



Think Spring and Start Planning a Neighborhood Block Party



Spring and fall are wonderful times to have a block party and get reacquainted with your neighbors. But it does take some planning ahead and help from the neighbors to pull one off successfully. Here are some helpful suggestions for planning your next block party.

Talk to your Neighbors: Go door-door, call or send out an e-mail. Not only will you find helpers, you will also find out how many people would be interested in attending.

Pick a Date: Come up with some different dates and check with your neighbors which one works best.

Traffic Safety: Contact Chief Zujewski of the Kildeer Police Dept., and advise where you plan to have the block party; in a cul-da-sac or block off part of street. You may need cones or barricades to block the street.

Special Visits: Contact the Kildeer Chief of Police (847) 438-6000 and Lake Zurich Fire Prevention Bureau (847) 540-5073 to arrange for a visit. If available, a police squad car and/or fire truck will stop by your party. The kids will love it!

Everyone Helps: Once a date has been chosen, then decide what kind of a block party do you want and start delegating tasks. Should it be bring your own food? Bring a dish to pass? Do you charge people up front to pay for some of the food such as meat to grill and then let them bring a dish to pass? Who will be in charge of the adult games, kid games, food, tables, coolers and ice for beverages, grills and cleanup, and any other aspect you want to include, such as music or other entertainment.

The Invitations: Get the invitations out. Bright, colorful, fun invitations either mailed or sent electronically work well.

Clean- up: Don't forget the importance of cleanup. Organize garbage cans in convenient locations throughout the area and make sure they did not overflow. Cleanup is important because if you have the party the day after garbage pickup, you could end up having a problem safely storing all of the trash from the party until the next pick up. You don't want your party to be remembered by a foul lingering smell or because animals got into unprotected garbage bags and scattered litter everywhere.

Last, but not least, send us photos of your special block party day. We will post them on the village website to share with other residents. Send your photos and block party information to Barbara Stavropoulos at bstavropoulos@villageofkildeer.com.

A successful block party is not hard to have – it just takes a little motivation, cooperation, and the willingness to enjoy time with your neighbors. Remember keep your plans simple, creative and fun and everyone will have a great time!