

TYPES OF BV STRONG-ER NEIGHBORHOOD DINNERS

Get creative with the type of dinner that will work best in your neighborhood! Keep it simple and share the work.

- BV Strong Style - Host provides the main dish and place settings, and neighbors bring side dishes, desserts and drinks
- Pot luck - everyone brings a dish to share
- Picnic - everyone brings their own meal
- Catered - everyone shares the cost and the food is purchased

WHO TO INVITE

- Use natural neighborhood boundaries where possible (i.e. end of the block).
- Invite every home within that area.
- Decide if this will be a neighborhood dinner restricted to those on the street/block or whether people can invite friends/relatives (if yes, how many).

POSSIBLE LOCATIONS

- A neighbor's front yard or back yard
- House or garage in case of bad weather
- Street (see "Permits" below)
- Neighborhood green space or empty lot (ask owner's permission first)
- Local park or BV Community Center (see "Permits" below)

PERMITS & PUBLIC SAFETY

- If you live in BV and want to inquire about closing down a street or redirecting traffic, or having your Neighborhood Dinner in a local park or at the Community Center, please contact Parks & Rec at 719-395-2408.
- Remember that public sites need to be cleaned and left in good condition.
- The BV Police Department or Chaffee County Sheriff are pleased to send an available officer to your Neighborhood Dinner to share any specific concerns in your neighborhood and tips on improving neighborhood safety.
 - ◇ BV Police: 719-395-8654
 - ◇ Chaffee County Sheriff: 719-539-2814

TIMELINE FOR YOUR DINNER

- Pass out invitations 3-4 weeks before your Neighborhood Dinner.
- Any time of year is perfect! Consider football parties, Christmas caroling, summer cookouts, as well as indoor celebrations.
- Saturday afternoons, Sunday brunch and weeknights are all good options!
- End early on a school night so neighborhood kids get enough sleep.
- Help elderly neighbors with transportation if your dinner is after dark.
- If your event is outside, have an alternate day or location in case of bad weather

GETTING THE WORD OUT

- Print the free invitation at www.bvstrong.com and pass them out to your neighbors by going door to door. This adds a personal touch and people often offer to help.
- A casual approach can be used to inform neighbors as you see them out working in their yards.
- Call neighbors on the phone. (If you don't know your neighbors' phone numbers, look up your listing using the Reverse Address feature at www.whitepages.com, then click your neighbors' listings).
- Make an extra effort to get your new neighbors out to the event.
- To reach neighbors in townhouses, apartments and condos, approach the manager. They will let you know how to get in touch with the residents.

ROLE OF THE HOST

- Make decisions about the set up.
- Invite neighbors.
- Introduce new neighbors and help them make connections.
- Make sure the cleanup is done.

SET UP

- Have a guest book to help develop a contact list for the neighborhood.
- Name tags can be a great help.
- Set up tables for food and have a few garbage cans available.
- Decide whether you will provide or ask neighbors to bring items such as tables, chairs, plates, silverware, cups, beverages, BBQ grills, etc.
- Decide if pets are allowed.
- Be ready to oversee the clean up after the event.