

THE CULTURE OF LIBERTY VILLAGE

Final Copy
Consented on 5/15/04

I. PEOPLE

A. Self-selecting membership: We ask anyone considering living here to learn about Liberty Village by following our membership pathway as outlined in our Checklist for Prospective Buyers.

B. Relationships: Liberty Village supports deep interpersonal connections among members. Members offer support and encourage sharing of the good and the bad. However, if at any time a member is uncomfortable with the level of intimacy in a conversation or discussion, they may say so and withdraw from the discussion.

C. Committed Partnerships: We respect the vows of marriage and the agreements of other committed partnerships. When there is a conflict between partners, the community is available to both partners for encouragement and support.

D. Children's Representation: Although children may not have the same rights and responsibilities as adults, their interests are represented in all decision making as equally valued members of the community.

E. Parenting: We recognize that parents rear children as they see fit, keeping in mind that parents are responsible for their children's actions, health, safety, and welfare. Any form of shared parenting is voluntary. However, any adult may interrupt a child's behavior if there is a safety concern or an issue with respecting a person or property.

II. PARTICIPATION/INDEPENDENCE:

A. Helping others: We encourage asking each other for help. Helping others is an important value cherished by this community.

B. Privacy: While Liberty Village encourages companionship, sharing, and helping others, at the same time, we respect an individual's need for privacy and freedom to decline an invitation.

C. We invite each person to contribute their individual talents, skills and abilities to the community in a way that benefits and strengthens both the individual and the community and as follows:

1. To create and maintain this beautiful environment, we encourage participation in the ongoing maintenance of the common areas by everyone, to the best of their physical ability.
2. Sharing community meals is, for most of us, the glue that holds us together. We envision full participation in cooking, cleaning, and enjoying regular community meals together.
3. Active involvement in the management and growth of our community can be achieved through a variety of ways, such as:
 - Serving on the LVCA Board of Directors
 - Joining a team
 - Attending business meetings
 - Participating in workshops and sharing circles
 - Benefiting from ongoing training

III. COMMUNICATION:

A. Liberty Village encourages a depth of sharing through sharing circles at meetings and in general, at any level with which the member feels comfortable, knowing their feelings will be honored.

B. Liberty Village does not support gossip (any expression that diminishes a member who is not present).

A member is encouraged to only speak critically about another member who is not present for the purpose of clarifying their feelings and exploring options for constructive action. The listener is encouraged to accept responsibility to see that the speaker tries to resolve the issue by:

1. letting go of the judgment or upset or
2. talking to the person directly

IV. FINANCIAL

A. Financial Independence: Each household is financially independent, responsible for paying their own expenses and free from any obligation to pay others. Financial assistance given from one household to another is a private matter.

B. Cost Allocation: Monthly dues are paid to the LVCA. All other collection of money is voluntary at this time.

C. Home resale: Owners are free to sell their homes to whomever they wish, with the new owners being subject to the CC&Rs and the LVCA Bylaws. Homeowners are requested to inform the community before their house goes on the market.

D. On-site Business: Before any business that impacts or uses community space and/or resources is started, the proposed business owner will discuss it with the community to evaluate possible impacts on the community. Any compensation for professional or business use of the community resources will be determined by the community.

V. SELF-GOVERNING:

A. Because we are committed to resolving conflict with respect, honor and trust, we make our decisions using the consensus process. This process relies on each individual's creative thinking to generate together a decision that is best for the community. Therefore, attendance at meetings and participation in consensus is vital to the success of the consensus process.

B Rules: Because of the trust we have for each other to act responsibly, we enact minimal rules and instead rely upon open communication and the spirit of cooperation to ensure that we treat each other and the community fairly, respectfully and safely.

C. Values: We recognize that community members may have differing moral values, and we try not to impose our own moral values on others. However, we are approachable if someone feels our behavior adversely affects others in the community.