

HALLOWEEN ON MISSION: HOW TO BE A GREAT NEIGHBOR THIS HALLOWEEN!

Check out the news | events page at newcityabq.org for a guest post from Lynette about being on mission on Halloween

HALLOWEEN IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS while having a TON OF FUN!

Here are some reasons you might consider having a party on Halloween:

- To provide an opportunity to meet your neighbors and increase a sense of belonging within your community.
- To help with safety/crime prevention by knowing who lives around you.
- To learn about your community's history by meeting long time residents.
- To have fun – smiling and laughing is good for all of us!

HOW TO HOST AN OUTDOOR HALLOWEEN PARTY IN YOUR DRIVEWAY, OR FRONT YARD, WITH THE GOAL OF MEETING YOUR NEIGHBORS:

- Plan the party for a time that works for your family's schedule (after dinner but before kids bedtime), and consider the culture of your neighborhood.
- You can either drop off a simple invite at your neighbor's homes a few days in advance, or just have the party with the trick or treating traffic that comes through.
- Have candy available for trick or treaters, but consider adding other treats:
 - Apple cider, cocoa or juice boxes for the kids
 - Coffee or other adult beverages
 - Cookies, cupcakes or chips
 - Please know that parents are cautious about what their kids eat and take from strangers, you may want to consider having some store bought packaged items as well as homemade treats.
- Also, consider having a few activities available:
 - Bean bag toss, pumpkin rolling, or other simple carnival games
 - Pass out glow sticks for the kids to wear.
 - Set up a s'mores station. Of course, if you are using an open fire, make sure an adult is supervising.
- Decorate to your taste:
 - If you're using a tent or tables, hang a few festive decorations
 - Hang string lights, which will also help with visibility
- Logistics and equipment:
 - Set up a simple 10x10 tent canopy so people know something is happening.
 - Use a table or two for food and treats
 - Insulated beverage containers will help keep the drinks warm
 - Cover any food that is out
 - Consider having a few chairs set out to send the message that people are welcome to stay and hang out

**IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU PERSONALIZE TO YOUR FAMILY,
YOUR LOCATION AND YOUR BUDGET.**

**REMEMBER TO INCLUDE YOUR KIDS,
THEY CAN HELP PASS OUT CANDY AND WELCOME YOUR NEIGHBORS!**