

Block Party Odds and Ends

- Make sure that you have a record of everyone who attends the party.
- Cordon off a children's area where kids can play games and ride bikes without running over mingling adults.
- If you have a disabled or handicapped person coming, go out of your way to be as accommodating as possible: activities they can participate in, wheelchair-accessible areas, etc.
- Reward children with a prize for picking up garbage at the end of the evening.
- To maintain home security (and the cleanliness of your bathroom!), have everyone use their own bathroom – one of the benefits of all party guests being close to home! Also have everyone lock their doors and turn on their porch lights.
- Make up and distribute an evaluation form to each family in attendance. This way, you'll know what people thought of the party, what they would change, and what you can do to make next year's party successful. On the form, ask them questions such as the three best things about the party, suggestions for next year's party, how they would like to maintain connections with their neighbors during the year, and if they would be willing to help with future events.
- Post signs the day prior to the party reminding everyone that the street will be closed. Be prepared for some negative reactions and remind naysayers it's only for one evening!
- Ensure that you take proper safety precautions in every area: food preparation and storage, home security, and proper supervision of children, to name a few.