

Because of the recent incident of a note left in the garden by an angry gardener, the Garden Committee decided, in their recent meeting, to address their concerns about said note with a "note to ourselves" to be sent to all gardeners.

We ask our neighbors to abide by the garden rules and to treat the garden and by extension, the gardeners, with respect. Most do and many express appreciation for our work. When they don't or do damage we are frustrated, hurt and sometimes angry. Worse, when the damage is not witnessed, we are left impotent to address it.

Never- the- less, in spite of what happens, seen or unseen, we, the gardeners must, even if angered and hurt, abide by a code of conduct. We do ourselves a grave disservice when we act as a punitive force, or as police. Disrespectful notes, sharp reprimands or harsh treatment of others is not acceptable. It makes people feel unwelcome, even attacked and casts a negative shadow on the gardeners. This is opposite to the environment we are trying to create in the garden as a beautiful and serene space for all residents.

Below is a suggested Gardeners Code of Conduct, which lists a number of ways that we can practice garden courtesy and be good stewards, of the plants, and of the ambiance in our garden.

1. Each of us is a representative of the entire Garden Group and responsible for its culture. We will not be disrespectful verbally or in writing to other residents, including fellow gardeners. We will think twice or speak to another gardener before responding with rancor.

2. We will clean the walks of dirt and debris after we finish gardening and make sure all trimmings are cut and put into bins

3. We will put away all garden tools for everyone's safety, especially children

4. We will keep overhanging branches and plants properly trimmed away from walkways

5. We will modulate our voices when talking in the garden

6. We will practice respect and tolerance toward anyone who visits or works in the garden

If you have suggestions or comments, please bring them to the next meeting.

Thank you for your confidence in us.

Katherine and Kayhan