



# CITY Neighbor



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## READYNEIGHBORHOODS!

Residents of all neighborhoods will be asked to get their family and friends emergency ready.

Participation is simple—five easy steps, as outlined by Ready Shelby, is what each resident must complete for neighborhood organizations to qualify for valuable prizes:

1. **Create a family communication plan** ... where to meet, whom to call, who's picking up the kids, etc.
2. **Determine your safe place** at home, at work, at church, etc.
3. **Pack an emergency kit** and a first aid kit.
4. **Learn compression-only CPR.**
5. **Participate in free Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training.**

The mission of Neighborhood Relations is to enhance the ability of citizens to seek resolutions and become active participants in determining the future of their neighborhoods.

## Mayors Proclaim 2011 "Year of Preparedness" as Neighborhoods Compete to Get Ready for Emergencies



City of Memphis Mayor A C Wharton, Jr. (third from left) is flanked by Mayors and officials of Shelby County and its municipalities at the Children's Museum of Memphis as they sign a proclamation declaring 2011 "Year of Preparedness."

City of Memphis Mayor A C Wharton, Jr. and the Mayors and officials of Shelby County and its municipalities recently joined ReadyShelby to sign a proclamation declaring 2011 as the "Year of Preparedness." The signing event was in conjunction with the grand opening of the Children's Museum of Memphis' newest exhibits on tornados and earthquakes. **ReadyShelby**, an emergency preparedness initiative sponsored by the Mayors, seeks to educate residents on how to prepare for an emergency, specifically focusing on the first 72 hours after the event.

A primary focus of the Year of Preparedness will be a contest that neighborhood organizations will participate

in March 15-August 31, 2011.

Titled ReadyNeighborhoods, organizers said the contest is being held to give further motivation to some neighborhoods to encourage preparedness based on the five recommendations established by ReadyShelby. "Participation is not a requirement," stated Pat Faudree, president of Richland Acres Neighborhood Association and a ReadyNeighborhoods Project Team member. In fact, she stated, "There will be some neighborhood organizations that decide their efforts should center primarily on getting their neighborhoods "disaster ready" simply by using the steps as guidance, distributing educational materials, and by following

up with individual households to offer suggestions and encouragement."

Hazel Burkes, past president of Bluebird Estates Neighborhood Association and a ReadyNeighborhoods Project Team member asserted, "The main goals of this initiative and the contest are to encourage residents to become more aware of possible disasters, how they could be affected and what they can do to minimize personal and community trauma." The Project Team, which is comprised of several neighborhood leaders said the overall goal of the contest is to encourage all neighborhoods to register their participation so Memphis and Shelby County can get an idea of the breadth of preparedness.

According to Carter Rosenthal, President of Roseleigh Neighborhood Association who is also a Project Team member, "Points will be awarded based on participation numbers and neighborhoods will be judged by the percent of each association's households that complete the five key steps of the I'm Ready campaign."

For more information and to register for the ReadyNeighborhoods Contest go online to: [www.readyshelby.org](http://www.readyshelby.org) or call the Neighborhood Relations Office at 901-636-6592.



## Anchorage to Host 2011 Neighborhoods Conference

Beautiful Anchorage, Alaska will be the site for the 2011 Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) conference. The theme of the conference is "Great Land, Great Neighborhoods." It will feature



Iditarod legend Martin Buser as the keynote speaker, who will open the conference with a message about neighborhood teamwork. The conference will feature workshops on community health, community safety, green community initiatives, recreation, grassroots development, multicultural/

multigenerational community building, leadership and innovative community housing.

The NUSA conference is a collaborative effort of hundreds of volunteers, community leaders, and public and private partnerships all working to improve communications and strengthen neighborhoods across the country.

Neighborhoods, USA is a national non-profit organization committed to building and strengthening neighborhood organizations. Created in 1975 to share information and experiences toward building stronger communities, NUSA now continues to encourage networking and information sharing to facilitate the development of partnerships between neighborhood organizations, government and the private sector. Today the organization maintains a stable membership base of approximately 1,000, with annual conference attendance that range from 600-900 participants..

Neighborhoods, USA is committed to building and strengthening neighborhood organizations. For more information about conference registration and on NUSA go online to: <http://www.nusa.org>. or call 907-277-1977.

## Citizens are First Line of Defense for Graffiti Abatement

According to Memphis' Code of Ordinances, it is unlawful for any person to apply graffiti on any public or privately owned structures located on public or privately owned real property located within the area of the city. Graffiti is costly and destructive. It sends the message that the city is not concerned about its neighborhoods. The U.S. Department of Justice reported that an estimated \$12 billion a year is spent on graffiti abatement. The National Association of Realtors reports, properties located in neighborhoods where there is graffiti vandalism lose 15% of their value.



Citizens can take control of their neighborhoods by working with the City of Memphis to quickly remove graffiti. Data shows that removal within 24 to 48 hours results in a nearly zero rate of recurrence. Also, the Mayor's Citizens Service Center should be promptly contacted at 901-576-6500 to report sightings of graffiti. Additionally, it is also a good idea to photograph graffiti so law enforcement agencies can quickly determine if the markings are left by gangs. Contrary to common belief, all graffiti is not gang related, some is done by "taggers" who write their names to gain recognition from their peers.

