



Mr. Mike's Neighborhood

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DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

HI NEIGHBORS,

“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.” Leo Buscaglia

THE UNSUNG POWER OF A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Katie said all the people on her street should be given “best neighbor” awards. “When my mother passed, they all got together and provided food for days,” she wrote. “We look out for each other’s homes when someone is away, get our kids off the bus for each other, one of the neighbors built a little lending library for the kids in the neighborhood, and the list goes on and on. I wouldn’t want to live anywhere else.”

Doug said, “The winter we moved in, there was a monster snowstorm that dumped over a foot of snow on our property. After an hour of struggling to shovel, I went inside for a break,” he wrote. “Minutes later, I heard the sound of my neighbor's tractor and looked out the window to see him plowing our sidewalk.”

A driver delivering a package is a common sight during the holidays. Unfortunately, another sight is also common – someone following the delivery truck, with the goal of swiping a package. Lucky for Trigg, his next-door neighbor was watching from the window and called police. Authorities caught up with her and found a number of packages inside her car. “We have such great neighbors. We all take care of each other,” he says. Neighbors are taking care of each other nationwide. Issac started a Porch Pirate Patrol. “Since a lot of us are working from home, including me, this is something we can do for our neighbors.”

FLU SHOTS

Influenza, often called the flu, is an infection of the nose, throat and lungs, which are part of the respiratory system. The flu is caused by a virus. Most people with the flu get better on their own. But influenza can cause serious complications for some groups of people.

In general, people at higher risk than average for complications are young children, especially children age 12 months and younger, pregnant people, adults over age 65 and people with certain medical conditions.

The flu vaccine can lower your risk of getting the flu. It also can lower the risk of having serious illness from the flu and needing to stay in the hospital or dying from the flu. **Mayo Clinic**

CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING

Christmas doesn't have to be about the gifts. Yes, we often want to give to those closest to us and that's not a bad thing! I'm not harping on Christmas gift giving. But I do think that as the economy continues to struggle, we need to cut back significantly.

This year as you set your Christmas budget, I would encourage you to try and cut it back a little more. If all you can squeeze out of your already tight budget is \$100, then you can make that work. If you have a little more, that's great. But set your budget and don't go over. Buy Christmas within your means.

And please don't put Christmas on a credit card you can't pay off in full. Your children, grandchildren, parents, friends, teachers, mailman, hairdresser, etc. would not want you to go into debt to buy Christmas gifts. Buy only what you can afford. Don't put yourself in a hole in December that you'll have to spend all of 2024 and more digging yourself out of.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS FOR YOUR FAMILY

I found so many of them on one page, that I thought instead of wasting space by putting them in the newsletter, I'd just give you the link to the **Christmas Events Page**.

<https://www.candgnews.com/news/on-the-nice-list-christmas-holiday-events-in-2023-3846>

If you're reading the newsletter on a computer or phone, just copy/paste this link into your browser.

SNOW BLOWING

Like last year, if you're a Senior who has no one to remove your snow, text me and I'll put you on my list. I did purchase a big battery powered snow blower, but only used it twice last year. So I don't know how many I can do with the battery life I have. But I'll figure it out eventually. The price will be \$20 for the day, since they'll be times when it will need to be blown several times in a day. Cash, CashApp and Credit Cards on the website.

THE NEWSLETTER POST

I'm truly sorry that I can't deliver the newsletter to everyone's home like I used to. According to Management this would be considered "solicitation," and the Park would consistently cite me for breaking their rules. So I put a post in front of my house with the newsletters that you can take just by driving by. Also remember to look at my front window for new information on the letter board.

FINAL THOUGHT:

Well, most of you know the stress myself and the now defunct Association went through with Corporate and Management shutting us down. It was very hard on me to try and do the good work I committed to my Neighbors and yet be confronted with legal action from the ones who are supposed to care about their residents. It was very stressful, but we got through it with sentiments like these from my Neighbors:

- "We appreciate you Mike. I'm glad you didn't quit on us."
- "You were there when I needed you. That's more than I can say about my family."
- "I don't have money for a donation, but I pray for you daily."
- "The Park wouldn't help me when I needed help. But you did."

To all my Neighbors from **Mr. Mike's Neighborhood**, this Christmas wish: "Remember, the moment you stop believing in Santa Claus is the moment you start getting clothes for Christmas." Wishing you a prosperous and healthy 2024.
