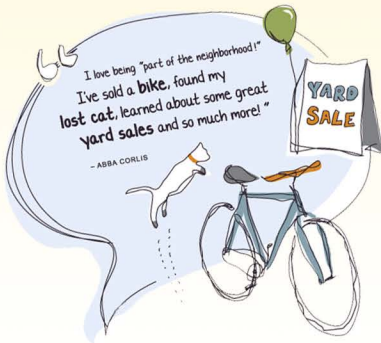




## front porch forum:™ a primer



### What is Front Porch Forum?

Front Porch Forum is a free community-building service. Your neighborhood's forum is only open to the people who live there. It's all about helping neighbors connect. Since 2006, FPF has been hosting regional networks of online neighborhood forums where clearly identified nearby neighbors share postings about all sorts of topics.

### How does it work?

A member signs up for the service through the website, FrontPorchForum.com, by entering her street address to find the correct FPF for her location.

Members may submit posting via the website or email. Posting topics include lost pets, apartment rentals, car break-ins, plumber recommendations, discussions of town meeting items and much more. In addition to hundreds of area neighbors, FPF welcomes local public officials as well.

Each posting published in an FPF e-newsletter includes the writer's name and street name (no anonymous posting). This encourages neighborly discussions. A member may reply to a post in the next e-newsletter, or privately via email to the original poster.

Members receive local FPF postings via an e-newsletter. In active areas, it's delivered daily. In quieter communities it may be delivered once or twice per week. Postings are also available to members on FPF's website in a searchable archive.

### Is Front Porch Forum moderated?

Yes, FPF professional online community managers moderate all FPF neighborhood forums. But it's really the neighbors who set the tone and keep the conversation flowing.



### Many online spaces turn nasty. Is Front Porch Forum civil?

FPF is typically civil and constructive... and fun! Each posting is automatically signed with the author's name and street name, and each neighborhood forum only includes nearby neighbors. Most people behave themselves in this setting. For the occasional time when a discussion starts to derail, FPF moderators step in and help keep it rolling in a neighborly direction.

### Has it really come to this? Using computers to talk to people next door?

Kinda crazy, eh? But here's what we find... many people are so busy that they don't have time to meet or talk with their neighbors. FPF puts a little trickle of neighborhood news and discussion into people's normal online routines, so that, over time, people feel more connected to their neighbors. When they do bump into each other in person, the ice is broken and there's plenty to chat about.

