

A banner image showing a portion of a porch with a white railing and a white door. The text 'Front Porch Forum' is overlaid in blue serif font.

Front Porch Forum™

Front Porch Forum

*Helping neighbors connect
and build community.*

FrontPorchForum.com

Horses missing?

**After you notify the authorities
and a couple neighbors,
what do you do?**

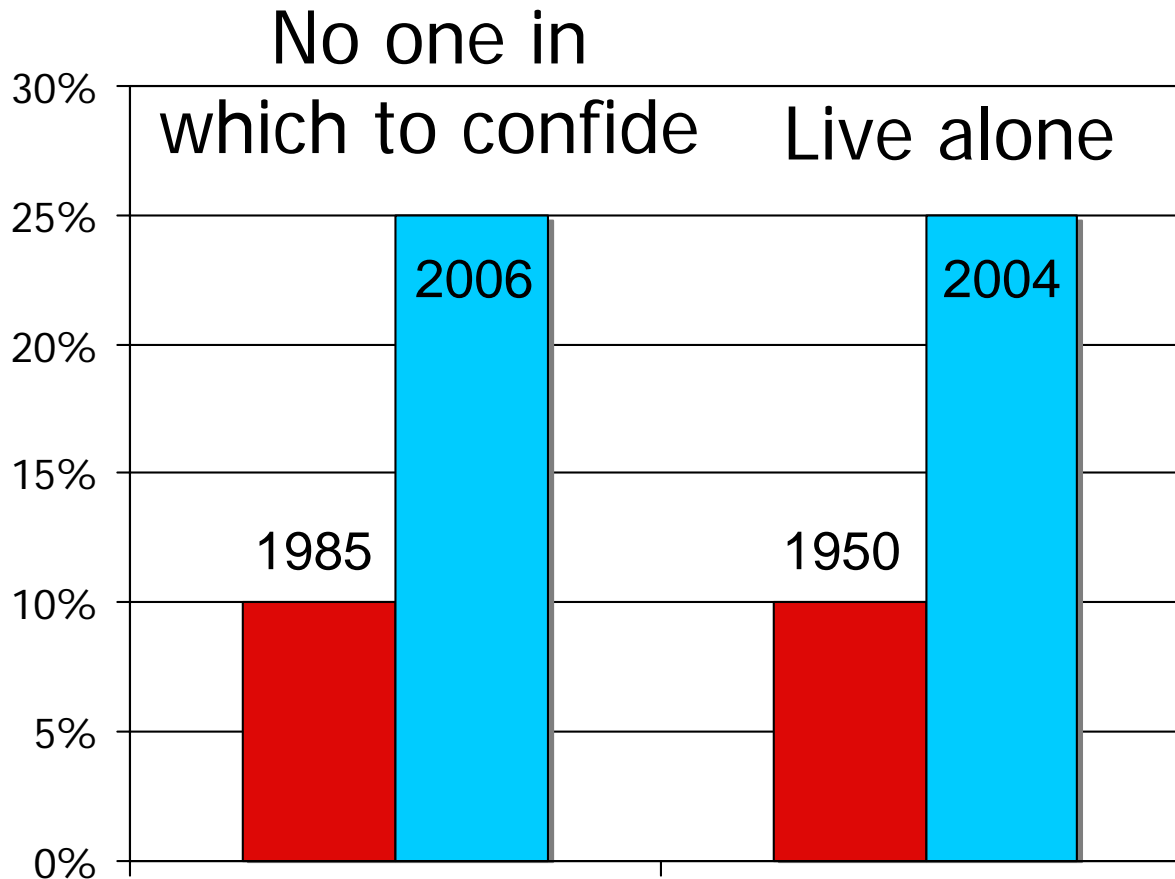
If you have the infrastructure, you instantly tell hundreds of locals...

