



Mr. Mike's Neighborhood

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OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

HI NEIGHBORS,

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."Dr. Seuss

A NEW FREE CHILDREN'S LITTLE LIBRARY

According to a 2023 Warren Consolidated Schools Report, 59% of students cannot read at grade level. Almost 30% of 3rd Grades can't read at grade level. And two-thirds of American kids around the country cannot read fluently. Once I read this, I felt the need to make sure the children in our Community don't fall into those statistics by creating the Free Children's Library. I removed the wine barrel water feature and serenity tower and used that space for the library, as you can see by the picture. You'll find more pictures on the website.

WE NEED TO ENCOURAGE OUR KIDS TO READ

Hillary Clinton said, "It takes a Village." Lafayette Place Mobile Home Park is our Village. Each and every one of us has to ensure that our children have every opportunity to become a fluent reader. Mr. Mike's Neighborhood has started the ball rolling by providing free books. And with the school year beginning, there is no better time to start.

HERE'S 3 EASY WAYS TO GET STARTED

The most important thing to remember is that reading should be an enjoyable experience. The following activities can help you stimulate your child's interest in reading:

- **Talk with your infant or young child before he/she learns to read**

Talking with your child before he even speaks will help him learn important language skills. Using short, simple sentences, you can talk about your daily activities, what he is seeing and doing, his environment, sizes of objects, the shapes of signs, and so forth.

- **Read to and with your child at least 30 minutes each day**

Your child will gain awareness of the conventions of reading (left to right, top to bottom), and even the very young will gain vocabulary. Running your index finger under the print as you read will help your child notice that printed words have meaning. Gradually you can ask her to identify letters and sounds.

- **Give your child writing materials**

Reading and writing go hand-in-hand. Children want to learn to write and to practice writing. If you make



pencils, crayons, and paper available at all times, your child will be more inclined to initiate writing activities on his own. You can learn more about how to help your children become fluent writers and readers on the internet.

HOW THE FREE CHILDREN'S LITTLE LIBRARY WORKS

The concept behind the library is, **Take a Book, Leave a Book, Like a Book, Keep a Book**. Currently we're only gathering Teen and Children Books. Here's some things to remember:

- The Library is on my property #828, so please keep the noise down. We want everyone to feel comfortable here as long as they respect my property. If they have friends over, they're welcome to come also.
- The Community can help by donating books if you have some. We want to continuously provide fresh material, so we'll always need books. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

TIME TO CHANGE YOUR FURNACE FILTERS

If the filter gets too full of gunk, it ends up restricting airflow. Your furnace filter needs to be changed at least twice a year (or cleaned, if you use a permanent filter). The filter has a dirty job – collecting airborne dust, hair, and other small particles so they don't harm your furnace's components, or your family's health.

WHO IS MISS LINDA?

If you've met or seen Miss Linda, you know that she totally embodies the mission of Mr. Mike's Neighborhood. From the very beginning, once Miss Linda realized what the Association wanted to accomplish for it's Neighbors, she jumped on board without hesitation.

Born and raised in Madison Heights, Miss Linda has lived at Lafayette Place for around 35 years. So she knows this Community and it's ownership as well as anyone. For most of her work life, she specialized in Property Management, where she was responsible for several apartment complexes around several states. Her specialty was helping people obtain Section 8 financing, and she has brought that same commitment here. Miss Linda has become quite a scavenger, finding bikes, toys and virtually anything that she can give away to Neighbors in need. Miss Linda walks the Community virtually every day. She stops and talks to any Neighbor she sees, and in the brief moments she spends, makes everyone feel uplifted and glad to be a part of our Community. She gives of herself without asking for anything in return. Miss Linda truly embodies our mission of service to our Neighbors.

And to answer the question that has been asked many times, no, Miss Linda and I are not married. But honestly, you will never find a better friend than Miss Linda. Her caring for our Neighbors goes far beyond her infectious laugh and her big heart. If you haven't met her yet, stop her for a chat as she walks by.

ARE YOU PLANNING ON MOVING?

We hate losing any of our Neighbors, but if you are planning on leaving, here are a few things to consider: 1. Do not damage the home. They will find you and you will pay. 2. Take pictures of everything in and outside your home. 3. Make sure you turn in your keys and get a signed receipt from management. 4. If Heaven forbid you get evicted, take it seriously. Have everything removed off the property the day before the written date on your notice, which you must keep. You will be charged for everything you leave behind.

FINAL THOUGHT: IMPORTANT!

Folks, you have missed out on so many things we've wanted to inform you of since I don't have your contact info. We've given away bikes, clothes, toys, food, furniture, lawn mowers, plants, clothes, but you never knew about it. If you would, please **text me only your first name and house number**, I promise it won't be misused. If I cut your lawn, I already have your contact information. We need to care about each other while you're here. **Don't wait. Text me right now. 248-705-9306. You won't regret it.**
