

Annual Block Parties Keep You Part of a Community

By Stuart and Debi Chessen, Block Leaders since 2006

Do you know the neighbor on your right? How about the neighbor on the left? The family across the street? As our families grow, our workloads do, as well. As our neighborhoods change and our lives get busier, it is important to stay connected and know our neighbors.

Since we've been planning block parties for many years, we would like to share some tips to help you enjoy a successful Block Party.

-**Check with key neighbors** when planning the date. You want to avoid people going on vacation, or celebrating a special holiday.

-**Submit your [block party application](#) early.** The city wants at least 30 days notice. Collect signatures or emails of neighborhoods affected by the street closure.

-A **potluck** is probably the most interesting way to have our block party. Be aware you may have too many desserts, or not enough drinks, so plan accordingly. Make sure you explain what a potluck is since some neighbors aren't familiar. We tell each family to bring their own paper goods and chairs, but we usually have extras handy.

-We use **social media, emails, curb signs, and fliers to invite and remind** each of our neighbors, letting them know about the block party.

-**Arrange for someone to come and/or display information** on Neighborhood Watch, Disaster Preparedness, a City service, or upcoming plans for the neighborhood (such as Parks Master Plan). We also try to arrange for a Sheriff's car, or fire truck to stop by. Request both because they get busy.

-Find out who can **bring tables, chairs, tablecloths, and canopies**. Don't forget about trash. If you are having a block party on the weekend, make sure the city deposits barriers at your home on Friday. They will pick up the barriers on Monday.

-Have **nametags and update your neighborhood roster** to make sure emails and phone numbers have not changed. Enter new neighbors on the roster.

Block Parties are a great way for our families to get to know and feel connected to each other. It's easy to plan one because the application is on the [Cupertino website](#). All it takes to get started is to sign up and you're off and running!