



**Mr. Mike's Neighborhood**  
**MobileHomeResident.com**

828 Cour Marie St., Warren, MI 48091 | 248.705.9306  
www.mrmikesneighborhood.org | mike@mrmikesneighborhood.org

## SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

**HI NEIGHBORS!**

**“Making one person smile can change the world - maybe not the whole world, but their world.” — John Spence**

### WARNING!!!

What you're about to read is an un-redacted interview by Oprah (we're forbidden to divulge the last name in order to protect his/her identity) to Mike Whitty, Director of Mr. Mike's Neighborhood of Lafayette Place Mobile Home Park, and the author of the ever popular website, mobilehomerresident.com. This interview was never meant to be released and was hidden at the bottom of a metal chest never to be heard of. Fortunately for our readers, the interview was leaked to us so, you will be the first to view this secret interaction between a beloved host, and a great humanitarian. Once you read this interview, immediately print a copy and burn it so no one will know you read it.

**OPRAH:** We're here at my beautiful home (again we're forbidden to divulge the location to protect his/her identity) where I'll talk to self-proclaimed advocate for mobile home residents, Mike Whitty, Director of Mr. Mike's Neighborhood. How are you doing today Mr. Whitty?

**MR. MIKE:** I'm doing great, thanks for asking Oprah. It's really great to be here with you. And you can call me Mike.

**OPRAH:** I've been told that your Community refers to you as Mr. Mike. Is this like your title?

**MR. MIKE:** I didn't really put the moniker on myself. During my first Association in the Community, the kids would call me Mr. Mike and so would the adults, and it just stuck. That's where I came up with the name for the Association, Mr. Mike's Neighborhood. I could only hope to get the respect that Mr. Roger's Neighborhood received from his remarkable work, especially with children.

**OPRAH:** You had another Association, what happened to that one?

**MR. MIKE:** Yes, that began a contentious relationship between myself, Park Management and Sun Communities. By law, I could start an Association but they felt they could do whatever they wanted to stop me. It's not something I want to revisit because that year was one of the most stressful in my life. But some good came of it. After I shut it down, my Neighbors came out of the woodwork asking me to not give up on

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them. It was a promise I made to them when I started the Association. I guess you never know what you had until you lose it. So I spent more of my own funds to start it up again.

**OPRAH:** It's rare that someone would use their own money when there would be no financial return. Why didn't you just charge a membership fee and take donations?

**MR. MIKE:** As far as a membership fee and accepting donations, Sun would accuse me of running a business in the park. This is why I didn't want to talk about this. I could never understand why a big company like Sun would be against allowing us to do what we do - help our Community.

**OPRAH:** You said we.

**MR. MIKE:** Yes, Linda Varee, Miss Linda. There's pretty much always been a we. Though I created the Association, once she knew what I was trying to accomplish, she jumped on board. And it was great she did since she's been a resident here for over 35 years, so that's a lot of in-house experience to work with. Plus, the Community loves her. On her walks she loves to stop and talk to the Neighbors, and has become known as a scavenger of toys for the children. She wears her name tag proudly.

**OPRAH:** So let's talk about Mr. Mike's Neighborhood. Why did you want to start it in the first place?

**MR. MIKE:** Originally it was to piss off Sun Communities. I had issues with them right from the start when I moved here to take care of my ailing mother. And I had the skills and capabilities to create a really successful campaign. But then something happened I wasn't expecting. Someone must have Freaky Friday'd me a heart because I saw a need to fill that Sun Communities couldn't or wouldn't. Didn't make a difference either way to me at that point, but I was prepared to become an Advocate for my Community and provide any help I could. And more importantly, help them with and through issues with Park Management and Sun Communities.

**OPRAH:** So what kind of things did you do to piss off, (can I say that Mr. Producer?) Great, Sun Communities?

**MR. MIKE:** Now Oprah, we made an agreement on this topic so let's not stray from the interview. But I will say the first year of the Association was my most stressful, which is where I learned the types of people Sun Communities and their Park Management were. For a while now they have left me alone without any harrassment, but they still don't answer my emails and ignoring my concerns which they know pisses me off, but I think they just got tired of messing with me, so they'll do it by not acknowledging we even exist. If they really want to get rid of me, I'm sure they'll find a way. They're pretty resourceful.

