



BLOCK PARTY!

HOAs -- Home Owners Associations are now Healthy Outlook Associations!

It's time to get outdoors, get some fresh air, temporarily steer clear of technology, and take back your neighborhood! A block party is a great solution to community building. Not only will you make new friends when you get to know your neighbors, block parties also encourage you and your children to be active. To organize one in your community, talk to your neighbors and form a block party committee consisting of several households. Hold an organizational meeting, and assign specific duties to committees.

- **Publicity Coordinator**
 - Create, distribute and collect invitations, flyers and RSVPs.
 - Compile a list of who is donating what items.
 - Collect monetary donations.
 - Provide name tags and pens for the event and make sure each attendee has one.
 - Create a sign-in sheet to create a neighborhood e-mail list.
- **Food and Refreshments**
 - Shop for easy-to-BBQ items such as burgers and hot dogs; condiments; soft drinks and ice. If it is a potluck, ask families to bring side dishes, plates, cups and utensils appropriate to their contributions.
 - Decide and obtain the number of grills required, and determine who will be manning them during the party.
- **Activities Coordinator**
 - Plan and organize events for both adults and children.
 - Designate people to oversee each game.
 - Provide small prizes for winners – contact local businesses for donations.
- **Set-Up and Take-Down Leader**
 - Orchestrate setting up and taking down the party. Designate people to help.
 - Oversee who is going to lend tables, chairs and coolers.
 - Provide trash bins.
- **Permits Coordinator**
 - Oversee obtaining the correct block party permits.

GET THE WORD OUT

Inform your neighbors of the block party at least one month in advance. If possible, create a flyer and take door to door. If there is a large area to cover, divide your neighborhood into equal

sections and working with neighbors to make sure everyone is invited. Posters on your mailbox (if allowed by your CC&R's) and e-mail are also great options.

In addition to the date, time and place, list all necessary items to bring such as food, beverages and paper goods. Suggest bringing extras, such as lawn chairs, coolers, sunscreen and athletic equipment. List phone numbers of organizers and include a phone number for RSVP's.

LOCATION

Block parties do not have to be on a street, but people feel more comfortable in a public space. If you choose to have the party on the street, traffic must be blocked to ensure the safety of children. Call the appropriate entity below to apply for a right-of-way permit.

Block Party Permitting

City of Henderson, Community Policing: 702-267-4501

City of Las Vegas, Public Works: 702-299-6276

City of North Las Vegas, Permit Application Center: 702-633-1536

ACTIVITIES

Make sure activities are age-appropriate and safe. Here are a few ideas:

- Obstacle course
- Watermelon eating (no hands!)
- Volleyball
- Dominoes and card games
- Scavenger hunts
- Water games
- Egg toss
- Face painting
- Relay races
- Karaoke
- Potato sack or three-legged race
- Hire a clown

OTHER IDEAS TO PROMOTE A HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOOD

- Have everyone bring and submit a healthy recipe to contribute to a "Community Cookbook." These recipes can be compiled into a book and distributed throughout the neighborhood.
- "Pantry Clean Up" – Have homeowners clean out the junk food in their pantries; gather all in one place and invite media to see how much is collected and being discarded.

MORE TIPS

- Reward children with a prize for picking up garbage at the end.
- Have everyone use their own bathroom to maintain the security of your home.
- Post signs the day before the event to remind your neighbors that certain roads will be closed.
- Be safe! Have fun, and keep it going.

Not up for a block party just yet? Here are a few ideas on a smaller scale:

- Designate one day a week when children can play outside after school. Have parents sign up for different times when they can chaperone the children.
- Host mini-Olympics for the neighborhood children at the local park. Activities may include relay races, high jump, far jump, softball toss and hula hoop marathon.
- Host a "Kids Boot Camp" in your neighborhood or invite a nutritionist to hold a community forum on healthy eating habits.