



David Newell

“Mr. McFeely”, *Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood*

Former Director Public Relations for Fred Rogers Productions

David Newell played Mr. McFeely, the Neighborhood’s cheerful “Speedy Delivery” man, on Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood. From his first appearance in the very first episode, Mr. McFeely has been a fast-talking, purposeful, grandfatherly figure, always in a hurry shuttling from stop to stop because of the demands of his “Speedy Delivery Messenger Service.” The character was also an intentional counterpoint to Mister Rogers’ slower, more methodical pace.

David Newell began his acting career at the Pittsburgh Playhouse. Through connections made there, he eventually met Fred Rogers. David was originally hired onto the show as a public relations manager, but Rogers also decided to cast him in the role of Mr. McFeely. (McFeely was Rogers' middle name, taken from his mother's maiden name.) As a result, he and Rogers became lifelong friends until Rogers' death in 2003.

A documentary feature about Newell entitled *Speedy Delivery*, which chronicles his travels around the world as Mr. McFeely, debuted on public television in 2008, and an animated version of Mr. McFeely is a recurring character on the new PBS series *Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood*. In 2017, Newell appeared as a special guest on the live-action children's web series *Danny Joe's Tree House*. David made a cameo in the Fred Rogers biopic *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*.

A graduation of the University of Pittsburgh, David continued in the role of Director of Public Relations for Fred Rogers Productions for many years and often accompanied Fred on his travels when speaking.