

Jane's Walk Comes to Brentwood

By Cheri Macaulay

Early in May I had the great pleasure of a two hour ramble with 25 residents and friends of Brentwood in honour of the late great urban thinker and activist, Jane Jacobs. Ours was one of ten Jane's Walks scheduled for Calgary the first weekend in May and more than 230 across Canada. Jacobs was not a professional planner but had a keen eye for observation and believed that the people who live in a community inherently know what is best for their community. She advocated for grassroots, community-based planning long before it became widely accepted. I like to think she would have enjoyed our morning stroll. We took some paths that aren't on any map but have been worn down by years of footsteps following the same preferred routes through parks, between buildings and across open fields. We paused to celebrate a playground built



by local volunteers, murals painted by the young people in our neighbourhood and the interpretive signs in the wonderful natureground adjacent to and proudly tended by students and staff at Dr Coffin Elementary school. And all the while we chatted with each other about stewardship of our local parks, about building a community garden, about proposed new development around the Brentwood LRT station, about what was working well in Brentwood and what could be improved.

But the most magical thing occurred at the end of the walk. Over refreshments at the Nose Hill Library, people sat or stood in groups of two or three or four, continuing to talk earnestly with neighbours they had known for years and others they had only just met. The conversations were warm and enthusiastic, people lingered, and email addresses and phone numbers were exchanged in the hopes of reconnecting over newly discovered common interests. Watching this unfold on a warm spring day in May affirmed my belief that the energy is shifting in Calgary after our long, dreary winter. People are coming together in Brentwood and communities across the city, hungry to connect with each other and eager to engage in the building of stronger communities and ultimately a more caring, sustainable and vibrant city for our future.

Your Community Liaison Officer

By Constable John Kastamonitis

My name is Constable John Kastamonitis, your Community Liaison Officer (CLO) for District 3 - Zone 4, which includes the community of Brentwood. As your CLO, I attend community meetings, provide statistics and speak to any emerging crime trends and issues within the community. I also provide crime prevention presentations, to reduce your chances of becoming a victim of crime.

I would like to take this opportunity to talk about personal safety. Recently, a female was walking in the community and encountered an unknown male who exposed himself to her. After the unknown male exposed himself, he fled the area. As a reminder, please keep the following in mind if you are walking alone:

- Plan your route and don't take shortcuts.
- Walk in well lit public areas.
- Always be aware of your surroundings.

The Calgary Police Service asks you to

report any suspicious individuals or activities through the non-emergency line at (403) 266-1234. Always call 911 to report a crime in progress. If possible, obtain a physical description, including clothing, along with a direction of travel of any suspicious individuals, as this information is crucial to responding police officers.

I'd also like to remind you that certain non-emergencies, such as lost property, graffiti and some thefts can be reported online, through our website at calgarypolice.ca. As well, the Service recently launched a crime-mapping application on our website, which enables Calgarians to learn about what types of crimes have occurred within the last six months, in their communities and surrounding areas.

If you have any questions or concerns, I can be reached at the District #3 office at (403) 567-6300.



Farmer's Market Returns

By Val Laferriere

The Grassroots Northland Farmers' Market is returning for its 17th year. Running every Tuesday June 9th to September 22nd from 3:30 to 7:00 pm, the market features fruit, vegetables, meat, beverages, sauces, dips, crafts, baked goods, organics, frozen meals and much more. All your favourite vendors are back along with some new ones. Join us, rain or shine, every Tuesday at Northland Village.

Grassroots Skaters Foundation is the non-profit group that sponsors the market. As a group dedicated to adult figure skating, the Foundation recognizes the fundraising challenges that all sports organizations face. This year the Foundation is donating one stall per week to a local non-profit sports organization that wishes to fundraise at the market. We will provide one table and one tent. You supply the volunteers. This gives sports organizations the opportunity to raise funds, host registration or promote their team or sport to the community at large.

For more information on the Grassroots Northland Farmers' Market, please contact Val Laferriere at (403) 289-7629 or email val.Laferriere@creb.com.