

10 Tips to be a Good Neighbor in your Community Association

By Joy Steele, CMCA



- 1** All homes within the designated community are apart of a Association. These associations exist to help maintain the value of the entire community. You live among a group that shares a common interest. It should be each persons goal to be kind.
- 2** Each community has its own set of Governing Documents and it is the responsibility of all within the neighborhood to be familiar with what they are. Being familiar with the CC&R's will avoid the uncomfortable experience of being sent a violation notice, or having the neighbors giving you the stink-eye.
- 3** Be responsible! This includes pets, kids and visitors. The shared spaces are a part of the collective environment, and such those who use them should be extra mindful to clean up after themselves and their pets.
- 4** Beautification and social events are two easy ways to grow and build a strong and connected community! Serve on the Association Board or a neighborhood committee.
- 5** Differences happen. Even the most agreeable communities will occasionally have disagreements about things. If your neighbor is upset about something, try not to take it personally.
- 6** Listen to understand, not to respond. If you want to address a specific issue or item , reach out to the Board or the Community Manager about it and ask if it can be put on the agenda for the next meeting.
- 7** Items of concern should always be presented in a mature manner. The two reasons people get angry about something or someone else is because a) feelings are hurt b) expectations have been violated. Take a breather before you approach the situation.
- 8** Keep a bad situation off line! People commonly rant online in the heat of the moment. In the unlikely event that a situation escalates into a legal one, online posts may be used as evidence in court.
- 9** Studies have shown that people with strong connections in their community will have a lower loneliness rate. Neighbors are also a great social support system and a source of human connection; almost like extended family. Don't forget to welcome your new neighbors, because you were new once, too.
- 10** Respect boundaries. While there may be many enthusiastic members in the community who are excited about creating a village atmosphere, there are likely others who take a little longer to warm up to the idea. You can be a supportive neighbor and friend to create an environment where they can ease into things at their own pace and comfort level.

Welcome Our New Communities!

Moncalieri



Federal Way, WA

Foxbury Park



Graham, WA

Foxtail Farms

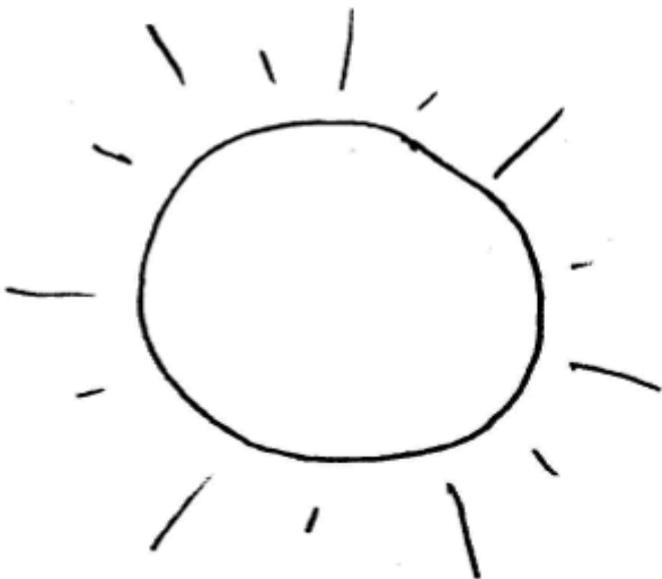


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