



**CITY OF
TALLAHASSEE**

2025 Neighborhood Awards Program

Neighbor of the Year

Neighborhood of the Year

Best Neighborhood Programs



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The City of Tallahassee (City) is comprised of vibrant neighborhoods. Our neighborhoods and their residents are the foundation of who we are as a city. The City is committed to strengthening its neighborhoods and providing neighborhood leaders with the resources and support they need to work with their neighbors. One component of this ongoing commitment is the recognition of the programs and initiatives that neighborhood leaders and residents undertake to improve and enrich the quality of life within their neighborhoods, as well as the partnerships they have established with the City and other community partners to accomplish these projects.

The City's Neighborhood Awards Program highlights and recognizes the outstanding work being done by neighborhood leaders and residents and expresses appreciation for residents' involvement in enriching the city and engaging their neighbors. The Neighborhood Awards Program embraces the distinct qualities and traditions of the neighborhoods while also encouraging creative engagement specific to the various neighborhoods.

For several years now, the City has hosted the annual Neighborhood Awards Recognition Ceremony, which includes the Neighborhood of the Year (NOTY), the Neighbor of the Year, and Best Neighborhood Programs.

I. Outstanding Neighbor of the Year Award

A. Eligibility:

Any resident who has facilitated improvement(s) in his/her neighborhood and/or any other neighborhood within the City of Tallahassee in the past year (2024) is eligible to be nominated.

The Neighbor of the Year Award includes two categories:

1. **Neighborhood Advocacy:** This award recognizes a neighborhood leader or resident who has demonstrated strong advocacy and diligence in advancing policies, programs, projects and/or initiatives to improve the quality of life for a single neighborhood or entire community. Nominations for this award must clearly show how the nominee's advocacy has resulted in broadscale improvements for a single neighborhood or community, how the nominee's work brought neighbors together, the critical neighborhood needs addressed by the nominee's work, the impact of the improvement, and the level of effort involved in the nominee's work.

2. **Neighborliness:** This award recognizes a neighborhood leader or resident who embodies the spirit of neighborliness, taking care of others, providing neighborhood/community services, and/or helping with efforts within or beyond their neighborhood that promotes community and unity. Nominations for this award must clearly show how the nominee took care of others, provided neighborhood/community services, and/or how the nominee brought neighbors together and promoted the spirit of community.

II. Outstanding Neighborhood of the Year Award

A. Eligibility:

Any City of Tallahassee neighborhood/homeowners' association that facilitated improvement(s) in its community, actively engaged residents in community building and bonding activities, and/or was involved in the civic aspect of the City in the past year (2024) is eligible to be nominated. The Neighborhood of the Year Award includes two categories: Small Neighborhood (under 200 homes) and Large Neighborhood (200 plus homes).

Nominations for this award must identify the improvement(s) initiated and/or completed by the neighborhood, how the improvement(s) brought neighbors together, the critical neighborhood needs addressed by the improvement(s), the impact of the improvement(s), and the level of effort involved in completing the improvement(s). In addition, the nomination must also identify activities that were coordinated by the neighborhood to build or enhance neighborhood cohesion and communication.

III. Best Neighborhood Programs Award

A. Eligibility:

Any City of Tallahassee neighborhood/homeowners' association that facilitated and/or completed projects that improved their neighborhoods in the past year (2024) is eligible to be nominated. The focus is on the physical aspects of a neighborhood, social or cultural aspects of a neighborhood, and/or communication outreach efforts to bring the neighborhood together.

The Best Neighborhood Programs Award is given in three categories:

1. **Best Physical Improvements** - This award category recognizes outstanding projects that enhance the physical aspects of a neighborhood (i.e., parks, lighting, litter control, traffic management, housing improvements, etc.).
2. **Best Social Improvements** - This award category recognizes outstanding projects that enhance the social or cultural aspects of a neighborhood (i.e., safety, youth and/or senior programs, programs that foster teamwork and connections, etc.).
3. **Best Communication** – This award category highlights excellence and creativity in neighborhood-oriented publications, communication, and/or outreach activities. This award may also recognize neighborhood groups that are diligent about notifying residents, promoting their organization, and/or communicating with members via printed material and/or social media.

Nominations for these award categories must identify the projects facilitated and/or completed by the neighborhoods, the neighborhood needs addressed by the improvement(s), the impact of the improvement(s), and the level of effort involved in completing the improvement(s).

NOMINATION PROCEDURES:

To nominate a neighbor, neighborhood, and/or neighborhood program for a City of Tallahassee Award, you must complete and submit an application. The application's Neighborhood Contact Information and the Neighborhood Association Information sections must be completed for all award nominations (Neighbor of the Year, Neighborhood of the Year and Best Neighborhood Programs).

An application must be submitted for each award. Please note that the Neighborhood Contact Information will stay the same for each nomination.

Completed applications (hard copy) can be hand-delivered to the Neighborhood Affairs staff at Smith-Williams Center, 2295 Pasco Street, Tallahassee, Florida, 32310, to be placed in the drop box.

Completed applications (electronic or scanned) may also be emailed to Neighborhoods@talgov.com

Nominations Deadline: Monday, August 11, 2025 at 5 p.m.

To be considered for an award, applicants must adhere to the following:

1. Nominations must reflect projects, events, and/or activities conducted by the nominee between January 2024 through December 2024.
2. Nominations for all awards must include, at a minimum, five (5) digital photographs. These photographs should depict the neighborhood, and projects, events and activities mentioned on the application. The photographs can be emailed or uploaded with the application.
3. Nominations must use the application provided. Typed applications are preferred.
4. Nominations for the Neighborhood Program Communications award must include content that is informational, relevant and useful for residents. Appearance, including branding and layout must be professional and reflective of the community.
5. DVDs and other visuals are not required for your nominations. If you include DVDs and other visuals with your application, please provide six (6) copies of each item.

If you have any questions, please contact the Neighborhood Affairs Division at (850) 891-8795.