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Dear Brentwoodians,

How Our Gardens Grow

Many of us will have just spent the May long weekend working in our gardens to get them ready for summertime enjoyment – whether they be in flowerbeds, fruit trees, vegetable plots, or containers on a balcony.

It is a perfect moment to recognize the amazing work done by our BCA community garden volunteers and participants, which is showcased this month by Lee Hunt and a gallery of beautiful bloom to inspire us all. Please take her advice and take a walk by the gardens to see their progress this summer!

Those of us who aren't blessed with a green thumb (which definitely includes me) can get advice and tips on gardening from the Calgary Horticultural Society or from the City's Yardsmart website (www.calgary.ca/water/programs/yardsmart.html). The latter focuses on planting low-water yards for different sun conditions and emphasises native flora and trees. If you strike up a conversation with a member of the BCA community garden group, I have no doubt that they will be more than happy to share their knowledge too!

Unwanted Intruder

Speaking of gardens, *Bugle* reader Carla emailed to remind me of an insidious threat to our gardens, laneways, and parks - Creeping Bellflower. These purple invaders look nice but take over and crowd out other plants including native flora, so please keep an eye out and uproot them whenever you spot them.

Photo Contest

The *Bugle* is looking for Brentwood's best amateur photographers to provide cover images each month. If you have a great snap of our neighbourhood saved on your phone or posted on your social media feed, send it in for a chance to be featured on the cover of an upcoming issue! Photos must be 300 DPI or higher (i.e. from a newer model phone or good digital camera) and 2400 x 1600 pixels minimum size. If submitting pictures of minors, please make sure that you have direct, express permission to submit the picture from a parent or guardian. Send your photos, or any questions, to bcabugle@telus.net.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Jucker

Editor, Brentwood Bugle



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Brentwood Cares - Little Food Library and More!

With your donations and support, we continue to stock the Brentwood Cares Little Food Library twice daily, for use by people of all ages and circumstances, from elders to students.

Unopened, sealed items can be dropped off in the library itself or in the box beside the door at 3624 Boulton Road at any time. Hats off to Brentwood for your continued support!

Liza and the Brentwood Cares Team

Buy Nothing Brentwood

Give freely; share creatively! Post anything you'd like to give away, lend, or share; ask for anything you'd like to receive or borrow.

Check out the Buy Nothing Brentwood/Charleswood/Collingwood Facebook page, or buynothingproject.org.

Calgary Police Service on Nextdoor!

Calgary Police Service now has a dedicated space to engage with community residents.

You can expect to see posts on the following topics:

- Awareness and updates: events, initiatives, and updates in our community
- Crime trends and prevention: education, resources, and tools
- Community engagement: a place to share concerns, ideas, and feedback
- Emergency alerts: immediate notifications that affect our area

You can find the Calgary Police Service's space on Nextdoor here: <https://ca.nextdoor.com/agency-detail/ab/calgary/calgary-police-service/>.

Your Representatives in Brentwood

City Councillor: Sean Chu (Ward 4):
ward04@calgary.ca; 403-268-3727.

MLA: Luanne Metz (Calgary-Varsity):
Calgary.varsity@assembly.ab.ca; 403-216-5436.

MP: Corey Hogan (Calgary Confederation)

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LOOKING FOR YOUTH PERFORMERS
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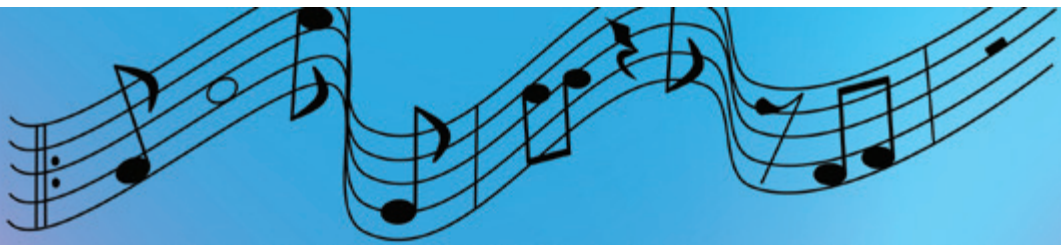
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August 10th, 2025 3PM

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New this year: Brentwood Youth Performer Set, in addition to two sets by a professional band (TBA). This concert series is about engaging our youth, bringing neighbours together, and supporting our Little Food Library through a family-friendly experience.

Interested submitting a demo video for future concerts?