**OPRAH:** So, despite all your trials and tribulations, in the past three years has Mr. Mike's Neighborhood been successful?

**MR. MIKE:** NO! And Sun Communities would have never allowed us to succeed on the level we wanted. I wanted to be able to help the whole Community, not just those that drive by my home. But every home, which is around 250, has my personal telephone number so at least they know there's one person they can call if they need someone. I thought that would be a good start.

**OPRAH:** And do they call you?

**MR. MIKE:** Sometimes way too often. But I want that. Neighbors don't just call me when they have a problem. Some just call to talk. We have Neighbors who don't have anyone that provides the attention

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they need and they may just be lonely. We have a descent population of Seniors who can't do a lot of small tasks like changing their ceiling light bulbs and furnace filters, and don't want to keep calling their children to come over, so they call Mr. Mike. And they know Mr. Mike will be right there, and won't charge them anything to do it.

**OPRAH:** Wouldn't that be a good way to make money for your Association by charging for your services?

**MR. MIKE:** I finance the Association from my Social Security Income and grass cutting, and now Miss Linda has been providing some funds. If I had to put a price on everything the Association does, it sort of diminishes the concept we try to promote regarding Neighbors Helping Neighbors. Mr. Mike's Neighborhood is their Neighbor.

**OPRAH:** OK, I know you said you don't feel you've been successful, but you've been doing this for almost 3 years, you must have had some successes? Let's start with your Greatest Success. Tell me about that one.

**MR. MIKE:** Well, you did start with the easiest one. It was the creation of the Free Children's Library and the Free Food Pantry. In my whole life, it's the most selfless act I've ever done, and it's one of the greatest gifts I could ever give to my Neighbors. I don't have the luxury of giving my Neighbors cars out of the goodness of my heart like you do, (oops, was I not supposed to say that) but I can make sure that not one of my Neighbors goes hungry, and I can make an attempt to help every child improve their reading skills, yes Oprah, this is my greatest success and my most treasured gift to my Neighbors. I have lights in my Library and Pantry because many Neighbors come at night for food and books. Every morning I get to walk out and see food taken from the Pantry. What a way to start your day, huh?

**OPRAH:** Why did you decide on these two?

**MR. MIKE:** I must admit I have an excellent garden. I used to have this beautiful water feature in front of my home. It was half a wine barrel with a cast iron pump, surrounded by flowers and flowing with water. It really was a show piece. Then I read about the reading scores of our children in the Warren area. I don't know what I felt at that point, but I knew I had to do something. So I tore down the water feature, built the Free Children's Library and bought the first round of books. I knew it would be a success when I saw Dads taking a book to read to his kids. Wow! Since we have many Neighbors on Social Security, Disability and some sort of government aid living month-to-month, I decided to create the Free Food Pantry, which Neighbors in our Community donate food from the food banks in our area. We encourage our Neighbors to put their embarrassments aside and take whatever food they need. We will always get more.

Because we don't have a lot of money, we provide many services that don't cost us anything. Loaning out a plunger for a Neighbor in need could be a very humanitarian act at the time, don't you think? A Neighbor is excited to hang his new TV on the wall, but doesn't have the tools. Could be a bummer if Mr. Mike wasn't there. I've changed light bulbs and furnace filters, cut their lawns, fix their porches and siding, painted their porches and their homes, and sit with them when they're sad. Robert Collier said, "Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out". I feel that we are consistent in what we promote, and of course, fulfilled our message of "promises made, promises kept."

**OPRAH:** What other programs do you provide your Neighbors?

**MR. MIKE:** Every Saturday and Sunday we have our Neighborhood Giving Program where we get donations of clothes, books, toys and food that we provide free to anyone that needs them. That's always a

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success. We also have the Porch Pirate Pickup Program where a Neighbor can text me when they get a package delivered and we'll pick it up so it doesn't get stolen. Plus I write a newsletter every month which is the only communication our Neighbors will receive.

**OPRAH:** Mr. Mike, with all of the things you and Miss Linda do for your Community, do you ever think Sun Communities and your Park Management will ever come around and give you the credit it's obvious you deserve? The two of you work so hard and expect nothing in return from your Neighbors. You would think your efforts would be recognized.

