



Our Garden Centers need you! Thanks to COVID, it's more important than ever to be able to enjoy a beautiful and serene place where life grows before our eyes every day. Now is an excellent time to collaborate, brush up on winter garden knowledge and rejuvenate the Garden Centers. Please consider becoming a volunteer to help create an atmosphere where everyone feels welcome.

After completing a training period of two hours, volunteers can help maintain the Garden

Centers by performing weeding, cleaning, organizing, tool maintenance and more. As part of the Garden Center neighborhood watch, volunteers can greet neighborhood gardeners, share knowledge and experience, collaborate with gardeners and monitor facility activities, notifying Security or staff when appropriate. Last, volunteers can collaborate with staff to encourage garden plot partnerships for those gardeners who may be struggling with life challenges and find it difficult to maintain their plots.

WELCOME!



Kristy Sakal, who began as a full-time Garden Center specialist in January, will divide her time between

both Garden Centers and be stationed at Garden Center 1 on Wednesdays unless urgent issues require her assistance elsewhere. Kristy started at VMS in May 2019 at the Performing Art Center box office, where she managed theatre events for ticket sales.

PLOT PARTNERS AND STAFF

Some gardeners may not be aware of the disparity between garden/tree plot supply and demand.

Our Garden Centers house approximately 1,089 plots—and maintain a healthy, growing wait list of garden-hopeful Village residents. That's why it's important to consider the time and commitment required to tend a plot.

Gardeners thrive through collaboration

between novices and experts. Consider becoming a Plot Partner to help those experiencing life challenges meet compliance when plot maintenance and participation may be difficult. Communicating with Garden Center office is vital to this collaboration. With the re-establishment of full-time staff at the Garden Centers, we are here to help in any way we can.

CAN BOLSTER COMMITMENT

BE A COMPLIANCE HERO

Every plot holder must meet compliance standards to ensure the gardens remain an enjoyable and relaxing place for all. Here are reminders of the important rules and regulations all gardeners must follow.

Remove all weeds from each plot and adjacent paths.

Gardeners are responsible for keeping their plots free from weeds and debris at all times. In addition, gardeners are responsible for walkways within and around their plots. Keep them clear of obstacles and intrusive growth. Berries, bougainvillea and other climbing vines and plants that have thorns must be planted a minimum of 24 inches away from the fence and may not extend beyond the individual garden property line.

Use 75% of your plot for planting.

Plots are not to be used to store materials/tools not associated with gardening.



Continue to be water wise and conservation minded as California's drought continues.

Do not overwater or leave water running unattended. All Garden Centers watering is subject to El Toto Water District rules and any other governing agency or municipality. Gardeners must follow smart watering practices and prevent water runoff from damaging adjacent gardens. Too-long watering invites fungus. Too-little watering creates shallow roots. Evening watering invites insects. Indirect watering loses half the moisture to evaporation.

Consider collecting water for your garden with rain barrels that have garden hose connections. **Click here** or visit <https://bit.ly/32vSNC3> to learn how to build your own rain barrel. **Click here** or visit <https://bit.ly/3ALBYA1> to shop top-rated rain

barrels. **Click here** or visit <https://bit.ly/3nZqDqK> to learn about HGTV's best watering practices.

Failure to comply with Garden Center rules and regulations may result in disciplinary action and permit revocation. Staff are available during normal Garden Center hours to explain compliance topics—and enforce rules and regulations.

Brush up on the Garden Center Operating Rules at lagunawoodsvillage.com/amenities/garden-centers, or pick up a free copy in the Garden Center 2 Staff office.

| Humane Rodent Repellent Options

- Deploy repellents in a variety of locations, particularly near areas where you saw activity during your infestation.
- Soak rags in a nontoxic repellent, which is available from some hardware and DIY stores or online, and place them in the corners of your plot.
- Sprinkle peppermint, spearmint or eucalyptus oil where rodents travel.
- Use traps and scent repellents. Visit victorpest.com for more information.
- Trim overgrown vegetation until ground underneath is visible.
- Pick up any fruit that has fallen from trees.
- Remove debris, including rock piles, old equipment, clipping piles, etc.
- Keep repellents in place in your plot to prevent rodents from returning once your problem is under control and there are no longer any pests scurrying about.

| Deter mice and rats through an integrated approach.