

# Celebrate Diversity this Holiday Season

*Enjoy a festive neighborhood  
get-together*

One of the best ways to create greater harmony among neighbors is to get together for a festive year-end gathering.

Regardless of the specific holidays your family celebrates this time of year, everyone can find fun and creative ways to reach out and celebrate the good fortune of having a rich and diverse neighborhood.

Celebrate the holidays and learn about other traditions and cultures by sampling enticing holiday treats you've never had before. Each family can contribute their own favorite recipes, and everyone, young and old, can help in the preparation, decoration, and enjoyment of all the delicious baked goods.

Or maybe your cul-de-sac is more musically inclined. Get everyone together and perhaps learn a new song to go along with your traditional holiday favorites. Multi-cultural caroling can bring out the best in all of us and let us better understand one another. Even those who can't carry a tune can enjoy listening and learning about songs of other faiths, cultures, and foreign lands.

Decorations are always an important part of the holidays. Conceivably, your neighborhood's lawn decorations and festive lights could portray many ethnic backgrounds and holiday traditions celebrated in different corners of the world. Have a



friendly competition among your neighbors to see who can best portray the essence of their own cultural heritage, community of interest, or personal beliefs.

A potluck block party can also be a lot of fun, particularly when you give it a multi-national spin. Each household can bring their family's favorite dish, and everyone can sample and enjoy a delicious smorgasbord of international flavors.

The key is to be creative and have fun while you gain a better understanding of those who live near you. Take the lead and offer up your suggestions. Listen to what others have in mind. Between all of you, you'll likely come up with a formula for festivities which uniquely express your own neighborhood.

Share your ideas on the City's social media pages and let everyone know what's special about your holiday celebration. Strike up a conversation online, as well as in person. Who knows – it just might lead to developing a lasting friendship you'll enjoy for years to come.

**Embrace DIVERSITY.**  
It's our strength.

