



Indigo Michaud <skyoptic6@gmail.com>

Water, health, and money...

3 messages

skybox <skyoptic6@gmail.com>
To: michaelhuarte@gmail.com

Fri, Sep 10, 2021 at 10:34 AM

I have not heard back from you since my last email and there are still several unresolved problems here at Highland View. The illegal tenants in Space #61 are still there and the place looks trashier than ever. There are children living there who are not allowed to go outside and the place rarely has the curtains open or any signs of life until late afternoon. What hope there was for my neighbor has been lost as he never touched his yard again, and last week I think he cooked up the batch of methamphetamines that was on the street over the weekend. Patterns involving the same known addicts in the neighborhood suggest such, but of course there's no proof. I think he's hooked on depressants but his kitchen light is only on all night preceding a batch of meth that shows up on the street, followed by those going through withdrawals wandering around on Walnut. It may be that he's not even living there at other times. It's still not clear why some people are allowed to grow marijuana while I am not, or what exactly the policy on drugs is here. The bridge that crosses the creek still looks dangerous for lack of upkeep, there is still barbed wire strung in an unsafe way along the north border, more than a handful of junkies, and I still think the water is toxic. I also believe there are still egregious violations of privacy. And the man who lived in the trailer adjacent to us has recently died of leukemia. He opted for euthanasia, as Oregon has legalized doctor assisted suicide, and I have always thought Ivan placed him here for that reason. His wife took the same route, she had Parkinson's like Barbara, and Ivan has been trying to get rid of us for a long time. In the interim, he sprayed a ton of weed killer around the man's trailer, even since I wrote to you about the landscaping. I don't think it matters if the man was diagnosed before he moved here. It's a proven fact that RoundUp causes certain forms of blood cancer and this practice has got to stop. Vinegar does as good a job but just doesn't last as long, or one can burn out weeds in the cracks safely with flame. It's only out of laziness and greed that your manager is killing people. Barbara says she can remember when the Fire Department would come around and mow a person's yard - and charge them for it - because not maintaining one's yard is a fire hazard. She points out that herbicides are known to cause Parkinson's Disease, too. And she doesn't think I will get any answers to my questions without a lawyer, though I'm not sure any will be interested. If I do consult with an attorney, I will include a copy of this letter and any reply you may have, though my aim is not to make an exhaustive statement here, nor to threaten legal action. My goal is to improve the environment in which I live. Please help by sharing any information that may be of interest to me and thank you in advance for being patient with my longwindedness and for considering changes that need to be made.

You have said you don't support vindictiveness, but I believe Ivan has retaliated against me for writing to you. When I say I think he's a criminal, he turns the police on me for whatever reason he can find. When I asked for an investigation into what was going on here, I became the subject of an investigation. The preponderance of evidence that there's illegal eavesdropping going on here may be circumstantial, but it's ample. And he refuses to address me in writing with his concerns, rather than rallying people against me or attacking anyone supportive. I think he's opposed to my being an author in any way, even an authority in my own life. And I wonder if it's just because I was going to be a psych researcher that I may have been made into a case study. Crazy, I know. He's one of the people who liked me a whole lot better when I drank. I do think it's because I complained about security here that he's villainized me and even recently had Adult Protective Services on my porch trying to rescue Barbara, questioning who owned this place and if I have a legal right to be here. We stopped the conversation when they began questioning Barbara about her abilities and me about our relationship and we told them to put their concerns in writing but we haven't heard back from anyone at all. According to the attorney who represented us when Ivan threatened to evict Barbara for allowing me to be here in the first place, we are adults who have an adult relationship and that's all anyone needs to know. In a game of merits and demerits, there is no winning when only demerits are collected, with fear mongering, or reciprocating accusations, but I'm still not doing anything illegal or criminal here and I still believe Ivan is. I don't know why your manager has a personal problem with me but my complaints have been echoed by numerous people here and on your other property. There's a reason for mandatory mediation. I think it's to alleviate the burden on the courts and to sort out personal issues before they become legal ones. However, as you know, mediation failed when Ivan refused to even acknowledge my residency. You offered to act as liaison for Ivan, which is interesting because his job is to act as a liaison for you. But this would only work if you communicate with me and remedies are found. If, pertaining to me, Ivan has had any involvement with my family, personal property, mental health, or law enforcement, I have a right to know. And I have a right to be informed of decisions that directly affect me, especially those that go beyond environmental or policy changes. But this is not the main reason I'm writing....