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One Year After Blanket Rezoning

by Melanie Swailes on behalf of the Development and Transportation Committee

In May 2024, a majority of City Council plus Mayor Gondek voted in favour of blanket rezoning. On August 6, 2024, the changes came into effect: all R-C1 (single family) properties are now R-CG, “a residential designation that is primarily for rowhouses but also allows for single detached, side-by-side, and duplex homes that may include a secondary suite.” What this means is that a property which formerly held a single house might now have as many as eight separate dwelling units (four main units plus four secondary suites).

What Has Happened Since?

According to the latest data from StatsCan, more than 90,000 people moved to Calgary in 2024. According to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation’s recent report, Calgary also has the highest number of housing starts per capita compared to other large Canadian municipalities. According to the City of Calgary (March 24, 2025), “Calgary also saw remarkable growth in building permit numbers and residential permits, recording the highest housing starts in Canada with 20,165 units, setting a new record and making 2024 the first year Calgary surpassed 20,000 units.” In other words, a lot of people have arrived in Calgary and a lot of building has been done!

In November 2023, the Government of Canada and the City entered into an agreement to fast-track more than 6,800 housing units above Calgary’s annual baseline over three years. As of February 28, 2025, The City has reached 83 percent of the original target, with 34,594 out of 41,858 units, within the first year of a four-year contract.

- 94% complete multi-unit housing near transit (10,019 of 10,627)
- 74% complete missing middle units (11,888 of 15,959)
- 99% complete multi-unit units (4,094 of 4,098)
- 25% complete non-market units (186 of 740)

The accelerated building levels might not come as a surprise to anyone who has driven around established areas such as Capitol Hill or Bowness, where it seems

there are new multi-unit developments on every street. After blanket rezoning, developers no longer need a Council Hearing to change the zoning on most lots which had a single house on them, which is why there are so many eight-unit dwellings (dubbed “octo-plexes” by the Better Infill group in Edmonton) being built. This is achieving the goal of building more units, but what about the affordability part of the goals?

Out of over 20,100 housing starts in Calgary, only 186 were “non-market” units. Calgary defines non-market housing as “Rental or for-sale housing provided for income groups not served by the private market. It is typically made affordable through public and/or non-profit ownership of housing units, or through rent supplements that allow low-income households to access housing in the private market.” In Calgary, a household is deemed to be in need of affordable housing if it “earns less than 65 percent of the median income and spends 30 percent or more of its before tax income on shelter costs. According to 2021 census data, median income was \$98,000, 65 percent of median income is \$63,700.”

During the Blanket Rezoning public hearings, many individuals spoke about their need for more affordable housing. However, it seems that the majority of housing being built is higher-end housing, which is more profitable to developers or investors, but which is not where the greatest need lies. For every new rowhouse which gets built, usually an older house (which often contained a suite, legal or otherwise) was torn down, so some of the old “cheaper” rental units are removed. Those looking for lower rental costs have to hope that eventually enough gets built that some rent reductions trickle down to them, but overall, the City is behind on the targeted number of non-market units. (As an example of a non-market building, near the Varsity fire hall, a 48-unit housing development is almost at the completion stage.)

The initial physical impacts of blanket rezoning are easy to see in some neighbourhoods where there are new buildings on almost every street, but the impact on affordability is harder to determine. Is the City building the right kinds of housing? What do you think? What have your family members experienced?

As I've written many times before, our community is not a blank slate. Redevelopment should be sensitive and contextual to what is already there, as is already mandated in the Municipal Development Plan and the Infill Guidelines. If you wish to have input into what that looks like, get involved. Read and learn. The City is planning a new Zoning Bylaw, with even more substantial changes (www.calgary.ca/planning/city-building-program/city-building-program/the-zoning-bylaw.html).

If you would like to join our Community Association, you are always welcome to do so. Contact the office at office@brentwoodcommunity.com or at 403-284-3477.



News from the Friends of Nose Hill

by Anne Burke

We are celebrating the 10th Anniversaries of the City Nature Challenge and of iNaturalist Canada. The 7th Annual Calgary City Nature Challenge was on April 25 to 28, 2025. So far, the previous year was most successful with 13,000+ observations. Other micro bioblitzes will happen all this summer. The iNaturalist platform is being used to help provide up to date records of the occurrence of the flora and fauna of Nose Hill with particular emphasis on the native vascular and nonvascular plants, fungi, birds, mammals, butterflies, moths, and bees.

