



## **Mr. Mike's Neighborhood**

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# **JANUARY NEWSLETTER**

**HI NEIGHBORS,**

**“What the New Year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the New Year.” — Vern McLella**

### **KEEP OUR COMMUNITY CLEAN**

I received a text from a Neighbor stating, “What happened to our Groundskeeper? If I’m paying \$xxx for rent, the grounds should be kept better.” I understand how our Neighbor feels. I happen to be one of those who likes living in a clean Community. So when I walk around the park and I see trash all over the place, it makes me upset. This is a beautiful park and should be kept that way. If the Park doesn’t want to keep our Park clean, then we should all pitch in.

Folks, I’ve seen some Neighbors drop a water bottle on the ground with no consideration for our Neighbors. I can’t understand how some people feel comfortable doing this. I’ve seen even more that will see the bottle next to their car when they come home and not pick it up. I have to believe that no one wants to live around trash. **SO PLEASE PITCH IN AND HELP KEEP THE PARK CLEAN FOR 2024!**

### **STREET NUMBERS ON THE BACK OF YOUR HOME**

FedEX, UPS, Meals on Wheels, Medical Visits, Ride Share, and every food delivery service uses GPS to bring us their goods. The chances are that GPS will take them right to your Cour, which has few street addresses. The Park has refused to do this since I’ve been here and I have asked, so I assume it will never happen. If you can spare a couple bucks this year, buy three numbers and put them on the back of your home. If you need my help to put them on, just send me a text. It will truly eliminate a lot of frustration looking for your home.

### **WELCOME TO OUR COMMUNITY**

When I started the now-defunct Association in October 2022, one of my requests was that Management inform us of new Neighbors coming into our Community so we can bring them a “Welcome to our Community” plant. They refused. So the only way I know is if I see someone moving in and stop to say HI. We’d still like to do this as Mr. Mike’s Neighborhood. So if you see a new Neighbor moving in and you feel comfortable doing so, just text me their address, like #828. We’ll make them feel welcome and maybe set a friendly tone for your good Neighbor.

### **DOES ANYONE KEEP NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS?**

Every year people around the world make New Year’s resolutions to reach their goals, improve their health, and better their lives. Some people are successful at keeping their resolutions, while many others fail. Year after year, being healthier is consistently the most popular New Year’s resolution across the globe, whether that’s eating healthier, exercising more, or losing weight. Saving money is the next most

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popular resolution. Why aren't we more successful at keeping our New Year's resolutions? Some reasons include the idea that we're thinking too big, we're not considering the 'why' behind them, and the fact that we may not be ready for change. I won't need to make a resolution this New Year because it's already come true. **I get to be a Good Neighbor to you all year.**

### **WHAT MR. MIKE'S NEIGHBORHOOD CAN DO FOR YOU IN 2024**

Whether you're leasing your home or a homeowner, there are items in your lease that Management will not help you with - changing furnace filters, ceiling light bulbs, smoke detector batteries, picking up packages delivered on your porches when you're not home, especially for my Seniors and Handicapped Neighbors. I'm just a text away. If there's something you need, it never hurts to ask.

### **HAVE YOU HELPED A NEIGHBOR IN THE PAST?**

You might not think that when you help others, you help yourself, but it's true. When you do good and are kind, the brain releases happy chemicals. You feel more positive, fulfilled, and connected to those around you.

Being "neighborly" is declining: a survey from Pew Research revealed that a majority of Americans admit to knowing only some of those who live on their street, while 23% of those under the age of 30 know none. It doesn't have to be this way, though. Research has shown that small interactions increase life satisfaction, meaning that even a nice comment in passing can brighten your day, as well as your neighbor's. We can each do our part to help a neighbor in a time of need, and support each other. If you need some awesome ideas for how you can help your Neighbor, I've compiled a few ways to help a neighbor, below:

#### **\* Bring over a home-cooked meal**

Bringing over a delicious meal that you made yourself is a wonderful act of kindness. A mother with a new baby, an elderly next door who has trouble cooking, or a family struggling with a medical situation, they will all appreciate your efforts. It also doesn't cost much, and a meal can be easily prepared in advance.

#### **\* Offer a listening ear**

In our fast-paced world with busy schedules, we could all use the opportunity to slow down and connect with others on a personal level. Consider paying them a visit and simply offer a listening ear. Ask them if there's anything they need, perhaps you have an elderly next door who needs help running errands or a single parent who needs help keeping up with yard work.

#### **\* Organize a playdate**

If you have kids yourself, help take some of the load off a working parent by watching their children for an afternoon. Organizing playdates is not only good for the kids but will up your time and your neighbor's as you alternate. It's a win-win for everyone.

### **FINAL THOUGHT:**

For those who put up some Christmas decorations outside your homes, they were really beautiful. Mr. Mike's Neighborhood passed out 63 Christmas Certificates of Appreciation and put 85 pictures on the website. Make sure you take a look at them. Remember, I'm here to help you if you need me.

**"I was going to give up all of my bad habits for the New Year,  
but then I remembered that no one likes a quitter. Happy New Year!"**

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