Memphis City Beautiful (MCB), which is a department in Community Enhancement, is an excellent resource for neighborhoods to work with to abate and prevent graffiti. The agency collaborates with other Community Enhancement employees who go into neighborhoods to remove the markings—or MCB will supply tools to neighborhoods that want to remove graffiti on their own. For more information about graffiti removal and prevention contact Memphis City Beautiful at 901-522-1135.



**City Neighbor is an informational source published quarterly by the City of Memphis Office of Youth Services and Community Affairs Neighborhood Relations Department**  
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## Handy-Holiday Neighborhood Leader Receives Prestigious Award



Judge Larry Potter of Memphis/Shelby County Environmental Court congratulates Mrs. Irma Tabor as she receives her plaque for Community Volunteer of the Year.

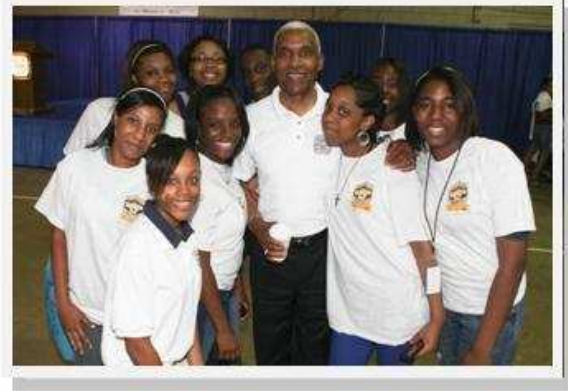
Irma Tabor of Handy-Holiday Community Club was recently selected by Keep Tennessee Beautiful and Tennessee Department of Transportation as the 2011 Community Volunteer of the Year. The Theme of the 2011 Awards of Excellence Banquet was "Green Strategies for a Greener Future" and the focus was on new and improved efforts to achieve goals to educate and mobilize Tennesseans to take personal responsibility for improving their community environment. Mrs. Tabor joined 23 other winners in Franklin, TN on February 1, 2011, who were presented their Awards of Excellence plaques and grant checks in honor of their environmental achievements and commitment to improve their communities' appearance through public education programs.

Mrs. Tabor was nominated by staff of Memphis City Beautiful for the prestigious award. The staff of the agency stated, "Ms. Tabor has worked tirelessly to beautify the unkempt areas in the Handy-Holiday Community. She conducts a weekly cleanup, whether by herself or with the help of her neighbors. She has been instrumental in planting over 2,000 tulip bulbs and placing Crepe Myrtles at each intersection between Elvis Presley Blvd. and McRae Street, and at various other spots around the Alcy-Elvis Presley intersection." Further, MCB staff stated, "Ms. Tabor does not stop with cleanups and beautification. There is an educational component as well. She teaches the younger children that attend the Power Summer Day Camp how to plant Zinnias and then invites them back to check on the progress of the garden." Mrs. Tabor has enlisted the local fire station to water plants throughout the neighborhood on a weekly basis. She has also partnered with the fire station to cut weeds and plant Yucca plants and Pansies in the community.

A community garden planted by Mrs. Tabor is open to any member of the Handy-Holiday Community. Her only request of those who harvest the vegetables, is that they donate seeds for her to plant next year.

## MAP is Accepting Applications for New Participants

The City of Memphis Office of Youth Services and Community Affairs has announced the application period for the Memphis Ambassadors Program (MAP) year-round enrichment program. All applicants must be rising 10, 11 and 12 graders, and must live within the city limits of Memphis.



During **February 28 – March 25, 2011** interested participants must go online to complete the application at [http:// youth.memphistn.gov](http://youth.memphistn.gov).

Using a random computer-based lottery process, applicants will be selected by Memphis City Council District and given a rank during the first week of April 2011. The highest ranking applicants will be invited to an interview. Once selected, MAP participants will receive quarterly stipends based on program attendance and participation.

MAP integrates community, business, and neighborhood alliances. It also provides a curriculum based on four core values which are, Education, Health, Civic and Social Responsibility and Employability. In addition, MAP provides Service Learning Opportunities, Youth Leadership Development, Post Secondary Preparation, Cultural Enrichment, Life Skills Training, Career Exploration, Financial Literacy and other youth-oriented activities. For additional information contact the Office of Youth Services at 901-636-6264 or go online to [www.memphistn.gov](http://www.memphistn.gov).

### MAP Application Facts

- Applications must be submitted during February 28—March 25, 2011.
- All applications must be completed online at <http://youth.memphistn.gov>.
- Applicants must be entering 10, 11 or 12 grade.
- Applicants must live within the city limits of Memphis.
- A random computer-based lottery process will be used to select applicants from each City Council District during the first week of April 2011.



# GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP™

MEMPHIS CITY BEAUTIFUL



*The Nation's Largest Clean Up & Beautification Program*

## **PROJECTS COMPLETED BETWEEN MARCH 1 —MAY 31, 2011**

**Groups can borrow rakes, brooms, gloves, etc. from the Memphis City Beautiful Tool Bank**

**Anyone who registers to do a clean up can receive **FREE Glad ForceFlex Trash bags** Memphis City Beautiful will also arrange a **Trash Pickup after your community clean up is completed****

**The first 25 groups to register will receive a **Great American Cleanup Coordinator's Packet** that includes a case of Nestle PureLife bottled water, Purell Hand Sanitizer, banner and stickers to promote your event (*while supplies last*)**

**CALL MEMPHIS CITY BEAUTIFUL AT 901-522-1135 TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION!**



Neighborhood Relations



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