

## North Central Neighborhood Spotlight

*Written by Loquita Bryant-Jenkins, Neighborhood Association President*

North Central continues to be a thriving, vibrant community, with a ton of action and excitement to keep all families active and involved. North Central stretches from Congress Street to Mount Pleasant street from south to north, and from Rutledge Avenue to Meeting Street from west to east.

We are working with the City of Charleston to improve our bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. On March 31st I had the pleasure of participating in the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony with Mayor John Tecklenburg, city staff and DOT representatives at the Brigade Street Protected Bikeway Press Conference. This project took some time to develop. Now residents come from connecting communities to safely bike and walk through an intersection that has been restructured to highlight bike lanes.

North Central has many amenities, programs and services that benefit residents of the neighborhood and community members across the city of Charleston. Below are just a few of the programs that we are proud to be home to.

Eileen Burkhardt started the **Compass Collegiate Academy**, a new tuition-free public charter school at 30 Race Street (opened August 2021) that serves all Charleston families. Staff recruited their first classes of scholars, (Kindergarten and 1st grade) and are getting the word out to prospective families.

**Palmetto Community Action Partnership** is hosting several Drive-Up Events, offering assistance with utility bills, rent, mortgage, tuition assistance and more. For more details, please contact Palmetto CAP at [comrel@palmettocap.org](mailto:comrel@palmettocap.org).

**Romney Urban Garden (RUG)** provides produce to anyone who needs or desires vegetables. If you take, they only ask that you plant to replace.

K'Lani Green, Branch Manager at the John L. Dart Library, constantly provides information about what is happening at our community library. Most recent news is the **CCPL Virtual Job Fair**, which was hosted mid-May. The Dart Library provides all sorts of services to the community, like providing Chromebooks that library cardholders can check out if computer access is an issue. If internet access is an issue, the same goes for Wi-Fi hotspots. If both computer access and internet access are an issue, people can call 843-805-6930 or email [careerconnection@ccpl.org](mailto:careerconnection@ccpl.org) to reserve a Career Connection Kit (a Chromebook and Wi-Fi hotspot combo). This is especially nice, as the set guarantees an orientation to it with a Workforce Development Librarian or a Technology Librarian. The John L. Dart Library has also hosted a Pop-Up Produce drive-thru for anyone in need of food.



If anyone needs a library card, they can get one at the Dart Library (1067 King St.) or any other [library branch](#). They can also [start the application process online](#) and finish it at a branch.

We have a ton of mouth-watering restaurants that attract visitors from all over the Lowcountry. We also have our very own **"Butterfly Book Nook,"** located on King and Poinsett. Seeds have been sown and flowers are in bloom. It is a nice place to just sit and read or have a quiet moment to yourself.



Of course, the aforementioned, impactful vendors do not encapsulate the many things that our great residents of North Central are doing and continue to do. This is only a fraction of the outstanding community work our residents bring to their neighbors. I hope this gives individuals a glimpse of what a thriving community can look like when we all work together.

Due to COVID-19, residents are practicing social distancing and wearing our masks. We know the future will continue to be bright for the North Central residents because we strive for excellence in providing community services, clean streets and being good citizens to one another.