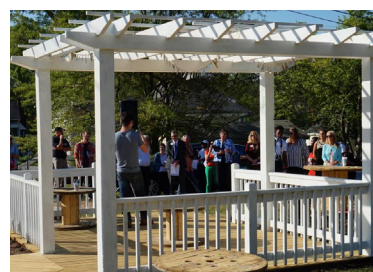
The official Artlet opening event was held on Tuesday, April 11th at the Brawley and Farley Street sites. There was an excellent turnout composed of both the community and the active partners on the project. Speakers included Kynnedi Z. Smith, a hip-hop artist from the Northside community, Phoenix Miller and Tony Thomas of the Northside Voyagers, Jennifer Evins, Executive Director of the Chapman Cultural Center, Bill Barnet of the Northside Development Group and Eli Blasko the Artist-of-Record for the project.

Several community activities took place immediately after the ceremony, including community members and children painting the Artlets and writing messages expressing their hopes, dreams,

and aspirations for the Artlets. In addition, a bicycle wheel weaving workshop led by Hub-Bub Artist-in-Residence was hosted to create decorations for the spaces. Volunteer Mary Myer-Able planted fruits, vegetable and flowers in a neighborhood garden surrounding the Porch Artlet at Brawley and Farley. Residents are welcome to take items from the garden and also help to plant future fruits and vegetables.

The Artlets are located at 297 Farley, 159 Pearl and 225 Milan. Please come and enjoy these community artlets for reflection, arts, music, relaxation, and play.

Artist Eli Blasko was commissioned to create four Artlets: gazebo-like structures that can be used for creative gatherings such as concerts, poetry readings and exhibitions, for the Northside neighborhood.



C In The Community

Oakviews Fresh Start

Demolition of Oakview Apartments began in January 2017, and has now been completed. In many cases this was seen as a fresh start for past residents, as well as the site itself. Kesa Whitner, case manager for the Northside Development Group, has kept in touch with many Oakview families since their relocation, and consistently hears that they love their new housing. Whitner said she believes a lot of good came from tenants leaving Oakview.



Kesa Whitner with Tamela Lyles and her family

“Some of them felt like Oakview was holding them down and they didn’t know there was more outside of Oakview,” she said. “It’s like the veil was lifted for them. It’s amazing to hear their stories and know that they’re doing well.”

Tamela Lyles first apartment was in Oakview: she lived there for 12 years, until relocation efforts began in 2015.

Residents of Oakview were given the option to move almost anywhere in the US, but Tamela chose to stay in the Northside, and now resides in a townhome on Brawley Street. Tamela says “I do still think about my apartment at Oakview because that was my very first one,” Lyles said. “But this (townhome) is way better. When I saw it, I thought, please let me get in here.” She now enjoys cooking in her new kitchen, and was glad her children were able to stay in their schools.



Before & After of Oakview



Community Gathering and Spring Clean Sweep

On March 25th the Northside Development Group and the City of Spartanburg hosted a Spring Clean Sweep in the Cleveland Heights Neighborhood. Three groups canvassed the neighborhood helping with lawn care and clean up. Volunteers assisted their neighbors from Fairgrounds road to N. Vernon Street by mowing lawns, trimming bushes, raking leaves, and sharing information on changes in the Northside.

After the Clean Sweep, volunteers and residents gathered at The Bridge at Green Street for lunch, games, fellowship, and information on projects through the Northside Initiative. Visitors were able to learn more about the Early Learning Center (now called The Franklin School), the Dr. T.K. Gregg Community Center, Phase 1 Housing, and other Northside projects.

There were also opportunities to ask questions with the Northside team and partners, as well as give suggestions on what they would like to see happen in their community and with these project.



Clean Sweep in Cleveland Heights

Monarch Cafe Offers Kids Cooking Classes

Through the months of June and July Monarch Cafe hosted kids cooking classes. Classes were on Saturdays, 2pm-5pm, on June 10th, 17th, and 24th, and July 8th, 15th, and 29th. Registration ended June 5th, with 5 kids sponsored by the Northside Development Group, 5 sponsored by the Mary Black Foundation, and 5 additional spots open in the classes.

