



HOW TO BE A BETTER NEIGHBOR

Neighbor: Noun -- a person living near or next door to the speaker or person referred to; a person or place in relation to others near or next to it; any person in need of one's help or kindness.

We've all experienced the challenges of moving, but sometimes settling into a new home is easier than building trust with folks in your community. These people are your neighbors. And whether you are new to the area or a long-time resident, here are some tips for how to be a better neighbor.

- 1. Welcome New Neighbors:** Say “hello” to your new neighbors, and lend a helping hand if you can. It may feel old-fashioned, but drop off a pie or a plant to say “hello” to your new neighbor, or the association could have a welcoming committee or appoint a Block Captain to bring a packet of neighborhood materials and a special welcome gift.
- 2. Communicate:** Voice your concerns in a respectful manner, and listen to your neighbors' concerns in return.
- 3. Share:** Remember the good ol' days when it was perfectly normal to have someone knock on your door to borrow sugar or eggs? Let's go back to that! When you have plenty to go around, take matters into your own hands by offering extras to your neighbors.
- 4. Adopt-A-Senior or Vulnerable Neighbor:** Take personal responsibility for the elders and vulnerable in your community! Adopt a neighbor and check on them during emergencies or holidays. Another job Block Captains could take responsibility for.
- 5. Take action:** Is your neighborhood missing something? Identify what needs to be done, create a plan, and propose it at your next neighborhood association meeting. You will meet folks to help you make it happen and improve your neighborhood!
- 6. Buy local:** Support business and organizations that support your neighborhood. Learn what businesses your neighbors own and try to support them.
- 7. Keep it clean:** Make sure your yard and shared spaces remain tidy, and if you see litter around your neighborhood when you are walking, please pick it up. Clean neighborhoods display an image of caring and safety.
- 8. Attend neighborhood meetings:** Stay up-to-date with the neighborhood by attending meetings. Help spread the word and coordinate events. Being good neighbors is a team effort, and the more you give, the more you get.

9. Be present: Put your phone down, and pay attention to your surroundings. When you're fully present, you can alert your neighbors of any unusual activities when necessary.

10. Know and respect boundaries: The golden rule is to always treat others the way you want to be treated.