My primary concern is about the water. As you know, there are five water pumps feeding more than 200 units in a network of pipes that were put in a long, long time ago and they probably need replacing. I'm not sure if there's anyone still living here who can remember when they were installed. I'm sure you know more about this than I do. Carl, who used to live in Space #54 (my old neighbor), told everybody that the plumbing had been done by a crew from out of the area who laid down the pipes without cementing the sections together, and he believed there were tree roots working their way into the water lines and causing leaks. This is because there were a couple of places that never seemed to need watering and the ground is nowhere near as level as it used to be, with cracks in the pavement and some visibly sunken places on the lawns. However, according to a man who retired as the head plumber of OSU, the water pressure that comes in on the main lines is too great to be overcome by tree roots. He says sewer lines can become clogged that way if there are leaks because the roots seek out the fertilization, but that it would take a pretty big root to move a water main. I think there has been some confusion about this from the start. The unlevel ground is most likely caused by rat burrows, rabbit holes, and sinkholes caused by erosion under the concrete slabs. A good mesh of roots in the ground actually helps with this problem. Killing off lawns and cutting down trees makes this problem worse. It's not clear how much water was being lost between the meters on the five pumps and the residences here, anyway, because the home meters were also very old and not all the homes had meters. A company was hired to find the leaks using sonar and whatever other high tech equipment they had, but they found nothing. I don't know if there's an accurate accounting now, either, since it's my understanding that the new digital home meters are calibrated to .9 gallons - I suppose this compensates for the amount Ivan perceives is being lost, but really it just means everybody has to pay for a thousand gallons every time they use 900... it doesn't really change the losses. I think it's just because I said the water billing is a racket that my bill has skyrocketed, too. I understand we've been in a drought and I do have a big yard with a lot of plants, but our bill jumped from around \$40 to almost \$100 this month and \$150 last month - I suppose this compensates for the amount Ivan perceives I'm costing him in property tax increases. I think it's more than hypocritical for someone who doesn't believe he should have to pay anything to charge so much. It's a racket. I have a friend with a family of four, two ponds, and a big house filled with aquariums totalling thousands of gallons (this is his profession). He says he could never dream of seeing a water bill from the city that would even come close to \$200... there's no way the amount we're being charged is fair. The original service charge has gradually increased 450% and the sewer charge alone seems excessive. I'm aware I'm not the only resident who's complained about this, but I feel punished for growing flowers. I think the water should be audited. But even that isn't quite the main reason I'm writing....

The biggest problem I'm concerned about in this environment is the quality of the water. I am almost certain that Ivan is dumping 30-Second Cleaner into the pump manifolds and purging the water main lines with it... I don't know how often or how much of this is being introduced to the water supply, but this should never happen - never, not even for special purposes. The 'bleach' in this compound is Sodium Hydrochlorite which is like pool chemistry, a form of chloride that doesn't dissipate as rapidly as the chlorine bleach you might use for cleaning your kitchen. Being more stable, it can build up and become concentrated in areas. And this is cleaning grade bleach, 5% chemical concentrate - toxic - it has 1.2% proprietary ingredients, and 93.8% inert ingredients that might not even be water. All bleach is toxic to living things, but this kind of bleach sticks around. I'm sure the MSDS on it has data on reasonable environmental limits for its use, but there's no doubt it should be limited to cleaning the outside of buildings, diluted a lot, and rinsed down the sewer. For the longest time, I thought Ivan was using this to combat the roots that he believed were causing the sewer to back up on the southwest corner. I vaguely remember a conversation from nearly fifteen years ago about bacterias and fungus that can affect the plumbing and how the pipes need to be purged once in awhile... so vague, this was from a time when I still drank and I was having to use the shower in what used to be the community clubhouse - there was a large fungus of some sort growing in the shower that had sparked the conversation... I don't really remember the details. Subsequently, the issue of tree roots and water leaks took over and I didn't think it was possible to inject the water supply to my house with chemicals until recently. Is Ivan purging the water system with industrial bleach, toxifying the plants and animals because he thinks killing roots will fix leaks and save him money?!? I think he is. Barbara and I were walking one day and we saw the back of his minivan filled with what looked to be at least a dozen gallon bottles of 30-Second Cleaner. I imagine that's how much gets used each time he dumps it down the drains, or into the pump manifolds. Where does this chemical get applied? How often? I'm convinced this is the cause of several problems here and I think there's evidence of that.

