



July 4th Block Party a Roaring Success!

By Debbie Gray, July 4 Committee Chairperson and former BHNA Board Member

This past Independence Day, the 15th Annual Block Party on East Vista Street got off to a festive start with a heartwarming rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner" by our neighbor Carl Porter. After a two-year hiatus, there was a record turnout for the festivities and a lot of funds were raised for the neighborhood.

The popular event added a decorated bike parade, arts and crafts, and a vintage VW to the lineup. Traditional favorites continued like the patriotic pooch parade, chili contest, the Cake Walk, water balloon toss, and the opportunity drawing.

A few highlights from my perspective:

- Uncle Sam walking around taking photos and meeting the neighbors.
- Our generous neighbors helping to raise money for Bluff Heights activities and Mann Elementary School.
- Kids blowing bubbles, catching (or missing) water balloons, making crafts, riding bikes, playing, eating and, most of all, laughing.
- Seeing the Cake Walk in action again with all the amazing decorated cakes and participant enthusiasm. Special shout-out to Dale Maul as the finest MC!
- Thanks to Gary Ostrowski and Dennis Snyder for managing the tasty and enjoyable chili contest. We had 14 different chilis and the winners were:
JP and Rachel Gunn - 1st place for meat chili
Erik McKinney - 2nd place for meat chili
Rick Shank - 1st place Veggie chili
Bradd Kerr - 2nd place Veggie chili
- Thanks to all who made their favorite chili and hope you will all contribute again next year.
- Thanks to Jason Walker, the super water balloon MC in his patriotic floatie.
- Thanks to Krista, Rebecca, Shonnie and all for the outstanding family friendly craft booth

- Thanks to all the neighbors who helped setup and tear down. We appreciate the amount of help and support that went into putting on the best neighborhood event ever!

I have been the event chairperson for 9 years and it is bittersweet that this was my last year organizing the event. I am getting married and moving to Newport Coast this summer. However, since they don't have block parties in Newport Coast, you may get to see me again!

The Bluff Heights Neighborhood Association Board would like hear from you. Please fill out this [SURVEY](#) to share your highlights and areas for improvement.

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