

# NUSANEWS

A Publication of Neighborhoods, USA

Spring 2009

## Early Conference Registration Has Been Extended to May 1



*The NUSA Board toured the beautiful Duncan Garden in Spokane's Manito Park and looks forward to seeing it again with the NUSA membership.*

### Spokane Is Waiting!

The City of Spokane, Washington, is ready to welcome you to their neighborhoods.

Plans are well under way for the 2009 Neighborhoods, USA Conference—set for May 20 through 23—when the temperatures will be starting to warm and the lilacs should be in bloom. The average temperature in May is 66° with a low of 43°.

Early registration deadline has been extended until May 1. This means that your mailed registration must be post-marked no later than Friday, May 1, 2009 or your completed on-line registration ([www.nusasokane.com](http://www.nusasokane.com)) must be received by May 1, 2009 in order to get the \$225 early registration rate. Registrations received after May 1 are \$325 and must be received by May 6. There will be no on-site registrations.

"With a theme of 'Our Place is Your Place,' says Jonathan Mallahan, City of Spokane's Neighborhood Services Director, "of course we'll have great workshops about safe neighborhoods, community-oriented policing, neighborhood planning, and how to get people to participate in their neighborhood. And we'll walk you through our neighborhoods and take you on a tour of our parks and gardens, with options for all fitness levels, including wheelchair accessible tours."



*Skyline Gondolas crossing the Spokane River will be a fun ride for NUSA attendees. The river runs through downtown and is next to the convention center.*

Mallahan continues, "But we'll also have a unique 'Healthy Communities' track that will get you moving with a 5K Fun Run/Walk as well as a bike tour, neighborhood walking tours, and healthy food options. Bottom line: We want you to take what you learn and create healthy initiatives in your community."

"And, there'll be lots of opportunities to have some fun. You won't want to miss our whitewater rafting trip on the Spokane River just west of the City core, or you could enjoy visiting the historic Silver Valley and Crystal Gold Mine or taking the Spokane Winery Tour. Washington State is known for its robust reds and fruity whites and Spokane has some great examples. See your registration book for details on these special events because space is limited."

"Remember," says Mallahan, " 'Our Place is Your Place' - we hope you'll join us. And don't forget to bring your city lapel pins to swap with the new friends you'll meet at this conference!"

For additional conference information, contact conference coordinator Katrina Miller at 509-625-6733 or email her at [kmiller@spokanecity.org](mailto:kmiller@spokanecity.org).

### NUSA Affiliate Memberships

NUSA's regional affiliate membership continues to grow. The following groups from across the country provide direct services at the community level.

#### **ALABAMA**

Birmingham – Hands on Youth Activities Program, Inc.

#### **CALIFORNIA**

Southern California – Southern California Neighborhood Partners  
Pasadena – Flintridge Operating Foundation

#### **FLORIDA**

Florida – Florida Neighborhoods Conference  
Fort Lauderdale – Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations, Inc.

#### **IOWA**

Iowa – Iowa Department of Economic Development – Iowa Neighborhood Resource Center

#### **KENTUCKY**

Richmond – Community Action for Barnes Mill Neighborhood, Inc.

#### **OHIO**

Cincinnati – Invest in neighborhoods  
Dayton – Neighborhood Leadership Institute Alumni Association

#### **SOUTH CAROLINA**

Greenville – Healthy Greenwood Neighborhoods, Inc.

#### **TENNESSEE**

Chattanooga – Chattanooga Neighborhood Association Council

#### **VIRGINIA**

Roanoke – Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority  
Virginia – Virginia Statewide Neighborhood Conference Planning Committee

#### **WASHINGTON**

Clark County – Neighborhood Associations Council of Clark County  
Tacoma – Edison Community Based Services Action Team

#### **WISCONSIN**

Madison – Madison Neighborhoods, Inc.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Elton Gatewood

Dear NUSA Membership:

Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) and the City of Spokane, WA and its residents have made final preparations for the 34th Annual NUSA Conference on Neighborhood Concerns, May 20-23. Registrations are looking great, which is an indication that people care about their neighborhoods and want to make a difference.

For 34 years, people from throughout the nation and abroad have gathered at this conference in various locations throughout the U.S. to discuss common concerns, share best practices, establish neighborhood networks, and exchange information and ideas on improving the quality of life in their neighborhoods. Collectively, they have formulated strategies, introduced new and innovative approaches, and offered solutions and alternatives for building stronger and healthier communities.

Much effort has gone into making this the best conference ever. This year's theme, "Our Place Is Your Place" was designed to offer a variety of workshops, tours and activities suited to the interests of all in attendance and give them the opportunity to learn and share best practices, visit some of Spokane's neighborhoods, and see the sights in the area.

NUSA's 25th Anniversary of the Neighborhood of the Year (NOTY) Award will be celebrated this year as a special opening-night feature at the conference. An opportunity will also be provided for you to improve your own health by participating on May 23 in the NUSA 5K Fun Run/Walk for Healthier Communities.

Just a reminder -- individually and collectively, we can build stronger and healthier neighborhoods, communities, and cities!

Respectfully yours,

## 2009 NUSA Notable Honorees

Each year, NUSA recognizes special entities who have benefited neighborhoods, but are not "neighborhood leaders." These notable entities might be a business, individual benefactor or media outlet that has been particularly responsive to neighborhood interests. The following NUSA Notables will be honored at the Spokane conference this year.

