



OurTown Community Rules

Think of OurTown.com as a friendly neighborhood gathering, where conversation is lively but civil and the topics are highly varied yet focused on the local community. What's important to you is probably of interest to others—if your neighbors don't know about something, they'll appreciate if you share your knowledge. The community and its users will decide what the site becomes, but it is not intended to be a free-for-all. For the benefit of all, the following Community Rules will apply:

Registration

- Anonymous posts are not allowed. You must register with OurTown.com in order to post content or comments. Registration is free.
- To encourage responsible behavior, we will send you an e-mail asking you to verify your registration information. Your e-mail address will not be displayed with your post or comment (unless you include it), but we require you to provide a valid e-mail address in order to register.
- We prefer that you use your real name for posting on the site, and recommend that you do so (it's the neighborly thing to do), but you are free to adopt a member name if you prefer.
- The registration information that we collect will be used in accordance with our [Privacy Policy](#).

Guidelines for User Behavior

- Please treat everyone as if they were your friendly next-door neighbor.
- Language and content should be appropriate for all ages.
- Think of this as a polite conversation. DON'T YELL.
- Please respect others' rights to their opinions; understand that there may be many other sides to the story.
- Take what you find on OurTown.com with a grain of salt. There is no substitute for a healthy skepticism and your own good judgment.

Guidelines for Writing a Post or Comment

- Please keep it local. This site is intended to be by, for, and about your local community.
- Write clearly. Give details and specifics, but please stay on topic.
- You're helping your friends and neighbors. When you share your thoughts and opinions, think about things that you'd want to know about that topic.
- Tell the truth.

- Please post information or comments in the most appropriate category; don't post in multiple places.
- Commercial promotions are limited to the Enhanced Directory Listings or Classifieds. There is no charge to advertise personal items or services for sale in the Classifieds (for example: used cars, merchandise or baby-sitting services); however, if you are in the business of selling items or offering services, you must purchase an ad.
- Press releases are allowed, but use your judgment—it may be better to post a less formal description of what you want to promote, or to list it in the events calendar. Outright promotions may not go over well with the general community.
- Simple Web links (URLs) and e-mail addresses may be included in posts and comments.
- Please be careful about posting your personal information. Share what you want, but understand that it can be seen by all. Also, please respect the privacy of others by not posting their personal information on our site without their explicit permission.

Rules and Responsibilities

- Contributors are responsible for what they say.
- Your words and images must be your own or ones you have permission to use; respect the rights of trademark and copyright holders.
- Do not pretend to be someone else and don't post or comment on behalf of someone else.
- By submitting content, you agree that OurTown can publicly post it and that others may comment on it.
- You will not be able to edit or delete your post or comment after putting it online, so proofread your post or comment before you publish.
- If you see something that seems abusive, let us know. To report abusive or objectionable content, click on the "Report Misconduct" link that appears at the bottom of each page.
- Personal attacks are not allowed. Do not harass or threaten, question the motives behind others' posts or comments, deliberately inflame or disrupt the conversation, or air personal grievances about other members of the community.
- Do not post profane, sexually explicit, tortuous, vulgar, obscene, libelous, abusive, misleading or unlawful material, or any material that infringes the rights of others or interferes with the ability of others to enjoy OurTown.com.



- Do not post digitally altered photographs or video.
- Spam or multiple copies of the same post or comment will not be tolerated.

We may edit, delete, or reject any content that, in our judgment, violates these Community Rules or the terms of our [Community Agreement](#) or [Privacy Policy](#), and may terminate the account of any member who posts such content or otherwise violates these Community Rules or our [Community Agreement](#) or [Privacy Policy](#).

By using OurTown.com, you agree to follow these Community Rules and the rules and guidelines you find in various areas of the site and you accept the terms of our [Community Agreement](#) and our [Privacy Policy](#).