

HOMELESS IN PARADISE

September 11-17, 2020

IN OUR OWN BACKYARD - Part 46



*once upon a time
neighbors swapped news face to face
while they mowed their yards
not so long ago
women gossiped on wash day
over the back fence
then came homelessness
bye-bye american dream
hang on if you can
social distancing
driven by covid-19
forced humans apart
will we die online
as we struggle to reclaim
next door neighborhoods*

*Photo courtesy Google Free Images
from "On Being Neighborly" by Marcus
Brotherton (The AoM Newsletter)*

IS THERE ANY HOPE FOR THE LOST ART OF NEIGHBORING?

By Wanda Sue Parrott

GOOD NEIGHBORING online isn't easy.

If you yearn for pre-pandemic personal HOG (Hometown Opinion and Gossip) neighboring, join the Unwelcomed Social Distancing Club (USDC).

We're evolving a new form of acronymic jargon as WOG neighborliness is happening in a CR (communications revolution) in which we're all ETs (evolving together).

So, IMHO (in my humble opinion), WOG means Worldly Opinion and Gossip.

Who cares? WAD (we all do or should).

Why? Humanity's future depends on how effectively we communicate in the ever-evolving art of neighboring that's entering a pandemic of impersonal relations in MOM (mind over madness) that's being sorely tested in our own online backyards. NOW!

Is good neighboring important? Humanity's future depends on it, so as a start, I suggest reading Marcus Brotherton's Art of Manliness (AoM) essay "On Being Neighborly" that starts:

"It begins with how a man thinks. Instead of seeing the place he lives only as the place he hangs his hat, he begins to see the place he lives as a place he influences. He knows it's up to him to make things better."

Then, study this excerpted “thread” of 74 textual posts that evolved over Labor Day weekend in 33 Next Door neighborhoods from Sand City to Salinas. Participants’ names were initialized to protect their privacy.

The Case Of The Homeless Camper

EB: “The homeless camper is back in the neighborhood tonight at the intersection of Airport Rd. and Littleness.”

KR: “Third time in month.”

JL: “It’s illegal. Call the police and have them leave.”

AY: “Oh, leave them alone. Or call the police and try to get something done about it instead of whining on nextdoor.”

ST: “I agree with AY. You don’t know their circumstances.”

AY: “I have great sympathy for those who circumstances have forced (them) into homelessness, and very little for those who chose it as their lifestyle.’ Your words. 6 days ago. . .”

EB: “I’m tempted to give you advice, too, but it would be wasted.”

JW: “Who cares?”

KR: “Smell is too great to get near.”

AY: “Rude.”

LG: “I agree, AY! Leave them alone! We all could be homeless due to COVID-19. We need to help each other and not complain or whine! Come up with ideas!! To help.”

CK: “Perhaps they need a freshwater, sanitizing wipes, and cleaners. Maybe even some personal hygiene products.”

KR: Have you seen the person that is staying in it? I live on Littleness and see it when I go to work in the morning. I have never seen a person or garbage left around. . .”

AY: “The truth is, people need to stop looking for problems where there aren’t any. People need to stop making negative assumptions. . . Not everyone in an RV is going to be homeless, nor should they be looked at with disdain even if they are. . . Acceptance and understanding need to come before fear of a lowered property value.”

JL: “Depending on the situation, homeless can be very destructive and show a lack of care for other people’s property, leaving garbage and human waste behind. . .”

LC: “JL, you are rude. You don’t even live near this particular issue, but if you insist on having an opinion about this particular truck and trailer, then drive by it to see, so you know and won’t be making a statement based on your mindset only. It is not rude to state facts. Facts are facts.”

JL: Correct. Facts are facts. Overnight camping on the streets is not permitted. Rude? . . . I drove by just last night. There’s a problem with vagrants in the area whether you wanna admit or not. Turns out this guy is here for a band. End of story.”

DS: “Also, the man that started this story lives three blocks up the street from it. The truck isn’t even parked in front of any house. . .”

WS: “I keep looking for a ‘For Sale’ sign on it.”

LC: “You want to buy it, WS?”

AC: “EB, I just had a lovely conversation with Patrick, the man in the camper. He’s down here from out of town to see the band at the fairground and the movie. He works five days a week. Since he’s been made aware

that someone is upset about his presence, he might choose to leave the neighborhood. Or . . . he might spend the night after going to spend money in the community where he grew up. Just following up, and hope this helps with any concerns. Please, can we recall our humanity, including for people who actually are homeless.”

RC: “Communication and clarity are wonderful options. Thank you.”

AC: “You’re very very welcome. Just took a simple knock on the door and a friendly hello.”

KM: “Lives in motor homes matter.”

EB: “The number one cause of homelessness is income inequality.

EM: “So, anyone on here interested in helping prevent more homelessness? #RentersVote. More coming as the evictions start.”

Who cares?

I do.

HAY (How about you)?

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CREDITS:

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<https://www.artofmanliness.com/articles/on-being-neighborly/>

Haiku quintet by Wanda Sue Parrott

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It also appears on Facebook, in Next Door and on private email lists. If interested in being added to the list, submit your request to the contact info below.)

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Contact Wanda Sue Parrott at 831-899-5887, amykitchenerfdn@hotmail.com