JOB DESCRIPTION

Strong Towns, a nationally recognized nonprofit, is seeking a dynamic individual to write weekly articles about life in their neighborhood.

The mission of Strong Towns is to support a model of development that allows America’s cities, towns, and neighborhoods to grow financially strong and resilient. We have nearly 3,000 members worldwide, including at least one in each U.S. state. Our influential media site reached over 2.2 million people in 2020 and is shaping the national conversation on growth, development, and the future of cities.

We’re looking to hire a part-time, contract-based columnist for 2022 (with the possibility to extend into 2023), to publish weekly columns on StrongTowns.org. This is a remote position, open to anyone in the US or Canada.

We’re looking for relatable stories for our geographically, economically, and politically diverse audience about topics like: your experience meeting your new next-door neighbors, what it’s like to walk to the grocery store in your town, the coffee shop owner you chatted with last week and the challenges he’s faced running a business on Main Street, and so on. Here are some past examples from the Strong Towns website of the sort of column we’re talking about:

- “Why Placemakers Need Playtime” by Gracen Johnson
- “3 Questions to Ask While Walking Your City” by Tiffany Owens
- “We’re Not in Mayberry Anymore, and That’s a Good Thing” by John Pattison

This isn’t academic or technical writing. It’s about getting up close with your neighborhood and sharing that journey with a national audience. Strong Towns staff will periodically help brainstorm story ideas, but the inspiration for your weekly column ultimately lies with you and will need to come from your life most weeks.

This might be the role for you if:

- You love thinking about how to make your community better. You might even have story ideas already!
- You pay attention to the little things around you—the trees in the park, the conversation with the grocery store clerk, the person biking on the side of the road—and the thought of writing about these things gets you excited.
- Weekly deadlines don’t intimidate you, and you’re confident that you’ll be able to balance this work (about 1–4 hours a week, depending on how fast you write) with the other duties in your life.
- You live in a place that you think lots of other people across the country could relate to—probably not a huge metropolis or a remote farm.
• You’ve got a unique perspective on the world, and you enjoy sharing it with others through writing.
• You’re comfortable writing in a welcoming and nonpartisan manner, with the help of our editors.
• Bonus: You like taking photographs and would be ready to include those in your weekly column.

DETAILS AND COMPENSATION
This columnist will be expected to submit one 600- to 1200-word column per week throughout 2022 for a total of 46 columns (with six weeks off). Columnists will be paid $350 per article.

TO APPLY
If you are interested in this position, please visit www.strongtowns.org/employment to start the application process. We are looking to fill this position by mid-November 2021.