

# **rvmlist Mail Group Under groups.io**

**Dear rvmlist subscribers,**

The RVM Mail group is acknowledged by its users to be a very important resource. Currently (2020) about 80% of residents who have email are subscribed to rvmlist. But mail groups are fragile things, and can lose many subscribers if they don't continue to serve their members in ways the members have come to expect. For this reason, it's a good idea to offer some occasional reminders about appropriate usage. For the most part, rvmlist has met the expectations of all of us, but there are a few things about usage that deserve mention.

Not all rvmlist users will agree with these guidelines, but this is an effort to satisfy the majority of users.

## **rvmlist USAGE GUIDELINES**

### **When appropriate, respond directly to the message sender**

If you want to send a short note in response to a posted message, like "I agree" or "good job" or "thank you", that's great. But probably the other 650 subscribers don't need to read it. Just use your email program's REPLY function (NOT **Reply to All**), or the **Reply to Sender** link at the bottom of the message, and the reply will be addressed to the Sender.

### **Use a descriptive Subject**

Another courtesy - not a rule. If you post a message, give it a Subject that lets a reader know what topic it will be discussing. That just makes it easier for each recipient to decide what to read and what isn't of interest to him or her.

Extending this — if you post later related messages, use the **same subject**. Groups.io will treat these messages as belonging to the same Topic. They offer subscribers the ability to selectively MUTE or FOLLOW specific Topics. This gives you a very friendly way to share messages you think will be of general interest, while allowing some readers to opt out of getting them.

### **Intended uses:**

For communicating about upcoming events, for asking questions about service providers, for posting links (urls) about news (for example from the Mail Tribune) that might be of interest to RVM residents, for queries about who might be interested in activities (such as bocce ball, etc.), for offering something for sale (non-commercial), and for "bulletin-board" type items.

### **Subjects to be avoided:**

No commercial advertising, no mention of politics or religion, and only polite, civil communications. Following this advice is simply good network etiquette ("netiquette"). Also, no discussion of private Residents' Council or Advisory Committees business.

### **rvmlist is not social media**

rvmlist should not be used as social media, although it is fine to use it (once) to inform subscribers that you have set up a social media account and to invite them to join.

\* If you want to facilitate a group discussing, for example, current affairs, post a message on rvmlist inviting interested residents to contact you to join the group, but then set up the email correspondence off rvmlist.

\* If you want to post regular notices, as for example about healthy eating, use rvmlist to invite residents to contact you to get on your special email list to receive the notices.

\* If you want to periodically post your opinions or observations to residents who will find them interesting, join a blogging service, or Facebook, or some other social media outlet, and use rvmlist to tell residents how to follow your posts.

But in all these examples, and all the others you can think of, don't use rvmlist for communications of a very specific nature of interest to just a few subscribers. When a person can't opt out of receiving unwanted ongoing messages in his/her inbox, it is spam. If subscribers conclude that rvmlist is sending spam, they are likely to unsubscribe.

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