“For two days and nights, neighbors of ours who live on Bert White Road have been searching high and low for their missing horses. ‘Socks’ and ‘Guy’ were spooked -- reportedly -- by an otherwise impressive fireworks display that took place adjacent to their pasture on Saturday night. They jumped fence and haven't been seen since.” -*Brett Lindemuth, Huntington, VT*

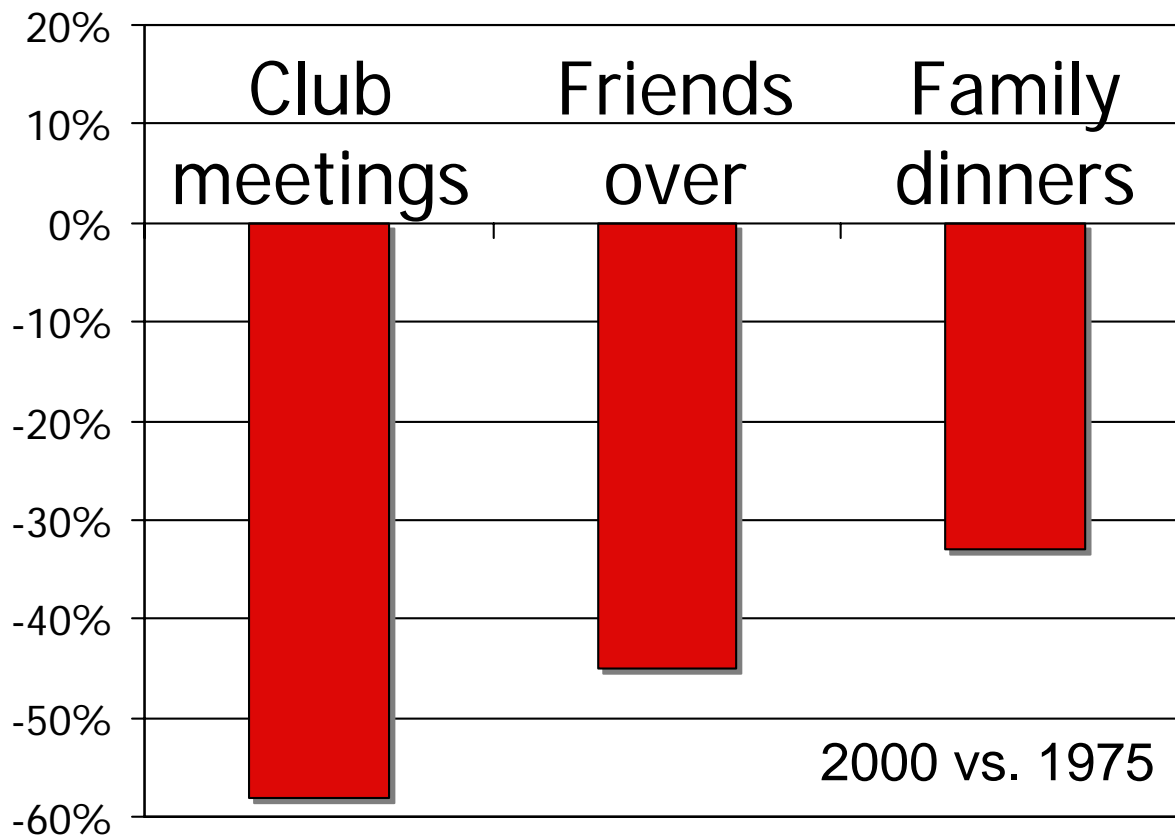
Best results of that story?

- Safe return of the horses
- Connection among neighbors searching for horses and, later, to build a run-in shed... it's community

Social capital decreasing...



Civic engagement decreasing...



Causes?

- *Economy*: fewer households can afford a stay-at-home parent
- *Development patterns*: suburban sprawl, long solo commutes
- *Culture*: are we are brother's keeper?
- *Digital media*: heads stuck in TV, computer, cell phones, iPods

Does technology pull people away from local community involvement?

- To some degree... yes.
- But it's bringing great opportunities to enhance local civic engagement too
- Cookies...

