



Mr. Mike's Neighborhood

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DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

HI NEIGHBORS,

"The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree: the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other." – Burton Hills

PORCH PIRATE PICKUP PROGRAM: DON'T HELP THE CRIMINALS!

During the month of December, our Community will have hundreds of packages delivered for Christmas. Please don't help the criminals come on your porch and steal them. Mr. Mike's Neighborhood has had the Porch Pirate Pickup Program for a long time and has been utilized very successfully by many of our Neighbors. If you receive notice that your package was delivered, all you need to do is text me with a message like this: **"Mr. Mike, this is John at #214. I just had a package delivered. Would you please go over to my home and get it? I'll pick it up after work."** It's just that simple. If you don't allow Mr. Mike's Neighborhood to help you, all you're doing is giving the criminals permission to steal them. It's really up to you and doesn't cost you anything but a text. But it could save you from a Christmas disaster.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM MR. MIKE AND MISS LINDA

When we started Mr. Mike's Neighborhood, our goal was simple, spend the rest of our lives here at Lafayette Place Mobile Home Park serving our Neighbors in whatever capacity we can. Our mission was basically derived from this quote: **"The greatness of a Community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."** And from this sentiment we made it our life's work to make our Community great, and to keep our park the Gem it should be. Since October 2022, our Neighbors knew that no matter what, there was someone here that they could rely on. And as proof of our commitment, I provided my personal telephone number to everyone of our Neighbors so that we can be your partner in your life here at Lafayette Place.

Though our original dream was much grander, without financial support we just couldn't do all the things we wanted. But for two years, even with the lack of funds, we have not asked for donations from our Neighbors and continued to provide the services we could. **Margaret Cho said, "Sometimes when we are generous in small, barely detectable ways it can change someone else's life forever."** We have accomplished so many small things that we, and those who benefitted, consider important. It may be as small as loaning our Neighbors tools, to creating our greatest accomplishments, the Free Little Children's Library, which will encourage our children to read and our parents to read to them, and the Free Little Food Pantry so our Neighbors will always have something to eat.

Miss Linda has become a scavenger for anything she thinks our Neighbors can use. She's given away bikes, toys and clothes to Neighbors in need. If I see items like lawnmowers I can buy cheaply, I sell them to our Neighbors for exactly what I paid for them.

But Mr. Mike's Neighborhood has not only benefitted you. Miss Linda and I have met hundreds of Neighbors we would have never met if it wasn't for Mr. Mike's Neighborhood. Our "Smile & Wave" and "Hey Neighbor" programs have created friendships among all of our Neighbors. When we take our daily walks, to hear parents and children yelling, "Hey Neighbor", well, I'm sure you can imagine how that feels. That is our validation and your bonus for living here at Lafayette Place.

One main reason Mr. Mike's Neighborhood has survived is that we're consistent with our message, and our message is about taking care of our Neighbors. We never ask a Neighbor to do anything that we don't show by example. We strive to build a Neighborhood experience for you whether you're here for a year or a lifetime. We'd love to have all 250 homes participate in our dream, but we're not immune to the fact that even though we've been here for two years, not everyone knows who we are, or even cares about who we are. But that's ok for now. At some point in time you may need us for whatever reason and you'll be comforted knowing we will be here for you.

WE CAN'T DO IT ALL OURSELVES, SO WE WANT YOUR HELP

You may not know this, but Mr. Mike's Neighborhood may be the only Neighborhood Association in a mobile home park in Michigan. This gives us the opportunity to show the country that when mobile home park residents band together, they can do wonderful things to create an outstanding Community.

We have 5 Courts along with North and South Lafayette Blvd. Starting in January, I want to enlist several volunteers from each Court and Blvd to represent Mr. Mike's Neighborhood on your block. This way, if we want to put on a special event like a Block Party, the volunteers can contact their Neighbors to make arrangements. This would have been easier if the Community provided us their contact information, but since they don't, this along with the newsletter is the only way we can communicate with you. If you want to join Mr. Mike's Neighborhood, please text me. We want serious Neighbors who want to make Lafayette Place their Neighborhood.

CHRISTMAS DECORATION REMINDER: THIS IS IMPORTANT!

I attempted to bring the Community together over the summer by having a Community picnic at Shaw Park. Well, my Community spoke loudly when only 25 Neighbors out of several hundred said they'd attend. So this is my next attempt, which I hope is not futile. **To show our Community Christmas Spirit, I'd like everyone to decorate their porch railing.** It's an inexpensive way to show our Community spirit and make our Community shine for our visiting relatives and guests.

FINAL THOUGHT: HUG MORE!

Miss Linda and I have received so many blessings from our Community in the form of prayers, thanks and appreciation for the work we do. So our Christmas wish for you is that you give and get more hugs. Hugging can be described as a handshake from the heart. A hug can bring you comfort, make you feel safe, and sometimes even turn your entire day around. We want you to give each member of your family a minimum of 4 hugs each day. So, go ahead and hug it out. If you've been holding back from hugging, start by giving someone a squeeze today. There's no substitution for a great big hug!
