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Observe etiquette tips for piggybacking



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Joan Barnes knew it was time to have a garage sale but she just couldn't get motivated to do the work associated with it.

"I didn't want to go through all the trouble of contacting the homeowners association (for permission) and then advertising the garage sale."

Meanwhile, one block over from Joan, her neighbors, Heidi and Wayne Ludkey, were busy organizing a sale for residents on their street for the upcoming weekend.

The Ludkeys are moving to Washington, D.C., and they need to lighten their load.

So they placed ads and made a lot of signs in order to draw a good-size crowd.

Joan, 63, heard about the sale while walking her dog.

She just happened to run into Heidi, who also was walking her dog, and Heidi told her about it.

Joan made up her mind.

She, too, would set up shop, hoping to cash in on her neighbor's advertising.

"I knew there would be a lot of traffic, so I wanted to get my stuff out here," she said.

Now, this is no dog-eat-dog neighborhood. Heidi welcomed the idea of Joan and other residents getting involved, saying the more the merrier.

"I didn't mind at all that she wanted to have a sale, too. I figure the more activity (customers) see going on the better it is for all of us."

And it did turn out to be a good day for all. For several hours there was a steady stream of shoppers looking for bargains.

Joan and her husband, Ervin, were thrilled about uncluttering their home.

They moved to Mesa three years ago from Skokie, Ill., where they had quite a bit more storage space.

"In Illinois we had an attic and a basement. And here there's no storage, no closets."

They also put a little extra spending money in their pocket, too - \$150.

Because we all have stuff we need - or want - to get rid of, it's not uncommon to see folks having a sale simply because their neighbor put up signs and advertised for their own sale.

Although most neighbors won't mind if you join in on the fun, it might be a good idea to see if you can help them in some way, too.

Here are a few etiquette tips if you're tempted to piggyback off your neighbors' sale.

- Take the time to ask your neighbors if they mind if you set up a few things, too.

Chances are they will encourage you to join in but it's polite to ask.

- Ask the neighbors who spent the money on the ads and put up the signs if you can chip in on the cost of the ads and signs.
- Offer to help take the signs down, since they put them up.
- Offer to organize the next sale by taking responsibility for the advertising and signs.



Wayne Ludkey, pictured with Tundra, the Ludkey family pooch who helped make the piggyback sale possible by wanting a walk!

Lynda Hammond runs the www.GarageSaleGal.com Web site where you can list and look for garage sales online and read past columns. Contact her at Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com. Lynda also does garage sale segments on 3-TV's *Good Morning Arizona*.