



## NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY GUIDE

Block parties are a great way to meet your neighbors, address issues that the neighborhood may be experiencing—such as campaigning for traffic slowdowns or better lighting, organize Neighborhood Watch groups, celebrate holidays and conduct neighborhood cleanups. Another great reason is to connect with others in your community to exchange resources or skills such as babysitting and carpooling.

### How to get started

- Invite some neighbors to a planning party.
- Select a date and time.
- Determine what activities to organize: talent shows, bounce house, games/art activities, drama activities, active games and competitions. Invite speakers like our City Officials, Fire Department, Police Department to discuss current topics of interest. Also, can organize neighborhood disaster preparedness plans, live entertainment or gardening/landscaping workshops.
- Make sure that individuals who have physical limitation are include and are able to participate in many of the activities.
- Determine layout of the activities.
- Determine the method of food/drink and service. For example, a potluck, catered or collect funds to purchase food.
- Go door to door and hand out invitations. Be clear as to who can attend the party—neighbors only or are “guests” allowed.
- Make sure everyone understands any bathroom policies (like “everyone must use their own”) so that home security is maintained.
- Be sure to have name tags and have sign-in sheets.
- Be environmentally minded by asking everyone brings their own utensils, reusable plates, drinking glasses. Be sure to designate recycling containers.

## Some Important Reminders:

**Food Services-**Make sure that you follow food safety rules- keep all foods at the correct temperature. Contact the Monterey County Environmental Health Department to learn about the do's and don'ts of food service.

Observe all safety precautions for all activities. For example, keep BBQ's away from children activity areas.

**Food Sells-**Food cannot be sold on city streets unless the proper permits have been obtained.

**Street Closures-** The following items will be considered obstructions to the streets thoroughfare: games or activities (i.e. basketball hoops, bounce houses, games, and tents). These items will constitute a street closure. If you plan to close off the street you will be required to complete a City of Salinas Special Events Application. You can obtain this application from the City Website: [www.ci.salinas.ca.us](http://www.ci.salinas.ca.us) or from City Hall 200 Lincoln Ave.

**Amplified Sound-** Please be sure to follow the City ordinance on Amplified Sound.

**Alcohol-**is permitted to be served on private property but not on city streets or parks.

**Safety Precautions-** Residents should observe all safety precautions. For example, lock back doors to houses and keep equipment in sight. Make sure that children are always supervised.

Let us know how we can assist you in planning your next neighborhood block Party. If you have any questions on required permits or procedures contact us at 758-7351. We would be happy to help you get started.

