

# Snapshot

Friendly Village  
Modesto

## Pedaling for heart, health, happiness



Five years ago, WMA ran a story on Friendly Village, Modesto, resident Joe Smink, who had accomplished the amazing feat of riding over 30,000 miles on his bicycle...all within the Modesto manufactured home community.

In a recent letter to Vedder Community Management (VCM), Mr. Smink provided an update on his riding prowess along with a brief glimpse into the virtues of life in a manufactured home community and what that means to him.

Since the publication of that December 2004 article, Joe has continued his daily ritual of riding within the community and has amassed an impressive total of over 44,000 miles—the equivalent of riding round trip from Sacramento to New York nine times.

In his letter, Mr. Smink explained that he pedals for health reasons and that the Friendly Village community offers him a safe place in which to ride. Although Joe has suffered from two serious health problems in the past year – cataract operations on both of his eyes plus having a pacemaker installed – he doesn't show any signs of slowing down.

"I've known Joe for many years and during that time I can only recall a few instances where he was not out every day riding his bike," said Janet Dollar, who with husband Dennis, manage Friendly Village. "You can almost set your watch by him. And he has definitely had a positive influence on both the residents and visitors of Friendly Village. He is an inspiration to all of us.

After 34 years of residing in the community, Mr. Smink decided to put pen to paper and share his sentiments about life at Friendly Village. The following is a portion of Joe's letter to VCM.

*"I have waited long enough now to thank Vedder Management not to raise our rent for the coming year. This means so much for many in Friendly Village Modesto. For many, a few dollars here and there will help with our raising economy. Again, thank you. Mary has been gone for 15 years and we did a lot of traveling when we both took early retirement and knew that our home would be looked at and taken care of when we would be away for a month or more. How else can retired people live any better? Not only that, I do ride my bike in a safe place for my health. Why do I bother you with my lifestyle? I LOVE THE PARK. Again, thank you for looking out for us seniors. Dennis & Janet do a good job.*

Mr. Smink's inspiration to his fellow neighbors and the joy he brings to all, when he boasts about both the pleasure of community living and riding his bike in a safe and friendly environment, was lauded by many, including Vedder Community Management. "I think his recent letter sums up what manufactured home community living is supposed to be all about," commented Bill Schweinfurth, Director of Operations for VCM. ✨



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