



E-Democracy.Org

Why Join a Online Neighborhood Forum?

Why should I participate in my local online neighbors forum?

- **Connect and communicate** with your neighbors - everyone is welcome.
- **Know what's** happening in your neighborhood.
- **Connect with elected officials**, city staff, and community organizations.
- **Ask questions or share information.**
- **Get free stuff** from neighbors, share business recommendations.
- **Learn** how others feel about issues facing your community and share your opinion.
- **Collaborate with your neighbors and take action.**
- **Build community and improve the quality of life** in your local neighborhood.



How do I effectively participate in my neighborhood forum?

- **Build Community.** Post positive messages about things in your neighborhood.
- **Use a descriptive and accurate subject line.** Your post is more likely to be read if you use an interesting and descriptive subject line.
- **Tell stories or share information.** Telling local stories is a powerful way to share information information with forum members.
- **Post short messages.** The longer your message, the less likely it will be read.
- **“Listen” to what others are saying.** If you disagree try asking questions to understand their perspective. Make your points clearly but don't try to persuade everyone to agree. Being respectful will enhance your reputation.
- **Add information.** A successful forum is built on a healthy combination of opinions and information. If you have facts or concrete information that will contribute to a discussion, please share.
- **Reread your posts before sharing.** Posting too hastily or casually can lead to your being misunderstood or unintentionally offending others. Quickly rereading your post or waiting before sending it can help prevent miscommunication.
- **Use the Delete button.** Don't feel like you have to read every message posted to the forum in your email in-box. If your too busy or not interested, just delete messages without reading them.