

Neighborhood Activities

Having neighborhood activities such as a block party can be one of the greatest tools a Neighborhood Watch group will use to build unity and strength. Neighborhood meetings are great places to discuss business and issues, but tend to be formal and less conducive to meeting new people. Neighborhood activities can give neighbors a chance to meet one another in a relaxed setting. This handout will help you start thinking about why your group should have a neighborhood activity. More details and specifics are located in the Neighborhood Watch Chairperson Handbook.

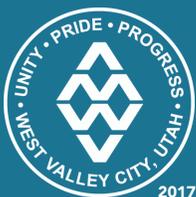
- 1. SAFETY** - You and your neighbors can actually increase the safety of your neighborhood just by getting to know each other. You can exchange telephone numbers and keep an eye on each other's property. You may also want to join the Neighborhood Watch program, if you have not already done so, which is a great way to reduce crime in your neighborhood.
- 2. ADDRESSING ISSUES** - Block Parties allow for neighbors to come together and address key issues in their neighborhood that need to be attended to. By working together, your group can successfully take care of problems that are affecting the neighborhood.
- 3. SHARING WITH NEIGHBORS** - Your neighbors have a wealth of knowledge that they may be able to share with you. We can all learn from each other by connecting with each other. We are creating an exciting opportunity to learn something new! By getting together with your neighbors, you are creating a sense of belonging to your neighborhood, which is an important aspect of building safe and positive communities.
- 4. BEAUTIFICATION** - Neighbors in West Valley City have a wonderful opportunity to participate in the beautification of their City. Neighborhood beautification projects can be performed collectively or you can gather your neighbors together to adopt a local area or park for a beautification program. Contact the Parks Department at (801) 955-3715 for more information.

You can also organize a neighborhood clean up by contacting the Public Works Department and making arrangements to have garbage dumpsters delivered to your neighborhood. Contact the Sanitation Division at (801) 955-3723 for more information.

- 5. FUN** - Having fun in your street and local parks is a wonderful experience that children and adults will enjoy and hopefully create lasting memories. Playing games such as road hockey or frisbee together can help break down barriers and build lasting friendships.
- 6. HARMONY** - By having a Block Party, you and your neighbors can help to reduce conflict in your neighborhood. If there is a difficult situation brewing, you can successfully deal with the situation as a group. By providing an opportunity for communication, you are on the path to a resolution to the problem.



Together we can make a difference!



Your neighborhood organization should start thinking about dates, activities, and supplies a couple of months, or on shorter notice, a couple weeks ahead. Start by enlisting the help of neighbors. Find out how they can help, and what they can supply. Try to involve as many people as possible, and make sure everyone stays in touch with one another.

Neighborhood events can be held in backyards, neighborhood parks or on the street. You can make your block party just about any shape or size. Successful block party planners will invite the whole neighborhood. Activities could include live music, helium balloons, face painting and lots of food. Other popular activities include sporting events like softball, volleyball, basketball, flag football games or tournaments. Tug-of-wars, water balloon tosses, egg tosses, and relay races allow for participants of all ages. Some neighborhood's choose to have cook-offs, cookouts, BBQ's or pot luck dinners. Visits from police and fire departments, parades, flashlight walks, contests and watermelon busts are also popular.

PARKS - If you want to hold your party at a local park, you **MIGHT** need to reserve it. Call (801) 955-4000 to find out if your park requires a reservation.

STREETS - If you want to close the street, you **MUST** complete a West Valley City Street Closure Request a minimum of 2 weeks before your event. The application requires you obtain the approval of impacted neighbors.

Some people will come in response to fliers and posters, others in response to the sounds and smells of the event itself. Block parties can be themed, wrap up a block cleanup or service project, after a block garage sale, there are many reasons to have an activity.

Whatever the nature of your first activity, the next will be much easier to organize. For some neighborhoods, activities become important annual events. Whatever you do, be sure to include everyone. If you have businesses near your neighborhood, be sure to include them as well, they may even be interested in helping to sponsor the event.

Please refer to the Neighborhood Watch Chairperson Handbook for more information about activity ideas, planning and setup tips and National Night Out Against Crime.

More information is also available online
www.wvc-ut.gov/neighborhoods
or by email
neighborhoods@wvc-ut.gov

This document has been prepared by the West Valley City Neighborhood Services Office for use by neighborhood watch organizations. www.wvc-ut.gov/neighborhoods



Neighborhood Watch

