



## Keeping with Tradition

For those homes, which have front entrances close to their neighbor's house, there are some perplexing situations regarding the outside entrance to courtyards, and also issues regarding the flowerbeds next to and facing each walkway/kitchen window/front entrance.

It is clearly understood that we each own our own property, each with a specific plot plan, Deed and documented property lines. What we need to consider, also, is the design and intent of the builder for living in a Cluster development. Tradition on Blodgett Creek Trail has been for neighbors to coexist with rational, logical use of properties.

It is my belief that the builder's original intent was to provide each home with a private outdoor courtyard and access to that courtyard for essential maintenance. The primary access to these courtyards was intended to be from within the home. Had the original plan been designed with access to these courtyards from the driveways, there would have been a walkway within the bounds of that property line, along the side of the garage to prevent trespassing onto the neighbor's property when entering or exiting the courtyard.

It is further my belief that the flowerbed, not a walkway, was established to provide curb appeal and beautification for the entrance of the home it faces. The lack of water faucets on that side of the garage is an indication that care for the flowerbed was not intended to be by that homeowner. It stands to reason that the appearance of our home's entrance area should not be contingent on the neighbor's gardening expertise and that a homeowner is not going to spend money and time to plant an enjoyable flowerbed for his neighbor. We plant and nurture what we can see and enjoy. My taste and my neighbor's likely differ, but I can look out my door and sit at my kitchen table and enjoy the view of my choice of garden items.

In turn, I must provide a clear path for my neighbor's entrance to his front courtyard gate, possibly with stepping-stones, cleared of shrubs and plantings. My neighbor uses my property to gain access to his gate whenever necessary. I use his property to plant and care for the shrubs of my choice.

If we all practice what was surely the intent of the builder, we can, by being considerate neighbors, live in harmony and make our cluster development a better place for all. Please be mindful that any proposed changes to the outside of your house or landscape must be submitted to the BOT in writing and you should not proceed without its approval.

Thank you! Sandy Grattan  
Landscape Administrator