



NEWSLETTER

PLANNING BLOCK PARTIES

AURORA HIGHLANDS CENTENNIAL
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AuroraHighlands.org

A Block Party for your Street? Why Not?

By Rick Strobach, of Arlington Ridge Civic Association

A block party is a great way to meet your neighbors, cultivate community spirit, and have FUN! On S. 17th Street, we have been hosting our party since 1999. Every year, my neighbors express their appreciation for all the work the organizing team has put in. What may seem like an overwhelming endeavor, however, is really very simple to pull off.

The block party starts with someone stepping forward to lead the effort and perhaps two or three neighbors who are willing to help.

Timing is important. On S. 17th Street, we have learned that having the party in late September/early October is most successful. The weather is cooler, and it seems to get dark just at the time when people finish eating and sit down to chat.

Because the goal is to get to know your neighbors, we invite always people from the surrounding streets. Since everyone brings something, there is no lack of food, and the blocked-off street allows the party to expand to accommodate more people. We have learned that, above all, it is the party and "neighborliness" that matter. This year's S. 17th St. party

took place right in the middle of a cold and rainy weekend in early October. We decided to press on that Saturday because the forecast for Sunday was just as bad. Much to our surprise, we had a great turn out! It seems that the desire to be with neighbors and have fun overcame the terrible weather. Someone set up a canopy, we had a fire pit going, and one neighbor offered her house and front porch when it began to drizzle. As in the past, the team received many compliments and heartfelt thanks! With the support and enthusiasm of neighbors, organizing a block party is a breeze.

Block Party Grants Approved by Civic Association

By Brent Spence, AHCA Treasurer

At last month's meeting the AHCA voted to provide AHCA-funded grants for Aurora Highlands neighborhood block parties. The vote was unanimous! As an organization promoting and protecting our community, AHCA would like to encourage neighborhood weekend get-togethers. Block parties in the fall when the weather is right for these occasions, can be particularly enjoyable.

The grants are available to members of AHCA and will cover the cost of the County Permit (\$64 for the permit and barricades).

Just bring your permit receipt to an AHCA meeting and the treasurer will write you a check.

Get started planning your block party! Check the web page below for guidelines from Arlington County:

<http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/traffic/parking/EnvironmentalServicesHb2.aspx>

