



FUN (FUNDRAISING) NEIGHBORHOOD IDEAS

Neighborhood associations are not simply for neighborhood business – they can also act as the community driver for connecting, getting to know your neighbors and fundraising! They are a good opportunity to collectively raise funds for the neighborhood association for projects like neighborhood beautification, holding special events, or publicizing neighborhood activities.

Please note! If a private party has more than 250 people, serves alcohol, has amplified music, and/or impacts parking on residential streets, they need to contact the Special Events Committee at the City of Charleston for a permit at least one month prior. Ideally share your idea with Special Events Chair Stella Fruit prior to making a formal application at: fruits@charleston-sc.gov.

- 1. NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN UP:** Keeping your neighborhood clean and safe is paramount. Get together to pick up litter, pruning overgrowth in any rights of way, and planting flower beds in shared spaces are good ideas. Keep Charleston Beautiful is good resource and offers neighborhood associations tools for neighborhood clean ups, helpful brochures and information on how to acquire waste stations.
- 2. NEIGHBORHOOD YARD SALE:** A great way for a community to come together is a group yard sale. This helps folks unload their “trash” and allows them opportunities to find “treasures” among their neighbor’s stuff. If there is a shared space, participants can bring their items to the shared area with tables and chairs and sell together, or neighbors can tie red balloons on their mailboxes to show where a yard sale is happening. Establish a short-term committee for organizing and promoting (submitting to newspapers, hanging YARD SALE signs on legal encroachments or private property, procuring balloons, etc). It’s a great way to spend a Saturday morning, earn some money, and collectively get shoppers out and into your neighborhood.
- 3. POTLUCK OR OYSTER ROAST:** Coming together over food is a wonderful way to foster connections. A neighbor can host in their home, or it could happen in a community center or cul-de-sac where the neighbors closest to the cul-de-sac provide tables/chairs and folks eat and drink outside (weather permitting). If alcohol is a component of the event, it may only be consumed on private property, not on sidewalks or in the street.
- 4. SKILLS SHARE:** Neighbors who have specific skills that they are willing share could exchange services with the neighborhood association or another neighbor. Services could be offered from a lawyer, an accountant, a roofer, an electrician, a dancer, a potter, a graphic designer, a teacher, etc. Barter agreement should include a clear plan of what is being bartered for what (in writing) to ensure the arrangement is clear with a deadline and deliverables. The City of Charleston is not responsible for any agreements tendered between neighbors.

5. COOKIE SWAP: This is especially good for the holidays! Everyone is invited to bring a batch of cookies to a neighbor's home or community center, and then everyone takes several cookies from each batch, leaving with a multitude of cookies for the season. The neighborhood would provide takeaway containers for folks to use to take cookies. Only participants who bring cookies could take a to-go container.

6. MAILBOX MAKEOVER / GARDEN OF THE MONTH: It's always fun to celebrate beautiful yards and nice looking mailboxes, so creating an award or a month where neighbors are encouraged to take steps to beautify their front yards and mailboxes is a good way to foster neighborhood team spirit.

7. COMMUNITY GARDEN: If there is land and a collective willingness, a community vegetable and herb garden is a powerful way to get to know your neighbors and share both the burden and the bounty of a productive garden. A neighbor could offer a plot of land on their private land, or perhaps there is a communal area where the garden could grow. This would need a committee to orchestrate but the long-time benefits would be delicious!

8. NEIGHBORHOOD WALK/RUN: Getting together to move and exercise is a great way for neighbors to come together and potentially raise money for their association.