I've been trying to identify the cause of sporadic high spikes in pH and this explains it. The last time this happened was two weeks ago and I had issues with a fish bowl. Sometimes, about a day after a water change, the water clouds up and the fish get sick from it. This last time, two died, three got sick, and one is still recovering. Imagine getting a serious sunburn on your lungs and then having to live in salty water. The city water has a pH of 7.1 to 7.2 but here it can spike up to nearly 8 when the water is brought up to 78 degrees - there is no other explanation for this but Sodium Hydrochlorite - toxic. I've observed similar readings with a pH meter in the garden soil in some places and although there are many other variables that can affect soil, it's likely to be the same problem, it's coming from our hose... sometimes. This has been hard to identify because a week later I can't replicate it in an experiment. If I knew which days I shouldn't change the water in my aquariums or water the garden things might be better, but this should really

never happen. Never. I can't stress that enough. This has cost me hundreds of dollars in fish and aquatic plants over the last couple of years, not to mention the damage it's done to my outdoor plants, but that this is an environmental concern takes precedence. You wouldn't put even a goldfish into a swimming pool with chlorinated water; you wouldn't let your dog drink out of it; and if it was your pool, you'd probably avoid excessive pool chemistry altogether. 30-Second Cleaner is worse. And this last time, maybe also because of the heat, I heard a number of people here complaining of headaches, waking up feeling dehydrated, sleep disturbances, etc... this coincided with Barbara complaining about the smell of chlorine again. I have never seen it happen - I think he sneaks around and does it in the middle of the night, but I'm not sure. It's not clear why some mornings smell like a swimming pool. It's bad enough that Ivan charges me a sin tax for doing things that use water, but I have a 20 gallon tank and a 60 gallon tank I'm setting up that require regular water changes. It's not feasible to use only bottled water here, and it's not reasonable to have water that won't support life. It's not just a problem on the days he dumps the bleach, either, but it's a problem that compounds over time and will take time to remedy. Imagine someone throws a little salt on your lawn... sometimes - not much, and not often, but it will gradually kill off the grass. And you wouldn't water your plants with water from your swimming pool, either. A number of people have said that things don't grow here as well as they used to, and I don't think inclement weather can be blamed.. This practice has simply got to stop.

The main reason I am writing this letter is to demand that you put an end to the use of toxic chemicals where they are not necessary, especially the addition of industrial bleach to our water system. Ivan once asked me to put copper pennies into my dog's water to keep their urine from smelling so bad, so that I wouldn't have to water my lawn. He said it was a special kind of grass that was designed to die off in the Summer and that watering it was bad for it. In my last place, he tried to control how long I was allowed to water the grass and told me he'd prefer it if I just put in bark mulch. But even though I was still drinking at the time, I'm just not that stupid. I have continued to improve the spaces where I've lived consistently for the last 15 years. I believe in leaving a place better than I found it. It's like an investment, paying it forward. I'm also still working on my health, and while I may be one of the residents brought here with preexisting conditions, it would help to be in a place that fosters life and isn't against it. I've had chronic issues with my joints since I've been here, even before breaking my neck after an argument with one of Ivan's people, and fresh, clean water does not seem like that much to ask for. RoundUp or 30 Second Cleaner might even be causing the problem. It's not just about the fish. I'm also not vehemently opposed to the use of chemicals. I think the use of toxic substances can't be completely avoided but that they need to be used appropriately and sparingly. Sodium hydrochlorite, however, should never be added to potable water. Never. I would like to see a few other things change here at Highland View, as well, all revolving around increasing the safety and security of the environment here. Although your manager puts on a good face and claims to celebrate life, he clearly feeds on death and decay - and profits from it. And for the time, energy, and money he's cost me, I believe he should pay it back. If the pipes need to be replaced, it should be done the same way the City would do it, one street at a time. In the period of time that's passed since privatizing the water meters, this could have already been done. There are laws that govern a landlord's responsibility, but to adhere to the spirit of the law is easy to achieve when everyone is treated fairly, a welcoming community is created, and an environment where things might flourish is offered - instead of playing on loopholes and technicalities, or abusing plausible deniability. The proof is in the pudding, is what they say... and in this case, it's the water.

On a positive note, there have been no thefts that I'm aware of recently, and virtually no noise or activity at night. It's even kind of eerie sometimes. The weather has been much nicer, even socially. The flowers have been mostly unaffected by this poor growing season, so that's good, and the hummingbirds seem as healthy as ever. I finally finished all the engine and transmission work on my Jeep (I hope), and I sold the Toyotas so I have only the one vehicle right now. As planned, the shed got cleared out, wheels put on my trailer, and all the junk got taken to the dump. I bought a pressure washer, too, and today I'll be finishing the cement in the driveway and around the house. I might clean some of the spots on the pavement out in the street because I'm really having fun with this tool, but I don't want to get myself into too much of a bigger project and at this point in the season, the whole street could use a wash. Things have not gone as well as I'd hoped for this Summer, but I am achieving most of my goals - maybe all of them soon, but far behind schedule. The remainder of this month is all about wrapping up unfinished projects and getting ready for the holiday season. I think we're going to make a scarecrow that looks like a werewolf. Ivan should love it. I will let you know if I buy another vehicle. I will also let you know - in writing - if I decide to sell this place, or if I'm going to be out of town for any length of time. And you will certainly be informed if I find legal assistance. In the meantime, I would appreciate it immensely if you would give me any details you can about the frequency and amount of all chemicals used on this property, as well as any other information relevant to my personal life. A clarification on policies that apply to all would be nice, too. Thank you again for putting up with my wordiness. I try not to be redundant, and even still I think I've left a lot out, but I want to be very clear in my communications. I look forward to a Winter of warmth, happy holidays, and a life filled with light and music. I wish this for everyone here, really, and I hope my lawn doesn't get salted for writing this.