Nature Calgary is a community that promotes the preservation of natural habitats, provides educational opportunities, and supports the collection of natural history observations. This year, the group is focusing their efforts on Nose Hill and Bowmont Park. We were contacted to encourage our members to take pictures of the Nose Hill biota (animal and plant life of a particular region, habitat, or geological period) and submit the photographs to <https://inaturalist.ca/projects/nose-hill-park-bioinventory>.

The goal is to publish an updated version of "The Green Book" in time for its 50th Anniversary and to monitor the changes in eleven Calgary Natural Areas. Whenever you visit a park, you can upload your observations to eBird and there are links to all these Parks at <https://inaturalist.ca/>. The project is being spearheaded by Nature Calgary and the Native Plants Council of Alberta - Calgary Chapter. In 1980 "The Green Book" was called "Calgary's Natural Areas: A Popular Guide" as one of the City's most extensive repositories of biodiversity. The first of its kind when data collection began in 1975, it was cited during the planning and creation of several of our Natural Parks. Many contributions provided by citizen scientists will add to the accuracy of the new publication and are greatly appreciated.



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The Brentwood Community Garden Fulfills a Range of Aspirations

by Lee Hunt

The Brentwood Community Garden Group (BCGG) is celebrating its 15th year of producing wonderful food, colour, learning, and peace.

The idea of a community garden in Brentwood was originally proposed by Cody Torgerson. After Cody retired, Sue Drader “eventually took the lead with much assistance from several other people.” Sue told me that originally the land on which the garden now sits was owned by the City, but then it was “brought under the Brentwood Community Association’s umbrella.” I cannot imagine how much effort there must have been in turning an unused section of grass into a large periphery bed plus 35 individual plots!

But lucky for our household that it happened, as we have one of the plots where we grow potatoes each year.

One of this year’s new members, Hasib, lives in an apartment so is pleased to join the BCGG to give him “access to a personal open space... and I will plan my bed in such a way as to maximize my yield.”

Current coordinator, Cynthia, followed Sue in 2015. Cynthia is impressed that there is “so much knowledge in the group and we novices soak it all up.” It is exactly this knowledge that first time gardeners Xiao and his family hope to learn from. They rented a plot because five-year-old Jun “became so curious about the plants and activities in the garden.” Xiao went on to say, “I think that gardening is something we’ll enjoy as a family—tending to our garden and learning as we go.”

The periphery garden is made up primarily of colourful perennials, shrubs, and trees which are lovingly tended to by Kathy, while husband Bill looks after their garden plot. Bill is also the garden’s “master carpenter” as he has helped rebuild five of the original beds with each bed averaging three hours to repair.

Talking with other gardeners—be that at the organizational meeting, garden cleanups, or just while tending one’s own plot—can lead to tips and learning as youngsters and novice gardeners learn from the more experienced gardeners. And we all learned together how to deal with the voles which arrived one year!

Many of the gardeners referred to the garden as providing “the chance to interact with nature and with other people” (Sue) and “a quiet respite where I can fade out the noise and busyness of the world... to relax and just appreciate the beauty all around me” (Deb).

As you can tell, a garden can bring abundant harvests, learning, and peace. Visitors are welcome to walk through the colourful garden, but please – no picking!

I wish all of my fellow gardeners a plentiful crop, an opportunity to socialize with other gardeners, plus time to quietly commune with nature.



Photo by Grace Lane



Photos by Deb Angus

GREAT NEWS MEDIA

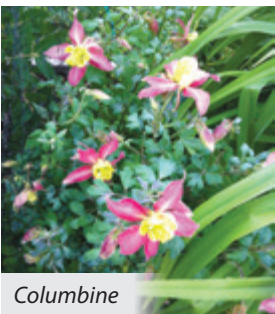
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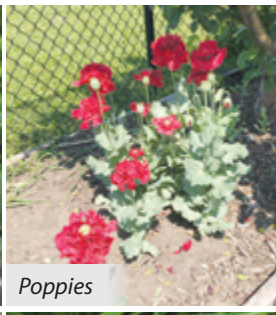
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Off the Bookshelf

by Rosemary Brown

Desiree B. Stephens whose heritage is bi-racial (Black and Irish), is a decolonization educator and counsellor and a promoter of whole-self healing.

She believes that "whiteness is more of a mindset than anything else." However, it is a mindset of which we are often unaware. As part of her own learning process, she has thought long and hard about whiteness and systems of dominance in general, whether they pertain to race, ability, gender, sexual orientation, colonization, etc.

We recently read and discussed her short and thought-provoking e-book *Dismantling Supremacy Culture: Understanding and Overcoming Its Fifteen Pillars*, which can be found by searching online.

