



Mr. Mike's Neighborhood

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DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

HI NEIGHBORS!

**“The joy of brightening other lives becomes for us the magic of the holidays.”
— W.C. Jones and Mr. Mike's Neighborhood**

IS WRITING A LETTER TO SANTA A LOST EVENT?

Last year I bought a red mailbox and placed in on the bench by the pantry's for a solid month to encourage our kids to continue the fantasy of writing a letter to Santa. Unfortunately, not one letter appeared.

Kids LOVE to write letters to Santa Claus, and what could be more fun than actually receiving a reply? It's absolutely one of a kids favorite Christmas traditions. Though I've never had kids, I can imagine that seeing your kids' faces, when they open the mailbox and see a letter with their name on it from Santa? And it's really easy to do.

Christmas is such a magical time, and the perfect season for family activities and traditions. There are many things that people love, like cutting down a Christmas tree (though I think it's better to buy an artificial one), reading a Christmas book every night, and making homemade ornaments. At the top of their must-do list is writing letters to Santa, and the very best part is when the kids get their own letter back!

When you are working on your letters to Santa it's very important that you guide your child rather than correcting them. Offering gentle guidance will help with spelling or formatting but also allow your child to take ownership in their writing and efforts. To encourage your child to not only write to Santa, but also to regularly practice their writing every day, you should show them how writing fits into your own life.

MR. MIKE'S NEIGHBORHOOD WILL SUPPLY THE ENVELOPE AND STAMP

To make it more of an event for you and your child, we will supply a pre-addressed envelope with a stamp that you'll find in the red mailbox on my home #828. Walk your kid over and pull one out, place your letter in the envelope and you can drop it off at a real mailbox together. I hear if you put your return address on it, someone will respond back.

I FIGHT FOR YOU

Many of you are only familiar with us from our Community programs like our Neighbor's Giving Days, our Smile and Wave Program, our Porch Pirate Program and our Food and Book Pantry's. But what you don't see is how I work to provide us with a safer and more beautiful Park like fixing the potholes. I do this so I can take their slings and arrows instead of you. Lafayette Place should be a gem, a place where people

actually want to come and live. And with the high rents we pay, they should be investing some of this profit back into this Park to make it the **GEM** it should be. But they won't. So I keep sending the emails, letters in the mail, complaints to the Warren City Commission and our State Attorney General and anyone who will listen. Since I'm going to live the rest of my life here, I want to be able to consider this my HOME, instead of just a renter like Sun Communities would want me to be. I want our relatives, guests and future Neighbors to visit and see where we live as beautiful, as compared to the potholes, gravel and glass in the streets, crushed curbs from the tractors and of course, trash in the streets. Why shouldn't we be able to have this? So I'll keep fighting behind the scenes to hopefully, which I doubt, will force Sun Communities to treat us, and our Park better than what their plans are. And I'll continue to do it with my own money.

UPDATE:

When I email our Vice President from Sun Communities, I am either lied to or my communications are ignored. Since they don't want to work with me on making our Community better, I just sent a letter to Sun Communities President to see if he could help us. Likely nothing will come of it since Sun Communities isn't much of a "caring company" but you never know when one of them will have a weak moment and realize that we deserve to live in a safe and beautiful Community. I'll keep you informed.

FREE FRUIT PANTRY FAILED

When I realized our kids weren't getting enough fruit in their diets, I added another Pantry and asked my Community to donate just one can of fruit per month. I really thought that this would be the most inexpensive program to get my Community to become more involved. But again you told me no. So instead of tearing it down and selling it, I just made it another Free Food Pantry. For those of you who did contribute a can of fruit, Thank You!

BUT WE DO HAVE PROGRAMS THAT HAVE BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL

I know that sometimes I come across as "gloom and doom" since things haven't always gone my way, but Mr. Mike's Neighborhood has created programs that continue to be very successful.

