

NEXTDOOR.COM

For those of you who have received an invitation to join Nextdoor, you should be aware that this has not been endorsed by The Oaks Board. This is an online community service hosted at Nextdoor.com. It is a very large service already covering over 100,000 neighborhoods. On the surface, it sounds like a great opportunity to communicate with your neighbors in The Oaks. However, there are a couple of concerns that we have about this service.

The first is that when you sign up to create your account, the site requests access to your contact list (email, Facebook, etc.) and your personal information. What then happens is they use your contact list to send out more invitations to all your contacts to join Nextdoor – as if you were personally sending them. We think this is an invasion of privacy.

Each Nextdoor neighborhood has leaders assigned from the neighborhood. These leaders review the posts that are placed on the service and remove those that they deem inappropriate. These leaders do not really get any training or much direction. After researching for reviews of this service, there are a number of sites where people have complained that they are being bullied by their neighbors or the leaders. There have even been claims of race profiling. Of course, you always need to be concerned about how legitimate any review is that you find online – but there do seem to be quite a few negative reviews.

If you sign up for this service and then change your mind, there is a way to access your account information where you can close your account. If you need any help, please contact me at president@theoakshoa.org.

Keith Hering