



Mr. Mike's Neighborhood MobileHomeResident.com

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OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

HI NEIGHBORS!

“Stay close to people who believe in you, lift you up and make you feel like it’s good to be yourself.” — Meredith Vanness

CELEBRATING OUR 3RD ANNIVERSARY

Holey Moley, it’s hard to believe Mr. Mike’s Neighborhood has lasted for three years, especially with all the things we had to go through. But I promised you when I started the Association that I would “stand **WITH**, **BY** and **FOR** my Neighbors”. I hope that Miss Linda and I have proven that our Neighbors are our main concern and everything we do is for you.

WHY NEIGHBORS ARE SO IMPORTANT TO ME

I was 12 years old living in the top floor of a duplex, which most of the homes around me were in Hamtramck. Our homes were pretty close where you could hear what was going on next door. But we were a Neighborhood where residents knew each other and more important, we relied on each other. If my parents needed to go shopping, they felt comfortable asking a Neighbor to babysit for a while. I had friends that played together through all the seasons. You could say our Neighborhood was a family and that’s the way it felt. We didn’t have a super market, but instead a corner store where the owners knew everyone making it really comfortable to shop there.

When I came to Lafayette Place, I didn’t see a Neighborhood, especially since we live in a virtual gated Community. It seems like most Neighbors just stayed to themselves, not even knowing who their next door Neighbors were. It was a Culture that by starting the Association I wanted to change. My Neighbors were looked at by Park Management and Sun Communities as merely **Renters**, which was their way of absolving themselves of having to care about actual people. And they are really good at it. This is why you’ll never hear the words, Mr. Mike’s Neighborhood or Mike Whitty roll off their tongues. So you can see why Mr. Mike’s Neighborhood was such a thorn in their side and believe me, an Association like mine will never be allowed in any of their other properties. That’s why it’s important for me to keep writing my articles and proving our services to hopefully convince legislatures to impose regulations that will benefit residents, not just mobile home park owners.

I LIKE BEING MR. MIKE

I really like doing what I do for my Community. I like it when Miss Linda and I take our walks and young kids come and hug us, and Neighbors yell out “Hey Neighbor”. I like it when Neighbors say to Miss Linda and myself, “I appreciate you”. I like sitting on my bench and “Smile and Wave” to everyone who passes.

I like setting up the weekend “Neighbors Giving Days” tables to offer my Neighbors donations of clothing, toys and the such absolutely free. You should see me on Friday taking 5 bags of clothes, folding, hanging and organizing to get ready for my Neighbors on Saturday. I liked creating the Free Children’s Library so our kids can increase their reading skills, and the Free Food Pantry to make sure anyone who needs food gets it. And I like writing the newsletter every month so my Neighbors will have some communication not provided by Park Management. I like uplifting and motivating my Neighbors to be more then they ever thought they could be. I like taking your phone calls when you need advice, answering questions, or just a need to talk. I like sitting with those who are depressed, getting evicted or just need someone because they have no one. Though believe me, with all the things I have to do it gets exhausting. But it’s the greatest gift I can give you of myself.

THE PARKING SPACE WARS

We lived on a one-way street with cars on both sides. You couldn’t always find a space in front of your home so you’d have to keep driving around the block till you found one, no matter how far away it was. I mention this because once all the homes are filled in our Community with two car families, parking will be at a premium. This park was made for one car families. So here’s several things you can do to help this situation:

- Make sure you’re parked in your numbered space.
- If you have a second car, use an unmarked space.
- If you have guests coming over, make sure they know where they can park. It’s better if you walk out to see what spaces are available since many of the numbers are hard to see so they can be informed.
- Also, it’s your responsibility to inform your guests that the speed limit is 15mph. I’m still tired of people speeding.
- And finally, do not get into a fight with a Neighbor over a parking space. Talk it over like Neighbors or call Mr. Mike.

OUR NEWEST PROGRAM - FREE FRUIT PANTRY

When I read that our children’s scores for reading skills was low, I created the Free Children’s Library so our kids could have access to books not just for themselves, but also for parents to read to their kids. When I realized that there are families in our Community who are always short on food, I created the Free Food Pantry.

Now I read that 40% of our Children in this area do not get enough fruit in their diets. So I created the Free Fruit Pantry. It sits right next to the Free Children’s Library. I want this Pantry full of canned fruits, so if you can donate at least one can of fruit, I would greatly appreciate it.

I really don’t have time to go to the food banks, so please tell your friends who do go to help us out. I’m sure it will make them feel good also. Our food is running low, so please help.

HALLOWEEN CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Halloween will be here shortly, and I noticed some Neighbors have already started decorating their homes. If you haven’t received a Certificate of Appreciation from Mr. Mike’s Neighborhood, now will be a good time to start. They are so pretty!! Pictures will be posted on the website.

I SAVED THE BAD NEWS TILL THE LAST

I did a little math regarding our rents. As a home owner, I pay \$700 per month with no amenities and no help from Sun Communities and Park Management. Like I said in the past, all we are is money to them. Sun Communities raises our rent about 5% per year with a high of 8%. If they keep up this increase, within 8 years I'll be paying \$1000 per month. I'm telling you this so if you look ahead and don't think you'll be

able to handle the increase, it will give you time to look for something more affordable. I never want to lose a Neighbor. But this will not be a concern for Sun Communities and Park Management and I just want you to be prepared. If you feel I'm scaring you with my crime in the park and rent increases, well, you can stick your head in the sand and not be concerned about it." "Here's some more math. From my meager estimation, Lafayette Place has 250 homes. Let's say they have 235 that between owned and leased pay an average of \$1000 per month X 235 homes = \$235,000 per month x 12 = \$2,820,000 in gross income. Add to that a 5% rent increase every year = \$141,000 extra rent every year. Now I know they have lots of expenses to pay. But really, some of that money can't go toward improving our infrastructure or making our Community more beautiful, or Heaven forbid, doing something with the money that actually benefits the Neighbors? In the 3 years this Management has run the Park, the only thing they've done is update the play area which hardly anyone uses. In 3 years, the potholes still aren't fixed, the curbs are still being destroyed, there's gravel all over the streets, and still nothing has been done to benefit the Neighbors. Sun Communities will spend very little money in this Park other than bringing in new homes for more rent. In fact, I do more for this Community with no money than Joel Shekell has done in 3 damn years. Why aren't you upset?

FINAL THOUGHT:

Though I really don't feel like Mr. Mike's Neighborhood has made enough impact in our Community to make me happy, I'll still keep trying to make my Neighbors feel like they are important. Miss Linda and I will keep trying to create programs to your benefit even though it's a lot harder without any money. But I think we've done pretty good at creating things that don't cost a lot. Have a great October.
