



12 Reasons to Be Friends with your Neighbors

Ms. Anna Newell Jones

Some people are very fortunate to have great neighbors that they interact with every day. I happen to be lucky in that area. There are four owners in my particular area of the building, and we all like each other and get along really well. We are part of a bigger complex (two buildings total), and there is an HOA involved with the management of the property.

If we didn't live in a condo I doubt we'd know many of our neighbors. Most of our friends don't know their neighbors. I don't know about you, but it seems so easy to just stay in a little bubble and not interact with other people much. A sign of the times, maybe? When I was a kid growing up in Newport News, Virginia, we knew all of our neighbors and hung out with them ALL THE TIME. It was fun, and helped build a sense of community. If you're one of many who have no idea who your neighbors are, I would like to suggest some benefits of befriending them.

Here are 12 reasons why it can be highly beneficial to introduce yourself around your neighborhood and get to know your neighbors:

1. Peaceful Living

It can be far more peaceful to live among neighbors that like and respect each other, especially when they're living in close proximity. Respectful neighbors are less likely to invade your space, be loud and rowdy, and make overall daily life stressful.

2. Safety First

Good neighbors watch out for each other and their property. Living in a proactive neighborhood can increase your family's safety, as multiple sets of eyes and ears can help thwart criminal activity and promote a safer area. It's really nice to be able to give neighbors a heads-up that you're going to be out of town, and be able to say "hey, can you keep an eye on our place?" It's an added level of security to have others looking out for you and your property.

3. Back Up Supplies

There's the old cliché about neighbors and a borrowed cup of sugar. It really is convenient to have someone close by who can help you out when you need to finish dinner or borrow a shovel. We've recently had a mouse running around our place (it scared the crap out of me!), and we've joked that we want to borrow our neighbors' cats to chase the mouse away. Hey, you never know when you'll need to borrow a cup of sugar (or a cat).

4. Joint Ventures

If your neighbors live close by, you can join forces to beautify and build connections in the neighborhood. Plant a mutual garden, coordinate flower colors, or host a multi-family yard sale together. Share lawn-mowing responsibilities or other chores around the homestead.

5. Family Camaraderie

Neighborhood get-togethers can be a lot of fun and are super convenient since everyone lives close by. Kids have other kids to play with and a safe environment to be active in. We have some really fun neighbors. One couple has a 15th party every month: no matter what day of the week the 15th falls on, they have a get-together. Another time our neighbors had a "roaming" party. Everyone opened their door to our common stairwell, invited friends over,

and the guests were able to go to all the units to enjoy appetizers and drinks. Our building was built in 1907 and each unit has similar features but they're all just a little different, so it's fun to see each other's homes. The get-togethers and parties definitely create a family feeling in our building.

6. Family Support

Neighbors are often very supportive of each other's family needs, especially where kids are concerned. Good neighbors can be helpful for emergency childcare and generally keeping a lookout. Our sweet downstairs neighbor has come up to watch our son Henry on short notice. She's like a grandma figure to him. Our other neighbors have also helped us out with Henry on occasion when we're in a bind. Since we don't have family in town, I can't tell you how awesome it's been to have such good relationships with our neighbors!

7. Vacation Help

Good neighbors can be especially helpful when you are away from home. They can keep an eye on your property, take in your mail, and walk your dog. Since we wake up early with Henry, and don't travel as much as we used to, we often look after and feed our two different neighbor's cats when they are out of town. It's super easy for us to do, and it saves them money and time; plus, the kitties get to stay in their home and be comfortable.

8. Social Circle

Some neighborhoods thrive on over-the-fence conversations each day. Having someone close by to socialize with can create wonderful friendships that may not have otherwise happened. When the weather is warm, a lot of the neighbors will sit on the stoop out front and talk. It's a real Melrose Place type of situation, and it's fun to catch up with everyone.

9. Good Advisors

Just like Wilson on the TV show Home Improvement (I'm really aging myself with these references! 90s kid much?), neighbors can be a source of good advice and are conveniently located when you need some guidance.

10. Business Networking

Your neighborhood connections can be positive for your career. Your neighbors have friends and family of their own and can be instrumental in helping you promote your business or finding the contacts you need for successful business connections. Many times in business, it truly is who you know.

11. Errand Help

Many neighbors enjoy helping each other out and are happy to pick up some groceries, stop at the post office, or pick up your dry cleaning while they are on their own errand runs.

12. Source of Help

If you're ever laid up due to an injury or an illness, a kind neighbor can be a great source of help during your recovery. They are close by for assistance when you need it most. After my C-section, our neighbors brought over treats and food, and they were really kind and helpful during a stressful time.

This article is reprinted courtesy of the author. Anna Newell Jones is the creator of [And Then We Saved](#). Combined, her methods have helped readers get out of millions in debt in just a couple years!