

NIGHTMARE NEIGHBORS

Sure, we have great neighbors: That person next door may be your best friend! But it might be a different story across the street ... the neighbor who drives you CRAZY. We asked you to weigh in on the irritating things neighbors do. You're invited to meet those people.

COMPILED BY JOHN NALLEY

ILLUSTRATIONS BY CHRISTIAN LINDEMANN



The Oblivious Neighbor ...

isn't aware or doesn't care that their unique behavior drives others crazy.

THE DUELERS

"One neighbor plays his music so loud that it vibrates our house! He told us he does this to tick off another neighbor, who I assume retaliates by having weekly karaoke nights until 2 a.m. They call the police on one another, but it still continues!"



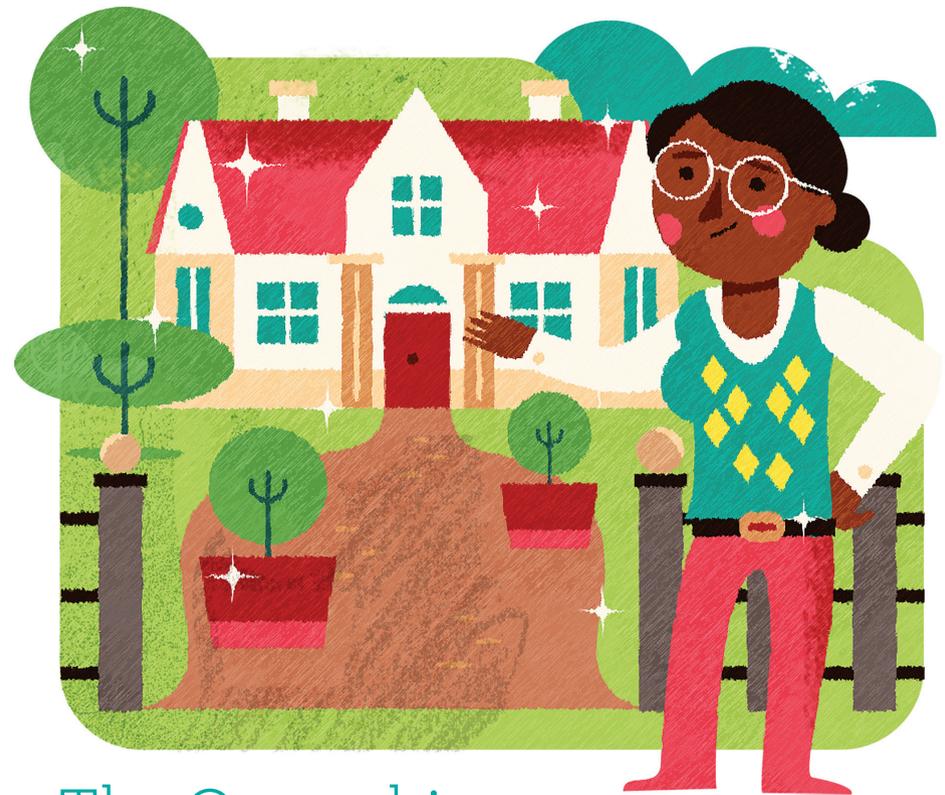
"Try living next to a family of three drummers ..."

"Right at dawn, one guy will crank up his leaf blower, mower, etc., even on weekends. I think there should be a ban on loud lawn equipment before 8 a.m."

"The thing that drives me nuts is wind chimes. I cannot allow my dog to bark at all hours but wind chimes can make noise – yes it is noise! – at all hours."

"We have a neighbor who has six large statues of Venus and at least 15 mirrored garden balls. He also has several concrete benches scattered randomly around the yard. It literally looks like a landscaping supply warehouse!"

"My neighbor uses his front yard like others use their backyard. In the summer, he puts up a crappy above-ground pool."



The Overachiever ...

works on their meticulous yard so much that it puts everyone else to shame.

"My neighbor has all the time in the world to devote to his yard. During spring and summer, he cuts his yard every other day. He also keeps it perfectly watered and fertilized. It really is perfect grass and I commend him for his dedication, but it frustrates me because it makes my OK-looking yard look trashy by comparison."

"People who choose to spend all their leisure time and extra cash on something as trivial as their lawn ... and then complain when their neighbors don't choose to follow them."

THE GRILLER

"My neighbor enjoys backyard barbecuing, and he is REALLY good at it! All summer long, the aroma of juicy steaks, spicy ribs and mouth-watering rotisserie chicken waft seductively across my patio. I sit and stare in awe of his culinary expertise, drool forming at the edges of my mouth. On top of it all, he's the nicest guy in the neighborhood. My complaint? He never invites me over!"

THE FIRE STARTER

"This guy loved to burn everything: leaves, grass, trash or shrubs. On a high heat index day, he started several fires and took off with no one to tend them! When I realized he wasn't coming back, I monitored the fires just in case they spread. The guy returned home hours later. I talked to him and gave him a county burn law pamphlet. But, it didn't do any good."

