



Mr. Mike's Neighborhood MobileHomeResident.com

828 Cour Marie St., Warren, MI 48091 | 248.705.9306
www.mrmikesneighborhood.org | mike@mrmikesneighborhood.org

AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER

HI NEIGHBORS!

“Community is much more than belonging to something; it’s about **doing something together that makes belonging matter.” — Brian Solis**

IF YOU'RE NEW TO LAFAYETTE PLACE

If you are new to our Community, first of all Welcome. We're glad you're here and hope your stay with us is enjoyable and productive. You might not be familiar with Mr. Mike's Neighborhood, and unfortunately I don't have the space in this newsletter to educate you, so please visit both of our websites, **mrmikesneighborhood.org & mobilehomerresident.com** where you'll learn everything about us you need for right now. You also have our phone number so you can call if you have an questions. You'll find our newsletter on the website the first of every month. Our newsletter will be your only form of communication in the Park since Sun Communities has no communication process.

I NEED YOU TO TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY

Folks, this newsletter isn't meant to scare you, it's meant to protect you from criminals within, or entering in our Community. Over the past several years, crime has increased at Lafayette Place. Between stolen cars, broken car windows and punctured tires, stolen lawnmowers and bicycles, and packages stolen off our porches, it has become IMPERATIVE that with our Community being in the news for stolen cars, we have become an easy mark for criminals to invade our Community. Being across the street from Detroit and next to I-75, how hard will it be to steal a car and hop on the expressway. They're gone before anyone knows.

WE NEED TO BAND TOGETHER

Here's something we can pretty much be assured of; Sun Communities and Park Management will do nothing to protect us, so we need to do it ourselves. We know that the office and Manager's home have security cameras, so they're protected. But what about us? Sun Communities should be responsible for:

- Providing security: This might involve measures such as proper lighting in public spaces, functional locks on doors and windows, security personnel in high-risk areas to protect residents from foreseeable criminal acts, and security cameras around the park.
 - Responding to maintenance and safety concerns: Sun Communities is expected to address tenant reports of safety hazards and maintenance issues in a timely manner.
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SO MR. MIKE'S NEIGHBORHOOD IS DOING WHAT IT CAN TO PROTECT YOU

I obviously can't install security cameras or hire security guards, but there is something I can do that should help. I can make sure you are aware of criminal incidents that occur in your Neighborhood, but I need your help.

1. You need to report every incident that occurs in our Community to Mr. Mike's Neighborhood. I have a magnetic whiteboard in front of my home where I'll report the incidence. You should drive by several times a week to see what's been reported.

2. I need to be able to communicate with you, so if I don't have your first name, home number and cell phone number, please text this information to me. If you are a grass cutting customer of mine, I already have your information.

REMEMBER:

"He who does not prevent a crime when he can, encourages it."

...Lucius Annaeus Seneca

WHAT IF YOU DECIDE NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE?

If you decide not to participate in helping keep our Community safe, my only response could be, "What the Hell is the matter with you?" You don't want to keep your family safe, your children safe, your Neighbors safe? You're willing to invite criminals into our Community which is exactly what will happen. I'm sorry if anyone would make a decision like that, but the Community can rest assured that at least Mr. Mike and Miss Linda will do everything we can to help keep you and your family safe even if you don't.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU SEE A CRIME?

Most importantly, don't do anything. I don't need you to be a Crime Fighter. So first, call Mr. Mike and report the crime, then call the police. Park Management would like you to inform them, but they won't do anything about it and just tell you to call the police and then stick the report in a file.

If you see criminals scoping out the cars in your parking lot, call me. I'll be glad to walk over and check it out. But do not approach them yourselves. I have no intention of putting you or your family in danger. I just need to know what's going on so I can keep a file in case we need it.

I DON'T SEE ANY CRIME, COULD YOU BE EXAGGERATING?

NO!!!!!! I'll use myself and Mr. Mike's Neighborhood as an example. In the past three years since new Management was installed, I have had the following stolen: lawnmower, weed whacker and blower, bolt cutters, leaf rake, bicycle, and the kids stepstool I use by the Children's Library. On my block we've had 4 vehicles broken into. This is just on my block so you can surely assume it's happening around the Community. Since Sun Communities will not provide sheds, how many of you have had something stolen. Even apartment complexes provide storage units for their residents, but not Sun Communities. It just shows they don't give a damn if you have to keep your lawnmowers and bicycles outside your homes to get stolen. All they care about is that you pay your rent....Period! Miss Linda and I have talked with several Neighbors who have lived here over 20 years, and they all say that crime has gotten worse over the last 3 years. I think they would know.

