

BELLEVUE NEIGHBORHOODS FORUM
Making Connections in Your Neighborhood
Idea Bank

This list was of suggestions for neighborhood engagement was compiled by forum participants. Please use these as springboards for your own neighborhood involvement. If you need help developing an idea, our Neighborhood Outreach staff is available as a resource and can be reached at 425-452-6836.

Events & Social Outreach:

- Coffee house gatherings (in homes or coffee shops), focus around an issue, or just social
- Neighborhood garage sales
- Trunk or Treat tailgate parties
- Affinity groups: book club, garden club, singles club, dog walking group, card/bunko group, wine tasting, etc.
- Block parties, summer picnics/BBQ, ice cream social (close the street if possible)
- Neighborhood planting or landscape/weeding cleanup parties
- Walking clubs or walking buddy system, neighborhood walking tour
- Easter egg hunts
- Holiday caroling or craft bazaar
- Neighborhood baseball games
- Happy hour events (in homes or local restaurants)
- Neighborhood viewing of Peter Lovenheim's recorded talk, followed by discussion
- Share with your neighbors – bake cookies, make jam, canning, etc.
- Adopt a family at the holidays
- Holiday craft bazaar
- Sleepover in the school gym or community center
- Potlucks and progressive dinners (can be ethnically focused to share culture/traditions)
- Salmon bakes, spaghetti dinners
- Earth hour event – turn off electricity, talk, sing, play guitar, grill s'mores.
- Share a meal with a neighbor, planned or impromptu
- Do front yard activities – move the BBQ, front yard garden, front yard benches
- Bike parade
- Place a heat lantern in a central neighborhood space, so people can bring their chairs outside and talk year-round
- Have an open house for your neighbors when you remodel your home or yard
- Invite neighbors to the May forum and other City neighborhood events

Publications/Communication

- Neighborhood newsletters – translate into languages heavily represented in neighborhood
- Neighborhood directories (phone, email, addresses, even a few words about each person)

- Create a service directory (babysitting, pet care, house sitting, making meals for housebound)
- Have neighbors read a book on community and then discuss
- Establish an old-fashioned phone tree
- Develop a facebook page for the neighborhood

Safety:

- Establish safe houses for kids – places they know they can go in an emergency
- Create neighborhood safety programs – by zone, small areas
- Disaster drills, block watch, emergency preparedness programs
- Elderly check in service – do you know where your senior is? “I’m okay” cards in windows
- First aid kit program – in certain identified homes in neighborhood

Service:

- Lending program – tools, lawn and garden equipment
- Community garden (pea patch)
- Baby sitting exchange
- Donating to a charity as a neighborhood for a local project/common project
- Welcome Wagon program for new residents
- Ask high school kids who need community service hours to help with organizing in neighborhood
- Deliver baked goods or flowers from neighborhood gardens to shut-ins