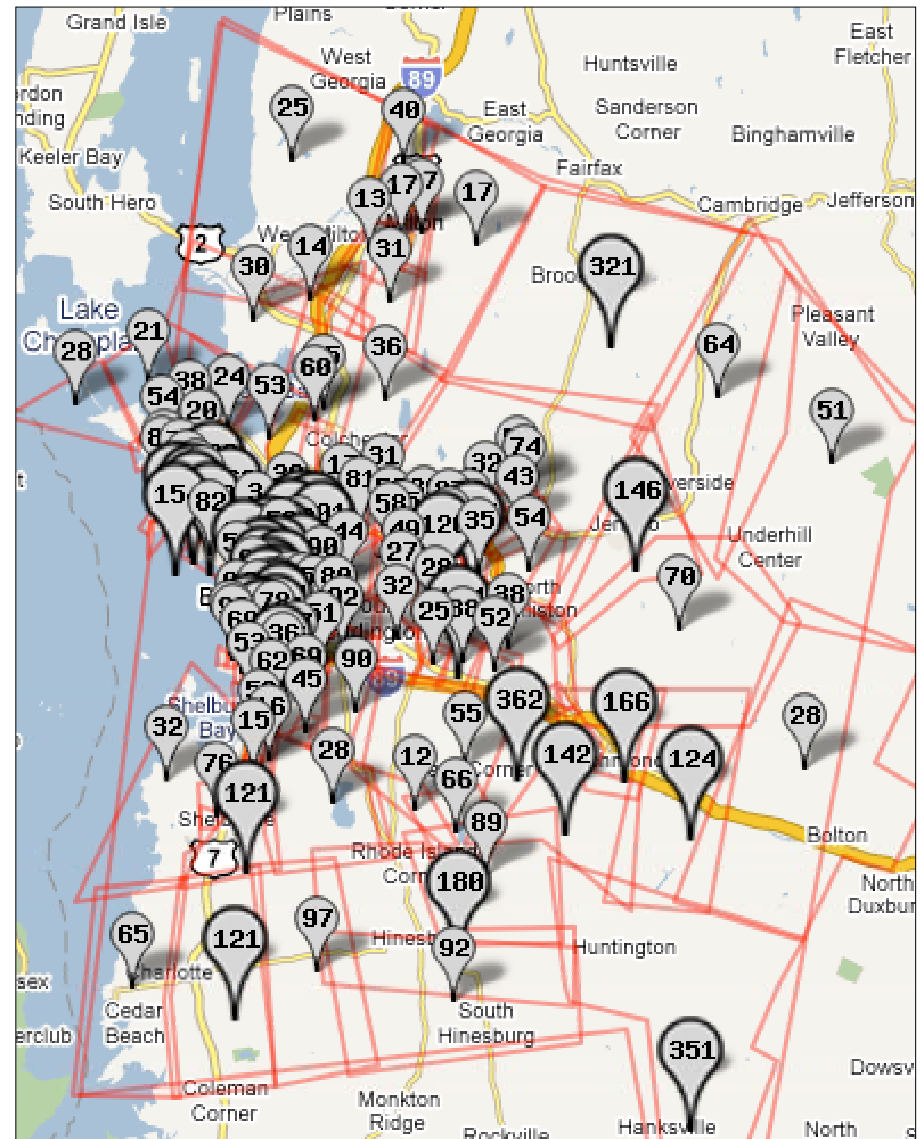
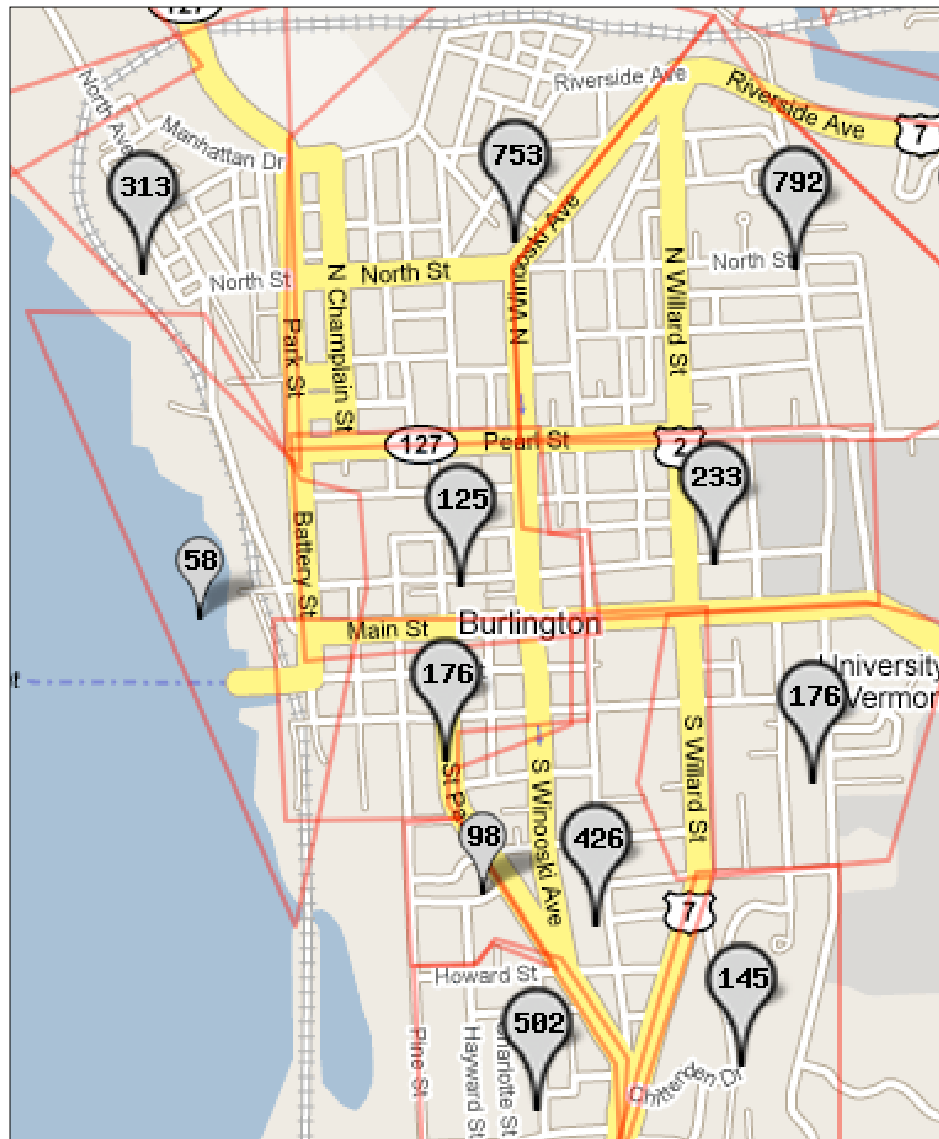
Front Porch Forum