FINAL THOUGHT BEFORE YOU VISIT THE WEBSITE:

If you aren't comfortable getting on the internet to read the newsletter, just text me your first name and house number and I'll hand deliver it to you the first of every month. Regarding the crime in our Community, Dalibor Zivkovic said, "There is no perfect protection, but there is the perfect decision to be prepared." Let's make that perfect decision together. Texting me your first name and house number is all you need to do to start. **CONTINUE READING ON THE WEBSITE.**

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR MR. MIKE'S NEIGHBORHOOD TO SUCCEED?

Mr. Mike's Neighborhood was created to fill the customer care hole that exists between our Neighbors, Sun Communities and Park Management. When I started my first Association here, The Lafayette Place Neighborhood Association, Sun Communities sent their lawyers after me with a Cease and Desist Order to shut it down after I invested my personal income for over a year. It was after they saw all the help I was providing their residents that they weren't, Sun didn't want their residents to experience anything so good because they didn't want to set a precedent that our Neighbors would receive that type of attention from them, and that anyone could start an Association in their other properties. It was amazing that small little me could cause such a ruckus for big, bad Sun Communities, but for almost three years as the Director of Mr. Mike's Neighborhood, I'm still here and continue to fight for our Neighbors.

But also, I don't have a lot of data to confirm this, but I think we're the only Neighborhood Association of this quality in any of their properties, which makes us the FIRST. Being the first is a big responsibility since we have the privilege of creating and laying the groundwork for others who want to create a Neighborhood Culture in their mobile home Communities. That's why I need to make sure that everything I do is above reproach and realistic to work. So I keep fighting for you at my peril.

SUN COMMUNITIES RESPONDS TO MY JULY NEWSLETTER

Joel Shekell is our Regional Vice President, and is in charge of Lafayette Place. He doesn't respond to me regarding important issues no different then the way he trained Nicolette to do the same. Well, I must have struck a nerve last month since Joel sent me this message:

**"Mike you're a pain. Don't you have better things to do.
You're a waste of my time and effort." ...Joel Shekell**

Can't you just feel the disrespect? Now, this is a Vice President of a multi-billion dollar, publicly-traded company who knows exactly what I do to take care of the residents who pay his and Nicolette's salaries, and yet this is how he treats a resident-in-good-standing. Worst of all, he has trained our Park Management to treat our Neighbors the same. When they pass by my place as I'm sitting on the bench, they don't even have the courtesy to look my way when I Smile and Wave, it's just bad training. Now, here's what Joel and Sun Communities could have said:

"Mr. Mike, we at Sun Communities are so proud of the treatment, services and the consistent attention you provide our residents, I personally want to thank you and to let you know you have our Support. The good work you do would make any mobile home park owner want to install your Neighborhood Culture within their Communities. We'd be honored if we could help you finance your efforts to continue such an outstanding program."

Do you think he would ever say that, or allow Park Management to treat me with a modicum of respect?
Hell no!!

A RULE I JUST LEARNED OF

I was cutting grass on a Saturday morning at a Neighbors home when I saw a dead cat on the back of his property. I asked him to run next door to the office and ask them to remove it. Marcia, (I don't even know if this is how she spells her name) said she would send the maintenance guy over. On Monday I checked to see if it was done, and of course, it was just another lie. So I emailed Nicolette and her response was:

"Generally, if it's on the Tenant's property, it's their responsibility."

What this means is that if you are a senior or handicapped, or even a little squeamish, and didn't have anyone else to rely on, Park Management will not help you. She would have allowed curious children to get near it, or like it was doing, stinking up the whole place. But that's not Park Management's problem. This is another reason why it's important for Mr. Mike's Neighborhood to be here. So I took care of it myself. Do you think I would have gotten a thank you from her? Again, **HELL NO!!!!**

I HELP MY NEIGHBORS FOR FREE

I've been asked by vendors who charge for services why I don't charge my Neighbors for what I do? Whether I fixed your stairs and railings, painted your porches and homes, fixed your siding and skirting, changed your ceiling light bulbs and furnace filters, or any other service I've provided to you, I've never asked a penny. Why? Because I feel if I start putting a dollar sign next to everything I do, it would sort of defeat our philosophy of Neighbors helping Neighbors. My Neighbors don't have that much disposable income to afford everything they need. I don't ask for donations or membership fees. The only thing I charge for is \$20 for grass cutting which helps pay for Association expenses. And I used to turn down tips because I felt that the \$5 extra you would give me could pay for two Whopper Juniors for the family. But when my Neighbors realized I ran out of money, many of my grass cutting Neighbors have started taking care of me with a little extra. Though I'd love to still keep turning down tips, it does feel good.