**MR. MIKE:** NO, NEVER. They do not want to set a precedent that any of their other properties can install, or even think about installing a Neighborhood Association. Oprah, I have to believe the people who run Sun Communities and our Park Managers are nice, descent people. But even if, in their hearts they wanted to support us and tell us what a great job we do taking care of their residents, they just couldn't. They don't want anyone sticking their noses in their business, which is what Mr. Mike's Neighborhood does along with taking care of the customers who pay their salaries. They need to follow the corporate mandate which is to not Acknowledge, Endorse or Communicate with myself and Mr. Mike's Neighborhood. This is why we need to continue fighting for the rights of mobile home residents everywhere. Thus, [mobilehomerresident.com](http://mobilehomerresident.com).

**OPRAH:** So how do you keep going when you know you'll never get their support?

**MR. MIKE:** Like I said, I don't think they are mean individuals. I think they can see that we are not a detriment to their residents that I think we've become just a blip on their radar. I think it would be hard for them to admit that they don't want their residents feed, or our children learning to read, or all the other tasks we do to care for them. And don't forget the fact that the Neighbors appreciate us which is the most important part because this is who we do this for. This alone keeps us going.

**OPRAH:** So this is really important to you?

**MR. MIKE:** Oprah, it's the most important thing in my life right now. Mobile home residents have been taken advantage of for years. Miss Linda and I have given the rest of our lives to try and change the Culture in mobile home parks so residents are considered valuable members of their Community, and not just rent. It's important that we make this work for the future of those who may come after us. While we wait for our program to expand to other Communities, we will spend our remaining days taking care of our Neighbors at Lafayette Place who need us, and working toward becoming more informed in the politics of mobile home park owners.

**OPRAH:** We're running out of our time allotment, so let's end with this - what's in the future for Mr. Mike's Neighborhood?

**MR. MIKE:** Unless Sun Communities decides that we are a worthwhile endeavor, nothing will ever change from year to year regarding how we help our Neighbors. We'll continue to help one Neighbor at a time. But as a self-proclaimed Advocate for mobile home residents, my job is to make sure that residents have the answers they need. Transparency is very important to me since Sun Communities is not transparent with us at all. So I developed a website called, [mobilehomerresident.com](http://mobilehomerresident.com). I have over 115 articles right now that answers many questions moving in, or living in a mobile home park. It's already moving up in the search engines and hopefully more residents will utilize it. Then I want to get more involved in mobile home park politics to help our government create laws that benefit the resident more than the park owner. From there, who knows.

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**OPRAH:** In our research for this program, my staff told me they heard Neighbors using the word “King” when referring to you. Do you see yourself as a King?

**MR. MIKE:** Well, I think more like a Prince and Miss Linda a Princess. Miss Linda and I try to lift their spirits daily because let’s face it, in today’s environment, we all need to be surrounded by positive, motivating and uplifting friends. That’s what Mr. Mike’s Neighborhood promotes.

**OPRAH:** Well Mr. Mike, this has been great. It’s encouraging to know that even one person can make a difference. And your Community is lucky to have two of you. I wish I could donate to your Association, but things are a little tight right now and because of our identity clause that wouldn’t be possible. But we’ll be excited to follow your progress and to do this again when you’ve had another success story.

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## **A LITTLE HOUSEKEEPING**

**Handyman:** We are fortunate to have retained an excellent handyman to do work our Neighbors need. Many of the companies that do work in the park are expensive, so if you have a need for an affordable expert, give me a call. He is incorporated and insured.

**Furnace Filters:** September is the time to change your furnace filters. They only cost a few dollars each and will help keep the air in your home cleaner for your family and to help your furnace run efficiently which will save you money. Since you’ll need to open that furnace door, don’t hesitate to take a vacuum and clean it. That dirt gets in your air also.

**Air Leaks:** Run your hand around windows and doors to check for air leaks even if you are leasing your home. Caulk again is cheap and will help keep your home warmer in the winter.

**Stairs and Porches:** This is one of the safety items that gets no attention. If you are leasing your home and have stairs that need repairs, call the office. If you own your home and need work, call me. When winter comes and ice and snow accumulate on your stairs, I’d feel more comfortable if they are safe.

