



Mr. Mike's Neighborhood

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NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

HI NEIGHBORS,

"As we express our gratitude during Thanksgiving, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."John F. Kennedy

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO US!

October celebrated the 2nd Anniversary of Mr. Mike's Neighborhood caring for our Neighbors. For over 2 years, Miss Linda and I had pledged the remaining years of our lives to take care of a Community and the Neighbors we've grown to love. Despite Sun Communities and Park Management making it harder for us to do what we do, we've stayed vigilant in our Mission of creating Neighbors and Neighborhoods within Lafayette Place Mobile Home Park. We strive to uplift, motivate and inspire our Neighbors to have a wonderful stay here, whether you're here for a year or a lifetime. Even with the restraints they put on me, I have stood tall to protect the rights of all my Neighbors, as I would hope you would do for your Neighbors also. Along with John F. Kennedy, Mr. Mike's Neighborhood lives by the words we profess every day.

THE FREE LITTLE CHILDRENS LIBRARY IS ALREADY A SUCCESS

Wow, is all I can say. It's only been up for a couple of weeks and I've never been more proud of our Community. For such a short amount of time, it's apparent we have some avid little readers in our Community, and some wonderful caring parents.

I've been successful at just about everything I've tried. But I must say in all honesty, the Free Little Childrens Library is without a doubt, the most unselfish thing I have ever done. And I'm glad I was able to do it for your children. It's great to see the kids take a book, but what really impresses me is when a parent takes a book to read to their kids. And I'm not kidding, but because I put a light in the library for the evening, parents coming home from work in the dark are taking books home. Damn if this Community doesn't make me feel proud to be a part of it. Just make sure you keep bringing the kids to the library and keep reading to them. That's your homework from Mr. Mike and Miss Linda. And you will be graded.

THE FREE FOOD PANTRY

Since the Children's Library is doing so well, I've been wanting to add another service to help our Neighbors - The Free Food Pantry. We started getting so many donations of food and clothes, I was just putting them all on a card table in front of my home. But I decided to buy an actual Food Pantry, which for right now will be next to my stairs. You are welcome to take as much food as you need, and for those more fortunate, you are more than welcome to donate not just food, but toilet paper, paper towels and anything else you think our Neighbors could use. We've known it all along, we have Good Neighbors.

A THANKSGIVING MEAL

What a wonderful holiday this is. And though this holiday is meant to give thanks for our many blessings, let's face it, some Neighbors may not feel very blessed right now. For those of you who are fortunate enough to afford a turkey, bon appetit. But if you can't, don't stress. There are many food banks in our area who are more than happy to provide one. You can look at the Resource Page on our website for many food banks in our area to try. Never be embarrassed to take advantage of this beautiful gift provided by those who care. It's what they do, and they need you to make their jobs worthwhile. Gobble Gobble!

CHRISTMAS CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

All right, this is one of our favorite parts of the job, Showing Appreciation to our Neighbors for jobs well done. We've already given out Certificate of Appreciation Awards for Beautiful Property and Beautiful Garden, and the last one of the year is Beautiful Christmas Decorations. But this year we're going to take it seriously.

If you'd like to give a Christmas Gift to myself and Miss Linda, here's what you can do. We want to see every home in our Community have a Christmas Decoration. I don't want you to spend tons of money, but I'd like, at a minimum, **to have every home porch railing decorated**. This will be the first opportunity for us to show our support for each other as a Community. I can just visualize when our friends and relatives drive through here over the holidays to see such a spectacle of home after home celebrating the Christmas spirit as a Community. I'll remind you again in the December Newsletter, but start thinking about it now. I will have a Christmas Tree and Wreath in front of my home, and a Christmas Tree in the back. Make sure you drive by and take a look while you pick up a book to read to your kid :-). I don't think Sun Communities ever thought I could bring our Community together. I'd like to prove them wrong. Decorate for Mr. Mike and Miss Linda. Pictures will be taken, Certificates of Appreciation will be awarded.

6 ARTICLES ON THE WEBSITE

If you enjoy reading my newsletters, being the prolific writer I am, I have also been writing articles regarding Sun Communities and Mr. Mike's Neighborhood. Here are the ones I have online now. I do my best writing in the winter, so keep checking back for new ones. There's a lot of information that you'll find interesting. You can read them all on your cell phone or computer:

- How Sun Communities Killed a Neighborhood Association by Mike Whitty
- How a "Smile and a Wave" Helped Change the Culture in a Mobile Home Park by Mike Whitty
- Mr. Mike's Neighborhood Works to Change the Culture in Mobile Home Parks by Mike Whitty
- A Look at Sun Communities Through the Eyes of a Resident by Mike Whitty
- How the Movie Moneyball Inspired Mr. Mike's Neighborhood by Mike Whitty
- Why Sun Communities Does Not Include Outstanding Customer Service in Their Formula by Mike Whitty

FINAL THOUGHT:

Commonly known as the "Holiday Blues," this surge of loneliness, stress, and anxiety is experienced most often during the holiday season, starting around Thanksgiving and lasting through the New Year. These "blues" normally stem from the pressure associated with the high expectations and additional expenses that come during this time of year. This shouldn't take away from the joy and excitement you may experience during the holidays. But if you know someone who experiences the "blues", be patient and understanding. They will likely just need to get through the holidays and will appreciate your kindness and caring.
