

North Four Corners Civic Association (NFCCA) Listserv

Current General Guidelines for Postings

Last Updated by Vote, March 2017

1. Respect the privacy of others. Posting someone's home address or phone number or posting private or personal correspondence without their permission is not allowed. You are encouraged to sign your messages with your name & street you live on. Please don't post anonymously, and do stand by the words you type. We want to facilitate open discussion and not encourage flame wars by random persons.
2. While posting a neighbor's contact info is a no-no, list members may –and are encouraged to—report back to the listserv with information about plumbers, painters, auto body shops, taxi services, etc. Remember you can check the archives for previously discussed topics.
3. Single-issue posting –posting only on one subject over and over again-- isn't permitted because this list should not be used as anyone's personal soapbox. Attempting to flood the list with messages on a particular issue is not allowed, and anyone who does this may be banned from the list.
4. Messages may not include a challenge or request to another list member to respond to your own message, (e.g., "Debbie, before you sell your car on the listserv, have you considered giving it to a charity?"). If you are responding to someone else's argument in a discussion of an issue, be sure to frame your reply so that anyone else can respond. We do our best to keep discussion from turning into a repeated exchange between just two posters. You can and should keep these exchanges between private parties (i.e., you and Debbie, etc).
5. Personal attacks, ridicule, harsh or uncivil language or profanity are not allowed on the NFCCA email list nor in an off-list response to a NFCCA email post. No questioning somebody's motives for making a post. The list is not the place to air a personal grievance against your neighbors. Any post that is intended to inflame (also called "trolling") is not permitted. In other words, keep a neighborly tone. Any acts otherwise are grounds for banning from the group.
6. Advertising policy: We welcome non-commercial ads; though recommend that they not be posted too frequently. This includes items to give away, preschool recommendations, etc. It's almost always okay for neighborhood teenagers, college students, care givers, and others who are not full-time professionals to offer their babysitting or housecleaning services. Commercial enterprises such as classes offered within the neighborhood, technical services, and other small business ventures offered by & for the NFCCA community should be limited. A good rule of thumb is once a quarter, though we recognize certain groups, such as the Forest Knolls Pool, will have a flurry of emails for less than half of the

year, and virtually none the other half of the year. This is acceptable. We love that you have innovative services & goods to offer, but ask that you don't flood the list with your advertisements. This goes for "wanted" posts as well. (See the Silver Spring Freecycle group for further needs.)

7. Yard & garage sales advertisement are a good use of the list-serv. If the yard sale ad is for a sale in one of the surrounding neighborhoods, please do not post more than one email concerning each sale. If it is for a yard sale in our neighborhood, feel free to post with discretion and good taste. We also recommend putting ads on Craigslist (free).
8. Anyone who is caught harvesting email addresses or joins the list under false pretenses will be immediately ejected from the list.
9. Neighborhood listservs are a unique medium, essentially serving as a digital community bulletin board, and are most effective when they reach as many members of the community as possible. As community members have diverse viewpoints, political discussion should be approached with caution and should be kept local. Discussion of national and state issues is OK if the discussion is focused on tangible impacts of those issues on the community and its members. Also, announcements of political events potentially of interest to community members are OK within the existing limits on event advertising. However, discussion and commentary on national/state issues beyond the local level, along with organizing campaigns related to these issues, are best suited to other channels (the existence of which can and should be advertised here.)
10. Whether you are posting about a crime you observed or about suspicious activity, include multiple, distinctive characteristics that your neighbors or law enforcement can use to identify a person. Try to describe clothing from head to toe. Do not identify a suspect by race and sex alone. This helps keep all of your neighbors safe and avoids casting a wide net of suspicion over innocent people of similar race or ethnicity.

If you are at all worried about the content of your posting, feel free to email the moderator at nfcca-owner@yahoogroups.com and we will be happy to go over it before you send it to the list.