

Questions for a neighbor

Life over the fence — the small daily kindnesses.

You need this paper, a phone that records, and an unhurried hour. Three or four questions are plenty for one sitting — follow the light in their eyes, not this list.

Before you sit down

- ☐ Asked permission a few days ahead, so they can warm to it.
- ☐ Charged the phone and tested the voice recorder once.
- ☐ Turned off the television; silenced my own phone.

The questions

1. How did you first meet — over what fence, porch, or borrowed tool?

2. What could you set your watch by, watching their house?

3. What did they grow, fix, feed, or rescue?

4. When did they help you without being asked?

5. What did the street sound like when their family was young?

6. What's a small kindness of theirs you never told them you noticed?

7. What changed on the street when they moved in — or when they were gone?

8. If a new neighbor asked you about them, what's the first story you'd tell?

Afterward

- ☐ Moved the recording off the phone the same day (computer, family folder, or private archive).
- ☐ Named the file with person, date, and subject.
- ☐ Told them what it meant to me.