

Glen Oaks Village

Gardening Guide

By Drew Englot
Director of Maintenance Operations



No matter what time of the year that I drive around Glen Oaks Village, I can't help but notice the personal touches our Residents have made to the outside of their apartments. In the spring and summer, you notice all different varieties of flowers and plants; while in the fall and winter, you see lawn and garden decorations for the different holidays and changing of the seasons. One of the great things about Glen Oaks Village is that Residents have the ability to express their individuality.

While not wanting to discourage our Residents from beautifying their areas, there are some concerns that the Landscaping Department has that Residents should be aware of. The following is a list of some of the issues we have to deal with when Residents add their personal touches to the property.

- 1) There is an old adage "that less is more". We have come across some Residents that when they finish in their immediate area, they branch out to their neighbor's gardens or entire courtyards--many times without discussing or working with their neighbors. As you can imagine, this can lead to disputes between neighbors and what started out as something with good intentions, turns nasty. If you want to do more than just your immediate area, please speak to your neighbors, get their ideas, and work together as a team to make the entire area better.
- 2) Many Residents put out decorations and lawn ornaments which make the property look friendlier. However, the locations in which these items are placed sometimes pose a problem. If solar lights, statues, etc., are put too close to the sidewalk, they may be damaged by the golf carts--or especially by the plows in the winter. Also, if these items are put too close together, it makes it difficult to cut the lawn. The property is much too large to stop and move decorative items each time we work in an area so try as we do to be careful, damage can occur if they are not put in the proper places.
- 3) Some Residents still don't understand the meaning of *Green Thumb* signs--If you have a *Green Thumb* sign in your garden, we do not do any work there. A *Green Thumb* sign means that the Resident is taking care of an area and Glen Oaks Village personnel should not enter or do any work there. This does not just include planting and weeding but shrub trimming too. We will, upon special request, trim the shrubs--even though there is a *Green Thumb* sign, as long as the Resident calls the office to request it. A special Work Order would then be generated to trim the shrubs. The regular trimming crew will not do it during the block-by-block trimming, since they are instructed to bypass all *Green Thumb* sign areas.
- 4) While on the subject of trimming bushes, please be aware that if Residents plant flowers directly under or around bushes in their gardens, it is very difficult to pick up the trimmings without damaging the flowers. Please try to leave some room between the flowers you plant and the shrubs that are there. It will make our job easier and mean less damage to the flowers you spend money for and time planting.



We hope that more people will take an interest in making their individual spaces beautiful by planting and decorating. Just remember to work with your neighbors and keep the Landscapers in mind when doing improvements so that your work can be enjoyed by others and still be "*Landscaper*" friendly.