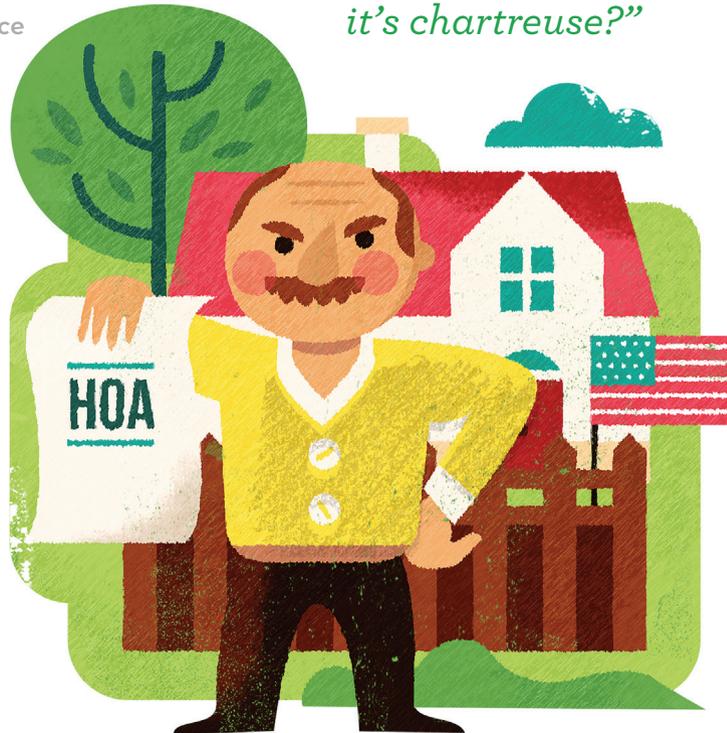
"I have beautiful, non-invasive bamboo in my backyard and my neighbor hates when it gets too tall. When I'm not home, he cuts my bamboo at a very unnatural height and leaves the trimmings behind. I have never given him permission to do this, and even after I put a padlock on my fence, he still trims it using a ladder to reach over my security fence."

"One neighbor is the self-appointed yard police. She comes over with complaints about how tall my grass is, how much I should trim my hedges, and even how to do it."

"They painted their house neon lime green! Or maybe it's chartreuse?"

The Neighborhood Mayor ...

has high standards and will enforce them, with or without your permission.



WANT TO READ MORE BAD NEIGHBOR STORIES?
Or have one of your own to add?
Visit angie.li/bad-neighbor

The Do-Littles ...

ignore yardwork and maintenance, making their house an eyesore.

"He urinates in his yard."

"Their dandelions are almost knee-high. They moved in more than three years ago, but have yet to pull out the dead shrubs at the mailbox, nor have they trimmed the hedges. Why buy a house if you aren't going to take care of it?"

"My neighbors have duct tape holding their shutters together, and the house has had zero outdoor maintenance in years."

"They had lumber delivered five years ago so they could build a deck. It's still sitting on the side of their house, on our side, attracting all sorts of insects."



“What drives us crazy is the 6-foot concrete wall our neighbor erected. The wall casts a shadow on part of our yard, which has cut off sunlight and killed flowerbeds.”

“The people who live behind me erected a 6-foot-high fence that looks like a prison just moved in behind me.”

“They have motion-sensitive security lights that turn on every time the wind blows a leaf across the yard. The lights are so bright that I can read in my bedroom at night ... without turning on any lights.”

The Security Seeker ...

whose house looks like a fortress.

NEIGHBORLY ADVICE

“We can all moan and groan, but the solution is to do something about it. You can’t complain about anything you’re not willing to help solve. Find out what the issue is. Maybe your neighbor lacks the knowledge and resources that you have. Maybe they have knowledge and resources to help you, too. It’s called community.”

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Be sure to read Angie’s column, where she shares why it’s important to get to know your neighbors.

@ DO YOU HAVE GOOD NEIGHBORS?

Now that you’ve read about the nightmares, we want to hear about the dream neighbors that make your life better. Please share your story with us at feedback@angieslist.com

I was “that” Neighbor ...

and now it’s time to share my side of the story.

“Okay, I have to confess that at times I’ve been “one of those neighbors” (I even have the anonymous, embarrassing nasty gram to prove it).

But here’s the thing. I was traveling extensively for work and barely had time to do laundry before I had to get on a plane again. Lawn maintenance and even home maintenance had to take a backseat for awhile. I did my best. I let native grasses take over my yard. I planted flowers when I could and did the bare minimum because I just didn’t have time.

Since I have a new job and am home more, I take better care of my yard because I have the time to do it. I have a beautiful garden that I’m able to maintain better, managed to get the house repainted and my fence redone.”

Bottom line: “Talk to someone if you think their place is a problem. Find a nice way to do it. I realize some people aren’t receptive, but you never know what kind of financial or life events are going on.” ■