### **Adviron Environmental Systems Angelo Caparelli, Proprietor West Park, FL**

Nominated by: Richard Whipple,  
Hollywood, Florida

### **Fitz Center for Leadership in Community University of Dayton, OH**

Nominated by: Judy Martinson,  
Dayton, Ohio

### **JE Rice True Value Hardware Store Manassas, Virginia**

Nominated by: Kisha Wilson-Sogunro,  
Manassas, VA

### **Grill Kabab n Pizza Manassas, Virginia**

Nominated by: Kisha Wilson-Sogunro,  
Manassas, VA

### **Dunkin Donuts Manassas, Virginia**

Nominator: Kisha Wilson-Sogunro,  
Manassas, VA

### **Matt Carr Hattiesburg, Mississippi**

Nominator: Mayor Johnny DuPree,  
Hattiesburg, MS

### **The Reverend Joe Wiley Hattiesburg, Mississippi**

Nominator: Mayor Johnny DuPree,  
Hattiesburg, MS

## Financial Report - March 12, 2009

Balance on Hand (10/1/08)	\$38,070.00
Income (10/1/08 - 2/28/09)	\$13,024.42
Less Expenses (10/08 - 2/09)	\$12,786.58
Balance on Hand (02/28/09)	\$38,307.84
Robert Gibbons, Treasurer	

## March Board Meeting Highlights

The City of Fort Worth, Texas hosted the Neighborhoods, USA Board of Directors March meeting. Mayor Mike Moncrief hosted a delectable dinner for the Board on Thursday evening. He provided a warm welcome and informed the Board of past and current happenings in Fort Worth.

A motion was approved unanimously by the Board to accept the City of Little Rock, Arkansas as the 2010 host city for the 35th Annual NUSA Conference. Little Rock eagerly stepped up to fill in when notification from the City of Raleigh, NC was given that it would not be able to fulfill its contract agreement.

The Board received a petition from over 30 NUSA members requesting bylaw changes to reduce the current number of Board of Directors seats from 27 to 21 and the Quorum reduced from 14 to 11. These proposed bylaw changes will be voted on at the General Membership meeting on May 23, 2009. (See p. 5)

In response to changes in the economy, which are impacting so many of our municipalities, the NUSA Board of Directors reviewed and approved numerous changes to the 2012 Host City Bid Package. The final approval of the updated Host City Bid Package will take place on Wednesday, May 20, 2009 in Spokane, WA at the Board of Directors meeting.

The October Board meeting will be held in Little Rock, Arkansas.



## WE NEED YOUR NEWS!

Has your community created successful programs to improve the quality of life in neighborhoods? Do you have success stories to share with other cities? NUSA News is interested in reporting your successes as well as current and future plans for better neighborhoods.

Send your articles, photographs and local newsletters to:

Kaye Risser, Editor NUSA Newsletter, 26 Colony Road, Little Rock, AR 72227, rwco@aristotle.net

## 2009 NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE YEAR FINALISTS

The following neighborhoods and their projects have been selected as finalists for the prestigious Neighborhood of the Year (NOTY) Awards. Finalists' presentations will be heard at the 2009 conference and will be announced Friday at the NOTY Awards Luncheon.

### Neighborhood Association(s)

### City/State

### Project/Title

#### Physical Revitalization - Single Neighborhood

East Avondale Neighborhood Association	Birmingham, AL	East Avondale
Frenship Mesa Park Development Committee	Wolfforth, TX	Frenship Mesa Park
Liberty Park Homeowners Association	Renton, VA	Liberty Ridge Neighborhood Association Playground
The Derby Neighborhood Association	Commerce City, CO	Derby Neighborhood Association
Outreach/CARZ Club		Re-Development Project

#### Social Revitalization - Single Neighborhood

Weems Neighborhood	Manassas, VA	Weems Neighborhood Association Watch - Week of Hope
Watts Gang Task Force	Los Angeles, CA	Watts Gang Task Force
North Beverly Hills Neighborhood Association	Fort Worth, TX	Reinvigorated Crime Watch Program
Ryan Place Improvement Association	Fort Worth, TX	Ryan Place Improvement Association
Belmont Shores	Long Beach, CA	We Love Long Beach

#### Multi-Neighborhoods Partnerships

The Near Eastside of Indianapolis	Indianapolis, IN	Super Bowl Near Eastside Legacy Project
Greater Hillyard Business Association	Spokane, WA	"One Voice": Organizing for Impact
Sylvan Old Auburn Road (SOAR) Neighborhood Association	Citrus Heights, CA	SOAR to Health Heights
Fairmount Neighborhood Association	Fort Worth, TX	Annual Home Tour

## BEST NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAM FINALISTS

The Best Neighborhood Program Awards recognize outstanding neighborhood programs implemented by government entities (i.e., city or county) and by businesses and corporations. In-person presentations by these finalists will be made to a special panel of judges on Friday, May 29 at the Spokane conference and winners will be announced Saturday at the closing luncheon.

### City/Entity

### Project/Title

#### Physical Revitalization

City of Phoenix, AZ	Alhambra Graffiti Busters Club
City of Manassas, VA	Week of Hope Program

#### Social Revitalization

City of Hollywood, FL	Neighborhood Olympics
City of Renton, WA	Picnic Program
City of Phoenix, AZ	Isaac Good Neighbor Program



*Celebrate 25 years of honoring excellence through the NOTY Awards at the conference Welcome Reception Wednesday evening, May 20, at the Spokane Convention Center. The Neighborhood of the Year Silver Anniversary Celebration will recognize the Grand Prize Winners of the Neighborhood of the Year Awards for the past 25 years. These neighborhoods have all made a difference in their communities.*