

Nextdoor - Another Way to Get Puget Notices, Alerts, and Other Information

Check out Nextdoor! It may help you hear more quickly about Neighborhood alerts such as a car prowling incident, find a neighbor-recommended babysitter or painter, know to keep an eye out for a lost neighborhood dog, connect with a neighbor who needs that chair you no longer want, or reach out to that nice neighbor down the street.

Nextdoor (www.nextdoor.com) is a privately-owned, free online social network used by many neighborhoods such as Puget. Although you can message directly with neighbors on Nextdoor, it's probably best thought of as an electronic message or bulletin board for the Puget Neighborhood. Nextdoor is being used by many neighborhoods and communities across the country, and may be a good way for Puget neighbors to post and receive neighborhood notices, alerts and other information.

It requires very little information from you to sign-up; basically just name, a valid address within the Puget Neighborhood boundaries, and a valid email address through which Nextdoor may send you notices and summaries of what has been posted. Through the "Settings" features, you can:

- limit those viewing your profile to just Puget Neighbors
- limit address information seen by others to just street name
- limit the number, types, and topics of email notices and information you receive from Nextdoor

If you choose, you can also expand your "neighborhood" beyond just Puget to include nearby Bellingham neighborhoods so that those neighbors can also see your profile. And, you can set it so that you will also receive email notices for their postings, based on however you limit the number, types, and topics of email you receive.

You can limit your shared profile to just name and street name. Or, to find common interests or background with neighbors, you can also include:

- a few interesting facts about yourself in a brief introduction
- your interests (i.e. selected from a long list of categories)
- services or skills you can offer neighbors (e.g. mechanic, dog walker, lawn, pet sitter, photographer, tutor, etc.; language skills; emergency skills; etc.)
- what you like about Puget and Bellingham
- if you are a stay-at-home parent, working, retired, student, etc.
- contact information: email address, home phone, mobile phone

Currently about 79 Puget Neighbors, and about 834 neighbors in nearby neighborhoods (i.e. Alabama Hill, Happy Valley, City Center, Roosevelt, Samish, Sehome, Sunnyland, Whatcom Falls, and York neighborhoods) have joined Nextdoor. Additionally, Bellingham's Neighborhood Police Officers, Eric Osterkamp and Dante Alexander, use Nextdoor to post alerts, answer questions, and receive non-emergency messages.

As with any online social network, blog, or messaging application, it's really a public forum, and we all should be guided accordingly to as to what we post or expose on the internet, but Nextdoor is also an opportunity to engage in the Puget and nearby community, and hear more quickly about things we may need or want to know. It's one more communications channel, in addition to our web site www.pugetneighborhood.org, which the Puget Neighborhood Association plans to use to help share information with our Puget Neighbors.