- **Hosts networks of online neighborhood forums that blanket an area.**
- **Our pilot network covers the 25 towns of Chittenden and Grand Isle Counties, plus Starksboro, Vermont.**

Front Porch Forum

- Our mission is to help nearby neighbors connect and foster community.
- More than 17,000 households subscribe across 140 neighborhood forums, including half of Burlington, rural towns like Westford and Huntington, and suburban neighborhoods in Essex, etc.

Front Porch Forum



Front Porch Forum Postings

- Borrow ladder
- Find lost dog
- Discuss speeding
- Announce fundraiser
- Sell bike
- and lots more...
- Recommend plumber
- Organize block party
- Report break-in
- Debate school budget
- Give away couch

Date: 15 Aug 2009 03:44:38 -0000

Subject: Countryside Neighborhood Forum No. 286

From: Countryside Neighborhood Forum

--- Powered by Front Porch Forum ---

*** COUNTRYSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD FORUM NO. 286 ***

LOOKING FOR BABY SITTER

By Michael Smith, Aspen Dr

COMCAST TV

By George Trent, Hubbells Falls Dr

ANOTHER NEIGHBOR JOINS FORUM

By Brent Boardman, Aspen Drive

VISIT HARRIET POWELL MUSEUM!

By Tim Jerman, State Representative - Chittenden-6-2, S Hill Dr

TODAY'S FPF SPONSORS

-Big Help

-KidSafe Collaborative

-Seven Days

LOOKING FOR BABY SITTER

By Michael Smith, Aspen Dr, michael.smith@libertymutual.com

Wed, 13 August 2009

We are looking for a babysitter to watch our 2 year old son every Monday from 3:30 to 7:30 starting in September. We would prefer a high school or college student. If interested or know of anyone that may possibly be looking for a babysitting job please contact Bonnie at bjliven@yahoo.com or 878-2437. Thanks.