Our Humanitarian Efforts

First and foremost, Mr. Mike's Neighborhood's commitment is to help our Neighbors. Whether it be helping a Neighbor navigate through an eviction, caring for my Seniors and Handicapped Neighbors, or something as simple as loaning a plunger when someone really needed one. We have Neighbors in our Community who have no one to rely on, but at least they know they have Mr. Mike and Miss Linda to help them when in need.

Our Smile and Wave Program

When we first started the Association, it was the least expensive way to promote our Neighborhood Culture. To get someone you don't know to Smile and Wave back is pretty kewl. And it shows our commitment and consistency to our Community.

Our "Hey Neighbor" Program

When Miss Linda and I walk the Community, we say "Hey Neighbor" to everyone we see. The most rewarding part of this program is when we have kids greet us the same, or even better, say "Hi Mr. Mike and Miss Linda!" This comes from the direct support of their parents who are teaching them the Mr. Mike's Neighborhood Culture right when they're young. It won't let them down as they grow older.

Our Neighbor's Giving Days Program

This program started when Miss Linda would scavenge toys that were being thrown in the trash by our Neighbors. We'd put them out front my home for free and the kids loved taking them. Then we started

getting donations of clothes, really nice clothes, so we started putting them in front of my home every Saturday and Sunday. The Community's involvement for this program has been very heartening.

The Certificates of Appreciation

To show Mr. Mike's Neighborhood's appreciation for our Neighbors efforts to make our Community festive and beautiful during the holidays, we award beautiful certificates. It's our small way of thanking you for being a Good Neighbor and beautifying our Community!

Newsletter and Website

With articles, pictures and communications that you won't receive from Sun Communities or Park Management, it hasn't been viewed as much as I'd like. But it continues to be your only source of news and will continue to grow as long as I'm able to afford the fees that go along with them.

The Free Children's Library and the Free Food Pantry

I have called these pantry's "the greatest gift I have ever given anyone." All three have lights in them since I realized some Neighbors are embarrassed to take food during the day. So they come at night. Every morning I walk out to see how much food was taken from the efforts of our Community support. What a great way to start a morning, huh? We've also added the two-tiered basket for fresh fruits and vegetables.

But we have had a few failures: - The Community Picnic, The Class Action Lawsuit, The Porch Pirate Pickup Program, Getting Sun Communities to Fix Our Streets, and the Free Fruit Pantry. And though we do have our fans and supporters, I wish I could convince more of you that Mr. Mike's Neighborhood is worth supporting, even if I can't get Sun Communities and Park Management to do the same. So I guess all in all, that's not too bad for the successes we've had with the money and support available.

TO DRIP OR NOT TO DRIP

This is still a debate and many have their own reasons for each. But here's my unsolicited response and how I handle this in my home, since it's older and has tended to occasionally freeze if I forget drip.

Leaving a faucet dripping, especially the one furthest from the main water source, helps prevent my pipes from freezing and potential bursts by relieving pressure and keeping water moving. The moving water makes it harder for ice to form a complete blockage, and the constant flow helps to release pressure that can build up and cause older pipes to burst, particularly when thawing begins. But here's several other things to do:

- Make sure your skirting is tight and holes are patched. That's where those cold winds get under your home and cause your pipes to freeze.
- When it gets to below freezing, open your cabinet doors to allow heat to enter.
- Make sure your heat tape on the pipes is working.
- If they do freeze, rent a Turbo Heater from Kilburns or 9 Mile Rental. Watch a YouTube video on how to use it. It's easy and cheaper than hiring a company to unfreeze them.

This is how I personally handle freezing pipes. Make your own decision on how you handle it. Read my article entitled, "What to Do if Your Water Pipes Freeze in a Mobile Home".

FINAL THOUGHT:

As we enter our fourth year of serving our Community, Miss Linda and I want to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Start getting your Christmas decorations up so we can begin taking pictures and awarding you your beautiful Christmas Certificate of Appreciation. And, don't forget we still need food for the pantry's throughout the Holiday.