These pillars are Perfectionism, Sense of Urgency, Defensiveness, Quantity Over Quality, Worship of the Written Word, Only One Right Way, Paternalism, Either/Or thinking, Power Hoarding, Fear of Open Conflict, Individualism, Progress is Bigger, More, Objectivity, Right to Comfort.

While I have been aware of many of these pillars as problematic issues, I had never thought of them as a complex web of attitudes and behaviours that support oppression dynamics—or in Stephen's words "supremacy culture."

Her approach in this document is to define each pillar and then to analyze the impact of each pillar from the perspective of intersectionality, community building, de-centring whiteness, and whole-self healing. Then she offers "active steps for liberation" that help us to change our ways of thinking, and organizational ways of doing things. To assist us, she asks a series of questions at the end of each chapter that help us to reflect on how these pillars work in our personal and organizational lives. To disrupt these pillars will be to disrupt supremacy culture and create healthier lives for us and those around us. We are taking this challenge on in The Reconciliation Action Group.

Stop Apologizing Already

by Nancy Bergeron, R.Psych. | info@nancybergeron.ca

This is something that really took me some time and awareness to change. Maybe it's because I'm Canadian...sorry?! Over-apologizing can be rooted in people-pleasing, a fear of conflict, feeling like you're a burden, or that you don't have a place to express yourself freely. The good news is you can unlearn it by becoming more aware of when you say "sorry" and replacing it with more confident or accurate expressions.

Here's how to start:

1. Notice Your Patterns

Start paying attention to when you say "sorry." Is it when you:

- Ask a question?
- Express a need?
- Walk past someone?
- Take up space?

Awareness is the first step.

2. Swap "Sorry" for More Empowering Phrases

a). When you're late

Instead of: "Sorry I'm late."

Try: "Thanks for your patience." or "I appreciate you waiting for me."

b). When you didn't respond right away

Instead of: "Sorry I didn't get back to you."

Try: "Thanks for your patience while I got back to you." or "I appreciate your patience."

c). When you need something

Instead of: "Sorry to bother you, but..."

Try: "Do you have a moment?" or "Can I ask you something?" or "Are you free for a consult?"

d). When you accidentally bump into someone

Instead of: "Sorry!"

Try: "Excuse me." or "Pardon me."

e). When you disagree

Instead of: "Sorry, but I think..."



Try: "I see it differently." or "Here's another perspective..." or just be curious and ask for more information on the topic.

f). When you're expressing emotion

Instead of: "Sorry I'm crying." or "I'm sorry I'm so angry."

Try: "Thanks for being here while I process this." or "I'm feeling a lot right now." or "Wow, this is overwhelming."

3. Use Apologies Intentionally

Apologize when you genuinely hurt someone or made a mistake. That keeps apologies meaningful. For everything else, aim for assertiveness and gratitude.

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Register to Vote in Calgary's General Election in October

by *The City of Calgary*

Calgary's General Election will take place on October 20, 2025, and eligible voters can check if they are registered, update their information or add themselves to the Permanent Electors Register until August 1, 2025.



Visit www.voterlink.ab.ca or call Elections Alberta toll free at 310-0000 then dial 780-427-7191.

If you miss the opportunity to register or update your information in advance, you can register at the voting station during Advance Vote (October 6 to 11) or on Election Day (October 20). Information about Calgary's upcoming General Election, including voter eligibility can be found at www.electionscalgary.ca.

Longest Day

Mark your calendars - this year's summer solstice will take place on June 20. Calgary will experience approximately 16 hours and 35 minutes of daylight. That means there is plenty of time to play, relax, and maybe even forget what bedtime is!

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NEIGHBOURHOOD CONFLICT? Community Mediation Calgary Society (CMCS) is a no-cost mediation and conflict coaching service that can help you resolve problems and restore peace! We help neighbours be neighbours again! www.communitymediation.ca, 403-269-2707.

E.G.K. CONTRACTING, RENOVATIONS, DEVELOPMENTS, HANDYMAN SERVICES (ONE CALL DOES IT ALL!) Drywall, taping, texturing, painting, tile work, T-bar ceilings, flooring, plumbing, water line breaks, flood and fire restoration, mold remediation, electrical and more. 40+ years of experience. Licensed, insured, carry WCB. BBB Accredited, A+ rating. Check out my website at www.egkcontracting.com, or call Erich at 403-606-2493.