COMCAST TV

By George Trent, Hubbells Falls Dr, gtrent@us.ibm.com

Wed, 13 August 2009

Hi folks, we had both DISH and DIRECT TV tell us they could not get a sight over the trees. I called COMCAST and was told that starting next year it will cost me an additional \$6.99 per box on each of my 4 sets plus any additional charges to get DIGITAL TV or I will receive nothing. I have to pay \$64.00 per month and have lost 8 channels and their response was too bad the fee stays the same. Mr BS will do nothing because this is State law and they don't care what he says as they own the other votes.

ANOTHER NEIGHBOR JOINS FORUM

By Brent Boardman, Aspen Drive, boardmanb@yahoo.com

Thu, 14 August 2009

Brent Boardman of Aspen Drive joined the Countryside Neighborhood Forum today.

VISIT HARRIET POWELL MUSEUM!

By Tim Jerman, State Representative - Chittenden-6-2, S Hill Dr, vrunner@msn.com

Thu, 14 August 2009

I've been asked to publicize the hours of the Powell Museum in Essex Center and I'm happy to do it for all the village forums because the museum is a great way to plug into the rich history of Essex and Essex Junction. The museum is located at 3 Browns River Road, right behind the Essex Free library in the Center. It's open Sunday afternoons from 1:00-4:00p.m., and Thursday evening from 7-8:30p.m. into October. Kids will enjoy seeing how people lived on the farm years ago. If you haven't stopped in, you will be surprised at the extent of the collection and will enjoy the experience.

Please support this issue's SPONSORS...

BIG HELP OFFERS "PERSONAL ASSISTANCE FOR REGULAR PEOPLE"

Do you need help, but don't know who to call? BIG HELP is personal assistance for regular people, available on short notice, responsible, smart and kind. Call for ref's. and rates. Martha Tormey, BIG HELP. 802-734-5624, bighelpvermont@gmail.com

DONATE GOODS TO HELP KIDS

Donate high quality items to Annual Community Yard Sale. Drop off daily thru Thurs., 8am-6:30pm at Champlain Valley Expo, Gate B, Rte 15, Essex Jct. Donations tax deductible. Shop for great stuff Aug. 16-17, 8am-2pm. <http://www.kidsafevt.org/yardsale>

SEVEN DAYS

A Milton junkyard owner has flouted the law for years, operating without permits or certification. Why hasn't anyone shut him down? Click here for the story: <http://tinyurl.com/6bra6a>

REACH YOUR LOCAL AUDIENCE THIS FALL...

