



Neighbours as Stewards

By Polly Lee Knowlton Cockett, environews@shaw.ca

Did you know?

- Local resident, freelance writer, and former school teacher, Gloria Toole, has written an article about our special locale in Brentwood Heights! It appears in the current issue of Legacy Magazine: http://www.legacymagazine.ab.ca/current_issue.html?IK=479&Step=2&Story=4
- Our provincial grass, **Rough Fescue**, is great for storing carbon, but is one of the most endangered ecosystems of the world: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-dMfrumsA4>
- International Day for Biodiversity (IDB) is held every year on May 22
- Invasive Alien Species (IAS) was the theme for this year's IDB
- The Alberta Wilderness Association published a special issue on IAS in their August 2008 Wild Lands Advocate: http://www.albertawilderness.ca/AWRC/WLA/2008/200808_WLA.pdf

You are heartily encouraged to join our fun and festive community gardening bees in Brentwood Heights. **The Friends of Dr. E.W. Coffin Society** will be hosting regular gardening bees throughout the growing season in Whispering Woods and the Centennial Natureground, caring for our native and reclaimed rough fescue prairie spaces.

Check out www.natureground.org, and click on the **Join us for Gardening Bees!** Link at the upper right, and/or keep reading below. Please join us, whether for a few minutes or a few hours, during any or all of the following events during July and August.

WHEN:

- Every Wednesday, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm July 1 – August 19. Refreshments provided
- Saturday, July 25, 9:00 am-11:00 am (Keeners at 8:30 am) Potluck Brunch at 11:00 am

- Saturday, August 15, 9:00 am-11:00 am (Keeners at 8:30 am) Potluck Brunch at 11:00 am
- Wednesday, August 26, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm Special Potluck Wine & Cheese at 8:00 pm

WHERE:

Meet at the Prairie Amphitheatre in Whispering Woods, just off Brenner Drive NW, or in the adjacent Centennial Natureground on the west side of Dr. Coffin School, at 5615 Barrett Drive NW. Dress for the weather, and for gardening! Although there will be some gloves and hand tools available to share, it would be helpful if you brought your own. We will be working in both Whispering Woods and the Centennial Natureground. Arrive and assist as you're willing and able, and please BYO H2O.

Whether toiling in your own garden, or when helping in the Natureground or Whispering Woods, there are several plant species that you are encouraged to discourage. Thistles, smooth brome, goat's beard, creeping bellflower, and perennial sowthistle are just a few. There is also troubling toadflax, oxeye daisy, and scentless chamomile to deal with, as well as a host of other pesky weeds like hound's tongue, stinkweed, and shepherd's purse.

Please dispose of weeds responsibly such that the roots and seeds are no longer viable; composting weeds is NOT recommended. Invasive species are threats to the well being of our native prairie's amazing biodiversity. Please visit the Alberta Invasive Plants Council's website: <http://www.invasiveplants.ab.ca/>.

To be notified about the schedule, to learn more about native plants, weeds, and grassland conservation, and to keep up with impromptu gatherings, please sign up for our listserve, as below. We welcome you to our growing circle of Neighbours as Stewards of our local spaces.

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Greetings from Constable John

By John Kastamonitis, Community Liaison Officer

As your CLO, I attend community meetings, provide statistics and speak to any emerging crime trends within the community. I also provide crime prevention presentations to reduce your chances of becoming a victim of crime.

In this article I would like to bring to your attention a crime that could affect all of us at any time - identity theft.

So, what is identity theft? Identity theft is a term used to refer to fraud that involves stealing money or getting other benefits by pretending to be someone else. Put another way, it is the theft of person information for criminal means, often leading to the theft of money from a bank or credit card account. Identity theft is usually done by a network of individuals rather than a criminal acting alone.

This shows the different levels of the network:

- Collectors:** These are the individuals that steal the information through a variety of means
- Dealers:** Often the brains of the operation, with groups of "converters" and "passers" working for them
- Converters:** They prefer to hide behind computers forging identification and credit cards
- Passers:** They use stolen identification of identities to open bank accounts
- Brokerage Houses:** Buy and sell personal data, credit card information, and debit card numbers and passwords globally

It is important to safeguard documents that contain any portion of your identity, such as: credit card, bank and utility statements. I would recommend that you cross-reference your bank and credit card statements every month with the original receipts. This may alert you if there are any unauthorized transactions on any of your accounts.

If you do detect any suspect transactions on any accounts, contact the appropriate bank or credit card company immediately. Once a document is no longer required, it should be shredded. This will help ensure that your personal information is not compromised and your identity stays intact.

The Calgary Police Service asks you to report any suspicious activities or individuals 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.



July/August Bulletin Board

URGENT! Street Party Volunteers Needed Our 6th Annual Brentwood Street Party is scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday, September 20 but even after this many years, it doesn't run itself. Will you volunteer to keep the Brentwood Street Party going? Call Filomena at 403-289-3854 or Cheri at 403-220-1219 and we'll find you a task that suits you.

Foothills Lutheran Church Stampede Breakfast
July 12, 8:15 - 10:15 am, 3104 - 34 Avenue NW.
Admission is free.

The Chocolate and Chat Café A Taste of Services for Seniors in Northwest Calgary, The Chocolate and Chat Café takes place Wednesday, July 29, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm, Harvest Hills Alliance Church, 10099 Harvest Hills Blvd NW. Space is limited! Register by July 22 by calling Michelle at 403-286-1811 or emailing michelled@calgaryfamily.org.

The City of Calgary proudly presents **Toast 'n' Jam**, August 7, 6pm-10 pm at Canada Olympic Park. Calgary's Youth Music Festival, Toast 'n' Jam, is an annual event showcasing the musical talent of Calgary's youth. Best of all? It is free to attend! The event runs rain or shine in the Festival Tent. Have you got a band and want to compete? Check out www.calgary.ca/toastnjam for further information! All are welcome and encouraged to apply...there are some amazing prizes this year.

Sonics Basketball Free Youth Drop-in Basketball Program, Ages 13 - 17. Come out and hang out with friends and practice your ball skills and play against other areas in the city.
Mondays, July 6 - Aug 17, 6 pm - 9 pm, Edgemont Elementary Outdoor Courts

Want to build your resume this summer and have fun? Come volunteer with our children's camps and get hands leadership experience. Volunteers help City of Calgary leaders run children's day camps (ages 3 to 12).

Distress Centre Calgary is currently recruiting Crisis Line Volunteers! Receive extensive training, achieve personal growth, gain valuable communication skills and obtain direct work experience! Visit our website at www.distresscentre.com or call 403-266-1634 for more information. The next training group begins in September 2009.

Brentwood kids (ages 7-17) can participate in the **Calgary Minor Basketball Association** through the Varsity Basketball Association. Please call 403-288-9001 (Varsity CA) or visit www.cmbsa.ab.ca for more details.

Got a non-commercial notice (no businesses, please) you'd like to add to the Brentwood Bulletin Board? Contact Cheri at 403-220-1219 or email brntwdca@telus.net

VOLUNTEERING....
Good for the Soul