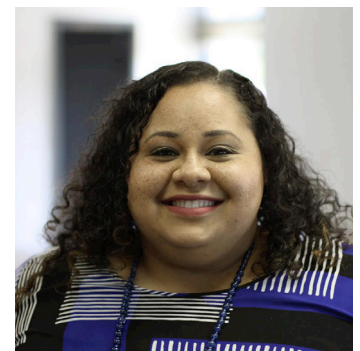
Kids had the opportunity to learn basic safety and sanitation, cooking techniques, how to prepare veggies, pasta, proteins, desserts, and even how to grill! The classes will end in a 3 course meal presentation and graduation ceremony.



C Changes at NDG

Welcome Carneisha White!

We are glad to welcome Carneisha White to the NDG team as the new Executive Administrator. Carneisha previously served as a Connections Coordinator with the Spartanburg Housing Authority at Camp Croft and Archibald Rutledge. Carneisha has a bachelors in Nonprofit Administration and a masters in Management & Leadership. She enjoys making people smile, and most importantly she loves to serve the staff, directors, and members of this community.



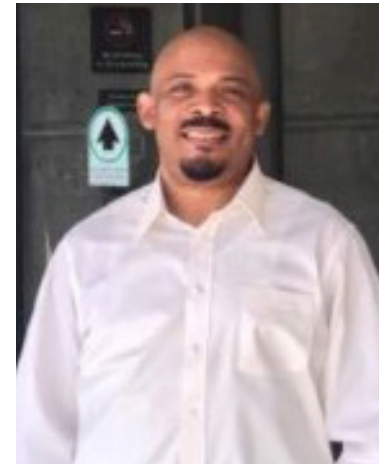
V From The Voyagers

Voyager Spotlight: Tony Thomas

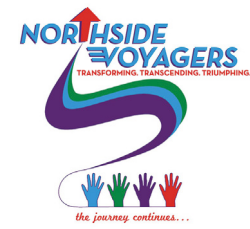
24 years ago (after college and a short, 6 year military career) I returned to Spartanburg to live in the Northside community. I began working as a barber after attending Piedmont Beauty College. Being a barber gave me the opportunity to get to know the people of the Northside community in a special way. About 5 years before the Northside Initiative began, I had the opportunity to work with Curt McPhail and Rochelle Williams with Partners For Active Living to help bring healthy foods to the community via the Mobile Farmers Market. After speaking with my neighbors who had concerns about the direction the community was going, I decided that I should make an effort to bring the community together. I became the president of the neighborhood association in an effort to address the concerns of the community.

Shortly after the Mobile Market, the City of Spartanburg and leaders in the Spartanburg community began taking an interest in the Northside, an effort which would soon be known as the Northside Initiative. They reached out to the community and its leaders, (including me) to become partners: to make sure the community had a voice in the initiative. Myself and other community leaders were able to give voice to the wants and needs of our neighbors. The Northside Initiative provided Leadership training through Stan Davis' Leadership Institute, and gave guidance in forming what is now the Northside Voyagers to maintain consistent contact and feedback from community members.

Tony now works to help maintain the momentum of the Northside Initiative with Northside partners, to make the transition of our community a shared vision between partners and the existing community. Tony believes that having a voice motivates people to take a higher interest in issues that affect their lives.



P Our Partners



Upcoming Events

Monarch Café - Open Daily at 498 Howard Street. See website for events. Don't forget that 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: www.butterfly-sc.com/events

Northside Advisory Committee Meetings - July 19th at 8:30am, September 20th at 8:30am, November 15th at 8:30am.

Northside Neighborhood Association Meeting - Second Thursday of every month at 6pm at the Cleveland Academy of Leadership. July 13th, August 10th, September 14th, October 12th.

The HUB City Farmers Market - Saturday Market open 8:00 am - 12:00 pm at the Northside Harvest Park, 498 Howard Street. Starting April 1st and ending on December 16th, 2017.



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