

# He knows the 'Neighborhood' better than you do

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Want to know what happened in episode 114 of "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" in 1968? How about the assorted jobs held by Neighbor Aber (Chuck Aber)? Or the titles of all the Mister Rogers books for children that were published?

"Neighborhood" super-fan Tim Lybarger, an Illinois high school guidance counselor, has chronicled it all, beginning in 2008 with a blog that morphed into the website [NeighborhoodArchive.com](http://NeighborhoodArchive.com), the most comprehensive guide to "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" on the internet.

Late last year Mr. Lybarger finished writing recaps of all the episodes in the series — almost 900 total — in what his wife calls a "hobby that got out of hand." The whole thing began when Mr. Lybarger did a web search for information on the series and didn't find much. He decided to remedy that.

# “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” Turns 50



“I wanted to make it the Wikipedia of ‘Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood’ information minus the wiki portion because I wanted to make sure what I was sharing on there was accurate information,” he said.

In addition to episode recaps, the site includes lists of songs heard on the show, characters, cast members, appearances in pop culture and information on Fred Rogers’ other TV programs.

In his yearslong pursuit of “MRN” minutiae, Mr. Lybarger said he’s been most surprised by the number of people in the world impacted by Fred Rogers and his program.



“Whether it’s the program or a song or a book, the number of people who have their own individual Fred Rogers story is huge, and it’s great to hear all the stories from different people, not just in the Midwest or Pittsburgh but worldwide,” he said. “There are people halfway around the world who have their Fred Rogers stories. It’s fascinating to me just how widespread his career reached.”

Mr. Lybarger plans to continue expanding his site with a focus on locations on the “Neighborhood” and his continuing quest to find memorabilia from the show.

His holy grail? A prototype Neighborhood of Make-Believe playset from 1977 that’s featured in promotional material — and pictured on his website under Memorabilia Toys & Games — but was evidently never mass-produced.

“I would love to know the story behind it,” he said, “but I can’t get a straight answer from anyone.”

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