GUTTER DOCTOR! Home exterior service experts. Services include gutter cleaning, repairs, and installations as well as fascia, soffit, siding, roofing, cladding, heat cables, gutter guards, window cleaning, and pressure washing. Local business for over 23 years with more than 70,000 happy customers! Licensed, insured, WCB, A+ BBB member, multi award-winner. Quality work with a warranty! www.gutterdoctor.ca, 403-714-0711.

JEFFREY ELECTRIC: Friendly, professional electrical service for your next residential project, large or small. 10 years serving Calgary, City Qualified Trade, Master Electrician, licensed, insured. Very competitive rates for quality electrical work. Service panel upgrades from 60 amp to 200 amp. Car chargers, aluminum rewiring, custom kitchens and basements. Free estimates. www.cejelectric.com or call Clayton at 403-970-5441.

OUT ON A LIMB PROFESSIONAL PRUNING: Tree and shrub pruning, shaping and restoration. Tree removal and stump grinding. New tree and shrub selection and installation. Fertilizing and insect pest management. Licensed & Insured. Journeyman Landscape Gardener and certified Arborist. Call Jim at 403-265-6965 or email outonalimbprofessionalpruning@live.ca.

HOUSE AND YARD MAINTENANCE: Spring and fall yard cleanups, power raking, leaf cleanup, flower beds, hedge trimming, top dressing, and weeding. Eavestrough cleaning/leak sealing, window cleaning, fence work, gates, drywall repairs. Exterior painting such as decks, trims, and window frames. Commercially insured. Call Ryan at 403-202-1263.

TLC CLEANING: Over 20 years' experience in the business! TLC Cleaning is a small and personalized house cleaning company with an eye for detail. Licensed, insured, bonded, and WCB covered for your peace of mind. Excellent rates and references; environmentally-friendly options too. Everyone needs a little TLC! Free estimates; please call Carol at 403-614-8522 or email tlc.cleaning@shaw.ca.



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ON THE MARKET



45, 380 BERMUDA DRIVE NW (BEDDINGTON HEIGHTS)

End-unit townhouse in the complex of Spicewood in Beddington Heights. Excellent location—this unit backs onto the playground and is beside the green space! Highlights of this lovely unit include more than 1,630 sq.ft. of living space, 3 bedrooms and 1.5 bathrooms. The developed basement has a large family room for social gatherings and a good-sized storage area in the laundry room. This unit comes with 1 assigned parking stall. Conveniently located to hop onto

Deerfoot Trail, 14 Street (north-south access) as well as Country Hills Blvd (west-east access).

Asking \$399,900 mls# A2214085



8408 ADDISON DRIVE SE (ACADIA)

This gorgeous bi-level home features 4 total bedrooms, 2 full bathrooms, south-facing backyard, renovated basement illegal suite (2024), central A/C, water softener, newer windows on the main floor, and a double detached garage! Behind the home is a stretch of green space off the paved back alley, perfect for dog runs, summer walks, and a community connector with privacy!

Asking \$689,900 mls# A2210955



CHARLESWOOD—CAPRI AVENUE

This executive bungalow is an absolute stunner (fully renovated in 2014 down to the studs). The smart layout doesn't take away from the adjacent living or dining rooms, anchored by a gas fireplace, encased with floor-to-ceiling tile accents, hardwood floors, recessed pot lights, open and airy with plenty of sunlight through the windows. The double detached garage is fully insulated and heated. The brick pathway in the front of the home makes its way down the side of the home and transforms into a brick patio once you step down from the deck.

Asking \$899,900 mls# A2209631



SPRUCE CLIFF—SPRUCE PLACE

Modern, spacious, luxurious condo offers an exceptional living experience. The perfect balance of convenience and lifestyle in the highly sought-after Ovations at Westgate Park with views of the Rocky Mountains and the city. The spacious primary bedroom includes double oversized closets and a private ensuite, creating a serene retreat. A second full bathroom adds convenience and privacy. Living at Ovations means access to luxury amenities, including a fitness centre, indoor swimming pool, hot tub, party room and games room. Plus 24-hour security patrol.

Asking \$429,900 mls# A2204906



COLLINGWOOD—COLLINGWOOD PLACE

An outstanding brand new luxury home in the heart of Collingwood! >3,000 sq.ft. of opulent living space—stacked with plenty of features, the builder has planned and executed meticulously throughout the process. This home has a legal 2 bedroom basement suite and a double attached garage. Separate furnace systems, with AC

installed for the main dwelling unit. Close to the Calgary Winter Club.

Asking \$1,329,000 mls# A2210505

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