Progressing,
Indigo

skybox <skyoptic6@gmail.com>
To: michaelhuarte@gmail.com

Wed, Sep 15, 2021 at 10:17 AM

Yesterday, Ivan spoke to me. He was friendly and made conversation over some tires I have loaded up to haul away, as if he's never had a problem with my being here. I reminded him that since he refused mediation, as part of our agreement, that any communication should be in writing. He has consistently refused to document his grievances with me, be it a trespass notice, an eviction, or a noise violation - but he does go to others with his complaints about me, and defends himself saying he has no evidence that I even live here, nothing in writing. I think this is a matter of public record now and that has been settled. I do live here. I haven't broken any rules in doing so. While there are several unsettled issues, my last letter was intended to be predominantly about the water. I think the charges should be audited, not just for me but the whole park. And I want actual data about what chemicals are used on this property, where they are administered, the amounts and the frequency. He should have no problem answering about this and I suspect it's a legal requirement to keep records, anyway. He has lied about the water before, and he is known for telling different people different things, then standing behind some form of plausible deniability. He should be prepared to make a public statement about his management of the environment here.

Regarding this and more personal violations, I am claiming damages, both physical and financial. This is a legal issue that deserves to be addressed in writing, not ignored. My questions about his involvement with my family, personal property, law enforcement, or mental health should also be addressed in writing. He already refused to answer about these things when I tried to talk to him or this wouldn't be in writing to begin with... now it is. I have been clear that I want Leticia Padilla to come talk to me, and I think Ivan has had some professional involvement with her pertaining to me, but I have not been given the contact info I requested so that I may deal with this situation directly. Although this goes beyond the scope of Highland View, and started prior to my living here, Ivan's protection of people who exploit me does make him liable. I appreciate his putting a good foot forward and being friendly, and I wish to keep any interactions amiable, but it's not appropriate to act as if any complaint I may have is just a figment of my imagination. I am addressing concerns over real chemicals, real property, the actual cost of his decisions, my health and the health of others. However, I also truly appreciate that he's willing to communicate with me directly and I think that's how it should be. That was the reason for mediation.

I presume you share these emails with him. That's at your discretion. I'm writing this just to offer a brief update and to clarify that I don't mind if you pass along my email address. I welcome any communication from Highland View or Ivan himself, and I hope that all unresolved matters will be settled quickly. Regarding the tires, they're going to an auto recycler unless someone wants them, not the dump, and the batteries and metal have their respective recyclers... I'm not sure if Ivan was actually interested in what was happening with these things, or not. The trailer itself, and the Jeep, I'm keeping - I get offers all the time. He may have received complaints about the pressure washing. It's unavoidably noisy and tediously slow. Luckily, this will not be a habit. The pavement looks good except for one spot that needs more work and we need to rewash a rug since a dog found it while it was drying. Another couple of days and I won't need the pressure washer again until next year. It's supposed to rain Friday and it seems Fall is here. Barbara will be out of town for the month of October and then the holiday season is upon us. I am overwhelmed with ambition and a lack of resources, but succeeding in life, and I look forward to a Winter filled with warmth and contentment as I continue to achieve my goals.

Indigo

[Quoted text hidden]

Michael Huarte <michaelhuarte@gmail.com>
To: skybox <skyoptic6@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 21, 2021 at 4:29 PM

Indigo,

Thank you for keeping your place looking great, the power washing is appreciated.

I can assure that Ivan is not putting any chemicals into the water supply. The park water comes from the city, it is treated by the city. Tenants have water meters and pay the same rates that the city charges the park.

There is no eavesdropping being performed by management.

You and I have begun a cordial dialogue. Yet you mention claiming damages. If that is the direction you wish to take let me know I can direct you to my lawyer. I will have to cease communication at that point. I enjoy chatting with you,

things have been going well. I look forward to the holiday season as well in addition to some cooler weather.

Michael

[Quoted text hidden]