PROMISES MADE, PROMISES KEPT

When I created both Associations, I made a promise to my Community that I would stand by my Neighbors and help them with anything I can. I promised that I would fight Sun Communities and Park Management to make our Community the GEM it should be. And after almost three years, I truly feel I've kept my promises to you, even through I continue to endure the disrespect from Park Management and the disdain from Sun Communities. Though I've had my spells of weakness and sometimes felt like my Community wasn't supporting me, you'd come out of the woodwork and not let me quit. Thus, we're still here. But though Miss Linda and I have lots of supporters, I still wonder if I needed my Community to stick up for me like I do for them, would they do it?

MISS LINDA AND I HAVE PLEDGED THE REST OF OUR LIVES TO OUR COMMUNITY

If you don't know the two of us, you should. I've kept Miss Linda out of the fight between myself, Park Management and Sun Communities because I don't want her having to contend with their slings and arrows. So she is our representative to Park Management since they've made it uncomfortable for me to even come into the office, when it's open that is. Before I started the Association, I had a good relationship with Park Management. I grew wonderful vegetables that I would share with them. I'd give them my extra flowers and used to help our maintenance person by plowing the snow in front of the Park. But once I started the Association, oh how times have changed. But I digress.

What can I say about Miss Linda? There is no greater friend to Mr. Mike's Neighborhood and Lafayette Place. Before retiring, she was a Property Manager for over 26 years specializing in Section 8 Housing. Virtually everyone she dealt with didn't have a lot of money and needed low-cost housing. So she not only needed to be versed in every law, every regulation, every possibility, and more importantly, she had to take individuals who are angry and scared, and make them feel like their future is bright, while still giving them a reality check. And while doing this, she managed a huge apartment complex. She credits her LandMark Training for her excellent Management skills, and I'm glad she stuck with me from the very beginning. She is an asset that just can't be replaced. Say Hi to her as she walks by.

Miss Linda has been a resident-in-good-standing here for over 36 years, myself for 14 years. According to Sun Communities, you are a resident-in-good-standing if you pay your rent on time, keep up your property and are good to your Neighbors. If you are a resident-in-good-standing, you should never be afraid of Sun Communities and Park Management. Once she learned what I was trying to accomplish with

the Association, she jumped on board without hesitation. Though she didn't take part in the financial aspects of the Association, she brought many assets that just made the Association so much better. But once she learned that I had run out of money, she opened her personal pocketbook to help, again without hesitation.

As for me, I was President of Michael Learning Group, a sales and management training company for over 30 years. I've written over a dozen industry books and countless articles. Before that I was a professional tennis player until I started my company. I came here when my mom was getting ill. She died about 8 years ago, and I also have decided to spend my remaining days here helping my Community.

Miss Linda and I, though not married, will spend the rest of our lives here together taking care of our Community, at least until Sun Communities finds a way to get rid of me. You may think this is no big deal, but how many people do you know who have made this type of commitment? I have given my personal cell phone number to 250 homes, most I've never met. This showed my commitment to my Neighbors that there will always be someone they can call if in need. How many of you would give your personal phone number to 250 families you don't know?

ANOTHER MR. MIKE'S PROGRAM THAT DIDN'T GET OFF THE GROUND

In the July Newsletter there was a section explaining how I wanted to put on a summer program for our kids. I wanted to buy 100 boxes of Washable Sidewalk Chalk and have an event for every kid in the entire Community. They would walk over to my place with their parents, register for the event and get their box of chalk and instructions. At the end, everyone could walk around and see their drawings. It would have been exciting. But I needed to raise \$600, which I figured was 30 Neighbors donating \$20 each. I received \$0.00 donations which tells me you're not reading the newsletter, and if you are reading it, doing something for the kids wasn't anything you wanted to do.

I don't have kids, so I can't understand why I care so much about the kids in our Community. When I read that so many of our children in Warren were reading well below grade level, I tore down my beautiful water feature in front of my home and built the Free Children's Library and Free Food Pantry. I didn't just close my eyes to this reading problem, but with a wonderful area for learning in front of my home, I wonder how many of you have walked your child over to pick up a book, and just as important, how many parents have picked up a book to read to your children? Unless our children are proficient in reading, their lives will become much more difficult.