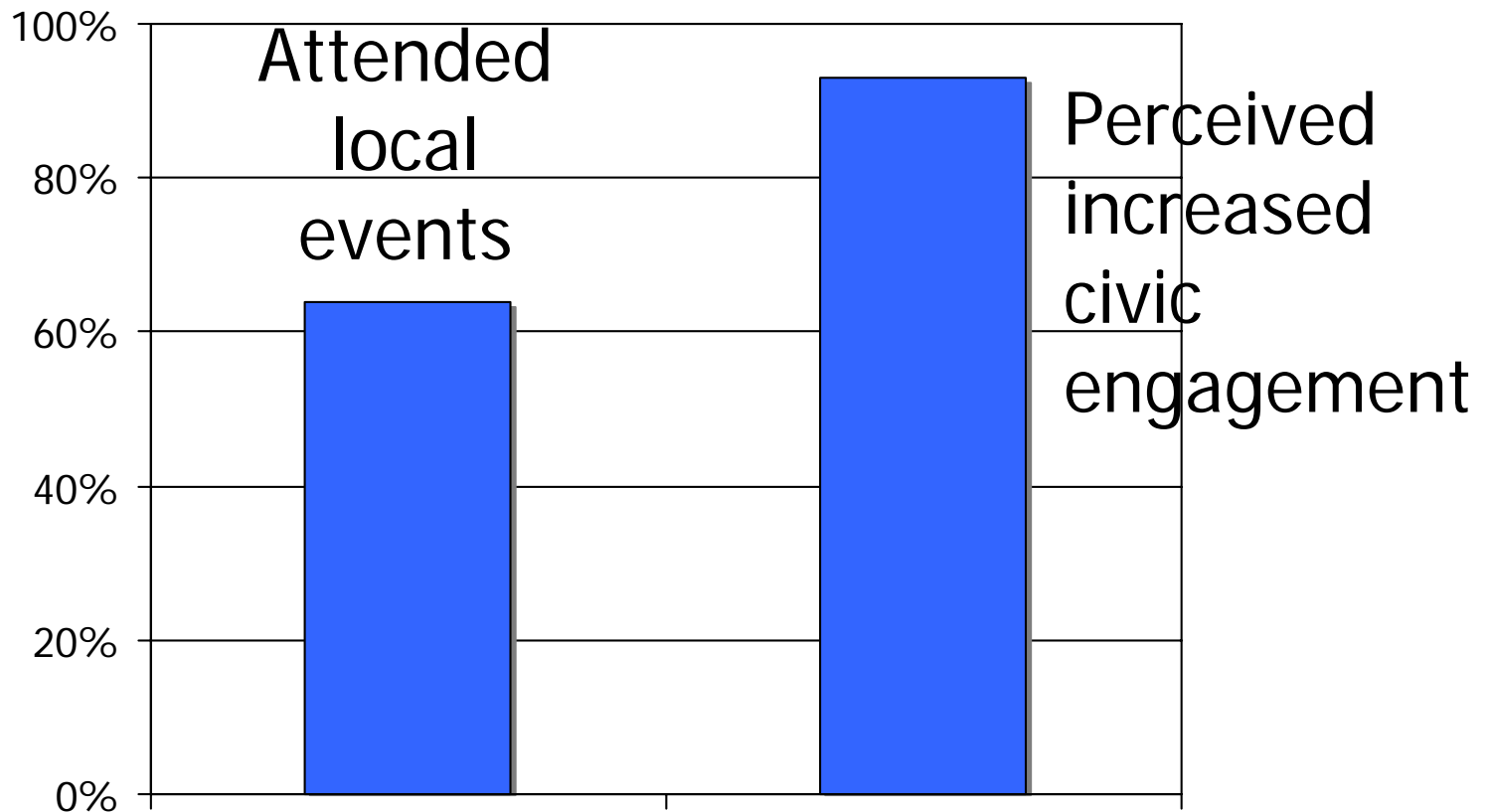
FPF ads are seen by 17,000 local households...
<http://frontporchforum.com/sponsorship/sponsors.php>

Front Porch Forum Postings

All these online exchanges among clearly identified nearby neighbors lead to...

- Great direct results
- People feeling more connected to their neighbors and more a part of their community
- Increased civic engagement

Survey of FPF members...



In FPF members' words...

- Neighbors to our rescue! Thanks to Front Porch Forum and Tina and John for the emergency load of firewood during the blizzard. That false (but scary) perception of “isolation” has been lifted. We feel a lot better... and a lot warmer! -Peggy McCullagh
- Thank you to everyone who responded for my request to have someone help my Mom with her shoveling. I had no idea there would be so many amazing responses through Front Porch Forum. -Diana St Louis

Awards and Recognition

- Steve Case Foundation
- Harvard's Berkman Center
- Orton Family Foundation
- Knight Commission
- Wall Street Journal
- PlaceMatters
- PBS
- As well as local
- Rural Telecom Congress
- Personal Democracy Forum
- Sunlight Foundation
- National Night Out
- Morning Edition
- Cottage Living Magazine
- American Press Institute
- Echoing Green

Other FPF details...

- *Partners:* 200 local public officials, 100+ local businesses and nonprofits, 500 neighborhood volunteers
- *Technology:* made from scratch, php, MySQL
- *Expansion:* developing plans to make service widely available to communities.

Front Porch Forum

*Helping neighbors connect
and build community.*

Michael Wood-Lewis

802-540-0069

contact@frontporchforum.com

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