



Mr. Mike's Neighborhood

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JUNE NEWSLETTER

HI NEIGHBORS,

"The greatness of a Community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members." Coretta Scott King

A LITTLE HOUSEKEEPING

First of all, I want to get away from Newsletters that talk about rules and crap, and start writing them in a more philosophical, thought provoking way that emphasizes the value of Neighbors, Neighborhoods and Communities. I think my readers are ready for it, and they're going to get it whether they like it or not. Next, Miss Linda and I want to thank you so much for helping us keep our Community clean. When we started this Trash Pickup Program, we picked up 5 trash can bags of crap. Now when we do our daily walk, we pick up hardly a Kroger plastic bag full. That's remarkable!! And it's because you don't mind bending down and picking up trash that could make our Community look trashy, even if it's not yours. And finally speeding. Speeding has gone down dramatically with our Neighbors, but I'm sure it's coming from our Guests. So please don't hesitate telling any guests that we have a speed limit, and please drive slowly through our Community. Now for the thought-provoking stuff.

SO YOU LIVE IN A MOBILE HOME. NOW WHAT?

I can't imagine that anyone dreamed as a child that one day you could live in a house on wheels. This is my third mobile home. I bought a new one when I first got married, I bought my second one after my second divorce, and now I'm here. The bottom-line is, I'd rather live in a mobile home compared to an apartment any day of the week. I don't have anyone living above me, to the side of me or below me. I have a nice home with a plot of land I can make my own. Because I live in a mobile home doesn't make me trailer trash, and it doesn't make me any less of a person than those living in luxury brick homes. But we are truly lucky to have a roof over our heads, especially when we see many people living in a refrigerator box under an expressway overpass. What you do with that luck is up to you. Remember, what you're living in right now is just a house. It's your job to make it your home, whether it be for a year or a lifetime. We all have different reasons why we're here. Whether it be financial, convenience or like me to help my mom, the fact is you're here, and maybe this is just a stepping stone in your life's path. But now that you are here, what type of life do you want to create for yourself and your family?

WE HAVE GREAT NEIGHBORS

Lafayette Place is a diamond in the rough. I can honestly say that Miss Linda and I have not met one Neighbor that we would not consider a friend. I think living in a mobile home park still has a stigma, not from us, but from the past trailer trash views of living in a mobile home. That is not our Community. There is not a nicer mobile home park in our area that can compete with the beauty and the Neighbors we have. This is our gem. But if it's only going to be a gem in looks, it will never be a place where

people will want to come here just to be our Neighbors. We can set the standard for a mobile home park Culture around the country. But Mr. Mike's Neighborhood can't do it alone.

A HUGE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Look what we've accomplished so far with no money and no support from Sun or Management. I guarantee you since Mr. Mike's Neighborhood was established, and even before, (many of you will know what I mean) we have begun a change in the typical mobile home Culture, that we're not just rent givers, but valuable friends, families and Neighbors that live with each other and occupy a common space called a Community. More importantly, we are living in a fabulous Community with a roof over our heads and food in our mouths. And if you don't have food, Mr. Mike's Neighborhood will find a way to get you food. Let's not forget that we are all Good Neighbors here to help each other.

I have Neighbors who have children that are embarrassed to have their friends over because they live in a mobile home park. You should encourage them to have their friends over, and not just the youngsters, but your adult friends also. One of the reasons Miss Linda and I started cleaning up the park is so you can feel comfortable knowing your friends are coming over to a clean, quality environment. I want our families to feel proud to live here.

WE CAN'T TELL THE FUTURE

Everyone knows I'm planning on spending the rest of my life here. I've been here for over 12 years and I'm proud to make this my final resting place. Your original plan may have been to live here for a couple of years then look for a house. Then a couple of years go by, then another couple of years, then, well you know where this is going. You don't know what's going to happen to you in the next couple of years. But while you're here, right at this moment in time, you can help us create a Community you'd be proud to leave behind if you go, and enjoy if you stay. I guarantee you it will be something you'll savor for the rest of your life, no matter where you wind up.

A NEW ARTICLE

With what we've accomplished in a matter of 19 months, I am encouraged to begin spreading the word that the concept of Mr. Mike's Neighborhood should be a standard in all mobile home parks. So I wrote an article entitled, "Mr. Mike's Neighborhood Works to Change the Culture in Mobile Home Parks." It's on the website so please read it. You'll get a good idea on what we've done to help our Community and lay the groundwork for others to emulate. Your belief in these concepts is why Mr. Mike's Neighborhood works. If you know of a reporter who can help get my articles published, please send him/her my way. It's an important message to get out especially since it takes such a long time to get it in print. But it will happen. *Rachel Scott said, "Perseverance is the act of continuing to move forward, even when they force you to give up."* If you know me, you know I won't quit till I succeed.

WE'VE ADDED A THIRD CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Mr. Mike's Neighborhood loves to show appreciation to our Neighbors who show an effort to make our Community beautiful. Currently we give certificates for Beautiful Garden and Beautiful Christmas Decorations. We have now added Beautiful Property. Even if you don't grow a garden, you can make your property exceptional. Certificates for Beautiful Property will be coming soon, so get ready.

FINAL THOUGHT:

A while ago, a teenager came up to me and asked, "Mr. Mike, what would happen to Mr. Mike's Neighborhood if you die?" At the time I could only answer I don't know. But now that I've had some time to think about it, my answer would have been, "There's no reason why everyone in our Community shouldn't be a Mr. Mike and Miss Linda. We're counting on you to try and make our Mobile Home Community Culture a reality, everywhere."