TO OUR NEW NEIGHBORS

Folks, since this might be your first newsletter you may think that there's nothing but gloom and doom for Mr. Mike's Neighborhood. But in fact it's really the opposite. We have met many Neighbors who are actually wonderful and appreciate the work that we do. Here's a couple of the most recent comments:

"Mr. Mike, I can't speak for anyone else, but you and Miss Linda have done more for my family than this park does. We need Mr. Mike's Neighborhood, and along with thanking you and sending our love, you will never be defeated."

"I feel that Mr. Mike's Neighborhood is essential because Sun Communities main concern is profit. Mr. Mike's Neighborhood genuinely cares about people."

"Mr. Mike and Miss Linda are gems. I love the support they give the Community helping others who may not have resources other than housing is priceless. Mr. Mike also makes me feel at HOME whenever I see him or Miss Linda waving as I drive by. I am grateful to have a program like this in our Community."

“You help people in the Park, and provide goodwill to all in need by offering free stuff to people that other people throw away.”

“Hi Mr. Mike, it was late when I got home the other night, but I could still see my grass looks GREAT!! Of course, seeing it that morning had me smiling again! Showing it off to my friend after work felt wonderful too!”

And one more good one to end:

“Mr. Mike’s Neighborhood offers programs that Sun Communities doesn’t. For example, the Free Children’s Library, Free Food Pantry, Porch Pirate Pickup Program, and the newsletter (especially this one.) I’m more informed about what’s going on with the Community. Sun Communities did try a newsletter for a couple of months, but as you can see it didn’t last long. You are consistent and come up with ways to help the Community, and for that I am thankful and appreciate all the things you do. My boyfriend and I moved in here almost 2 years ago. We’re not much of outgoing people. We mostly work all week and the time we do have off we try to relax or help our family. What I’m trying to say is that your programs made us feel welcome and because of you, we would like to stay here. So please keep loving us the way you and Miss Linda do.”

So you can see that even though Nicolette, Marcia, Joel and Sun Communities hates us, we do have those that appreciate what Mr. Mike’s Neighborhood provides. Please don’t hesitate communicating with us because you fear retaliation from them. They can’t hurt us. Miss Linda and myself are the ones who truly care about you and will stand by you even when they won’t.

AUGUST GARDEN CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

It’s almost that time where we reward our Neighbors who beautify our Community with their excellent gardens. In August I’ll be taking pictures for the website and awarding the Certificates of Appreciation. You still have time to make something to show off. Doesn’t have to be big, but it should be beautiful.

We’ll be doing the seasonal Certificates for Halloween, Thanksgiving and the big one, Christmas. So start your thinking about designs and show us your imagination.

THEIR NEWEST WAY TO AVOID US

We always knew that Park Management and Sun Communities were terrible at communicating, and they don’t like dealing with people anyways. I can still remember seeing Dale run into his office every time he saw a Neighbor coming in. So they wouldn’t have to deal with us, the Office would do things like close the office whenever they want, not answer phone calls which happens all the time, not return phone calls when you do get to leave a message, so now they keep the voicemail box full so you can’t leave a message. Even I never thought of that one.

FINAL THOUGHT:

To My Newest Neighbors to Mr. Mike’s Neighborhood.

We’re awfully glad you’re here. Even if you don’t know much of what’s going on, I hope that after reading the newsletter, you’ll go to the website and read the previous ones so you can learn more about us. You picked a good Community to live in whether you’re here for a year or a lifetime. We truly have the finest Neighbors of any Community even if they don’t know it. Mr. Mike’s Neighborhood is here to keep reminding them. **So as soon as you finish reading this newsletter, send me a text with your first name, house number and cell phone. It costs you nothing to be a part of Mr. Mike’s Neighborhood.** You’re only requirement is to be a Good Neighbor to all and meet your Neighbors on both sides of your home. Pretty simple, huh?

To My True Believers in Mr. Mike's Neighborhood

The prayers and blessings you send Miss Linda and myself are too many to count, and greatly appreciated. Keep supplying to the Pantry with food and the Library with Adult Fiction books. We are loaded with kids books. We take clean, washed and folded clothes and toys and display them in front of my home on Saturdays and Sundays whether premitting. Whatever isn't taken over the two days will be sent to St. Vincent's on Monday.

To Everyone:

We don't take bows for what we do for our Community, and we do feel the appreciation. But I'm asking a big favor. We would like to know what you think about Mr. Mike, Miss Linda and Mr. Mike's Neighborhood. So when you finish the newsletter, go back up to the top of the page and let us know. It will be a big help. We, of course will be posting your comments on the website.
