

# The New Montford Listserve Members Rules

We'd like this to be a fun and useful place in cyberspace and have created a few rules to manage the process. The Montford Google Group (aka "Listserve" in this document) is a G-rated group: Messages should be appropriate for all ages.

1. **Posts should relate to Montford and Asheville.** While Montford is part of the solar system, it's a good idea to keep your messages about local topics. Do not use this Listserve to advocate or promote a particular cause or issue unrelated to the community.

Posting occasional announcements is okay, but they should relate to Montford or the vicinity, and should not be part of a mass emailing. Generally speaking, the Listserve is not a bulletin board. This is a neighborhood discussion group.

No cross-posts: Messages should be written specifically for the Listserve (Exceptions are made for messages of an urgent nature, which affect the health or safety of neighbors.)

2. **Please sign your messages.** It helps people decide whether or not you should be added or removed from their wills. It also gives your posts more credibility. And it's a Listserve requirement: anonymous posts are not permitted. (If your email address shows your real name, that's sufficient.) You do not need to post your address, phone number, or other personal information.
3. **Please don't post a message in all capital letters.**
4. **Spam of any kind is prohibited on the Listserve.** This includes long signature lines that double as advertising or sloganeering, and advertising disguised as "informational messages." Spammers, anonymous posters, and others who are disruptive to the Listserve may have their posts moderated or be banned from the Listserve. **No cross-posts:** Messages should be written specifically for the Listserve. (Exceptions are made for messages of an urgent nature, which affect the health or safety of neighbors.)
5. **Personal attacks,** ridicule, harsh or uncivil language or, profanity are not allowed on the Listserve. No questioning somebody's motives for making a post. The Listserve 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.

***Posting someone's home address or phone number or posting private or personal correspondence without their permission is not allowed.***

6. **Post reasonably and responsibly.** That means don't feel obligated to reply to every message that moves you. Too many messages from the same person over a short period of time or on the same subject ("overposting") are a form of clutter.

Single-issue posting (posting only on one subject over and over again) isn't permitted because this Listserve should not be used as anyone's personal soapbox. Before posting, please consider whether the message is of interest to the Listserve members.

Please don't use the Listserve as a reference library. It's okay to ask if somebody knows where to get the best espresso in the neighborhood; looking for an espresso recipe is something best done through a web search.

When answering somebody's question, it's a good idea to actually provide an answer: Don't say, "There's a video repair shop on Montford Avenue near the coffee shop, but I don't remember the shop's name." Please refrain from "me, too" or "I agree" posts that don't add new information.

- 7. Neighbors are welcome to advertise yard sales, cars for sale, and other personal items now and then.** The Listserve may not be used for commercial advertising or to sell something that you are in the business of selling. For example, it's okay to offer your beach house for rent, but if you are in the business of renting beach houses, that's not allowed on the Listserve. You can offer your home for a writer's group meeting, but you can't advertise your writing tutorial services. It's fine for teenagers, college students, and others who are not full-time professionals to offer their tutoring, yard-work, babysitting, or other part-time services. It is also okay for a business person or professional to introduce themselves to the Listserve and say what they do for a living, as long as the message doesn't come across as an advertisement.
- 8. Snip, snip, snip:** Before replying to a post, cut out any parts of the original message that aren't relevant to your reply. In other words, you shouldn't include the entire original message in your reply.
- 9. Don't send virus warnings to the Listserve.** The Internet is full of virus hoaxes, and hoaxers like to perpetuate these pranks. Because attachments (and forwarded messages) are removed before messages are sent to Listserve members, computer viruses cannot be spread through the Montford Listserve.
- 10. Harvesting:** Anyone who collects or harvests Listserve members' email addresses for spamming, sending advertisements or any other purpose, or who is a spammer, will be banned from the Listserve.

These rules are aimed at promoting a Listserve that is friendly but focused, flexible but not a free-for-all. The moderators will make whatever exceptions they find necessary or helpful to meet the needs of individual neighbors or to serve the overall needs of the Listserve.