**Skirting:** If you have open skirting or skirting with holes, fix them. Cold air, along with vermin get through there and it’s not what you want. See if the office will sell you a few pieces of skirting for repair.

## **GARDEN CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION**

This year we had some beautiful gardens, which pictures you’ll find on the Home Page of the website. We gave out 44 Certificates of Appreciation which is a new record. We hope to break this record every year to keep our Community looking beautiful. For those Neighbors who said Thank You, we appreciate you also and look forward to see next years creation.

## **WEEDS COMING FROM YOUR SIDEWALK**

I’m sorry, it looks ugly. I would be more than happy to cut them down for FREE if you’ll be responsible for clean-up. Once we cut them down, boil water and spill over the weeds but be careful the water doesn’t splash back on you. Might not want to wear shorts or flip flops. That will kill them for now. If you don’t want them to return, do this the moment you see their little heads popping up. I’ll of course be happy to help you. And while I’m cutting them down, you boil the water and I’ll kill those unwanted parasites.

## **FALL LEAVES**

Where did the Summer go when it’s time to start talking about Fall Leaves. If you are on a property with trees, don’t let the leaves stay on your grass all winter. It becomes a mess if it snows and there is a better

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way to leave them. At least mulch them up. That will more easily incorporate into your grass for nutrients, but also keep your lawn warmer in the winter providing better growth. If you'd like them mulched or bagged, let me know.

## HOW PARENTS CAN KEEP THEIR SANITY WHEN SCHOOL STARTS

Parents can keep their sanity when school starts by establishing consistent routines, prioritizing self-care, planning ahead, and openly communicating with both their children and their partners. The transition from a relaxed summer to a structured school year can be stressful, but preparation and realistic expectations can ease the process.

### Before school start:

- **Ease into new routines:** Gradually shift your family's bedtime and wake-up times back by 15-minute increments for a week or two before school begins. This helps your children and your body adjust to an earlier schedule, minimizing morning chaos and crankiness.
- **Hold a family planning meeting:** Sit down together to map out the new school year schedule on a shared family calendar. Discuss transportation, extracurricular activities, meals, and homework time so everyone understands the new expectations.
- **Prepare ahead of time:**
  - \* Lay out clothes the night before to reduce morning stress.
  - \* Prep lunches and snacks in batches on the weekend. Chop fruits and vegetables and have ready-to-eat options on hand.
  - \* Organize school supplies with your children, assigning a designated spot for backpacks and homework materials.

### During the school year:

- **Prioritize self-care:** Scheduling rest and downtime for yourself is not selfish, but necessary for your mental and physical health.
- **Take short breaks** for yourself throughout the day, even for just a few minutes of quiet time.
- **Connect with friends**, other parents, or your partner. Sharing challenges and a little laughter can provide a much-needed outlet.
- **Engage in healthy habits** like regular exercise, a balanced diet, and adequate sleep.
- **Manage expectations:** Understand that the first few weeks are an adjustment period, and not everything will be perfect.
  - \* Be flexible and ready to adapt your routines as needed.
  - \* Avoid overscheduling your children and yourself. It's okay to say no to extra commitments to prevent burnout.
- **Delegate responsibilities:** You don't have to do everything alone.
  - \* Involve kids in age-appropriate chores, like packing their own backpacks or helping with meals.
  - \* Split duties with your partner.
  - \* Use your support system, like neighbors or a carpool, if available.
- **Communicate openly:**
  - \* Talk about feelings. Use open-ended questions like, "What was something fun and something tricky today?" to encourage children to share.
  - \* Model calmness and flexibility. Your children take cues from your emotional state. Showing calm problem-solving helps them feel more secure.
- **Address conflicts calmly:** When you feel yourself getting angry, take a time-out to cool off before you speak. Ask your child for their input on how to solve a problem, rather than just giving orders.

**FINAL THOUGHT:** When new Neighbors visit our website and they don't see any testimonials commenting on the good works Mr. Mike's Neighborhood does, it makes it seem like we're not worth their time. If you enjoy the work we do, please comment at the top of the Newsletter page.

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