



Wire-less in Whispering Woods

Prairie conservation comes in many guises. Guy wires supporting utility poles, it turns out, isn't one of them.

Up the hill in northwest Brentwood lies Whispering Woods, the open grassland portion of which consists of original rough fescue prairie. Along the southern perimeter is a utility right of way (ROW). Instead of a back alley, the abutting properties from Brenner to Brisebois Drives have the pleasure of utility poles and power lines running through their deeper back yards. The power lines by Whispering Woods take a slight turn in angle, and are thus supported by guy wires anchored in the park.

Over the years, additional utilities were added to these poles, and each successive set of lines added lower down the poles led to another guy wire. Eventually, the tall trucks which serviced the lines and trimmed the trees along the ROW could not drive under the lower guy wires, leading to the heavy vehicles driving onto the grassland to get around the wires.

Go to www.natureground.org and zoom in on the Google map to see these tire tracks! It takes years for the prairie to recover from this crushing impact, and tires typically carry weed seeds from having travelled over other areas. These weeds then further compromise natural areas, contributing to a decrease in native biodiversity.

Thanks to the combined efforts and interests of community, city, and school advocates over many years, a satisfactory solution was finally reached. In late September, Enmax removed

the lower two guy wires which were not in fact contributing to pole stability. The utility trucks should now again be able to drive underneath the wires, thus remaining on the ROW and helping to protect the precious heritage grasslands right here in our community.

Environmentally yours, Polly Lee Knowlton Cockett

BRENTWOOD REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE

by Cheri Macaulay

There will likely be signs of heightened activity in the Brentwood Station Area by the time this newsletter reaches your mailbox. Demolition of the old Kentucky Fried Chicken and Jameson's Restaurants was slated to begin as soon as the University City Development Permit was conditionally released. However, several conditions set by City review boards must be met before a Building Permit can be granted for construction of two new mixed use (retail at ground level, residential above) towers. It is possible these conditions will have been met by the time you read this.

An appeal was filed this summer against the Development Permit for University City but overturned by the City of Calgary's Subdivision and Development Appeal Board in early September. Even so, the Board added conditions of release in addition to those set earlier by Calgary Planning Commission. A copy of the Appeal Board decision will be posted on the Brentwood Community Association website at <http://brentwoodcommunity.com/> as soon as it becomes available. The conditions set by Planning Commission were posted there earlier this summer.

As residents who frequent the Brentwood Village Mall are aware, construction started several months ago on a new location for Jameson's Restaurant immediately adjacent to their original location. This work falls under a separate Development and Building Permit application process initiated well before the University City application. Jameson's Restaurant closed mid-September and is expected to re-open in the new building in November.

It has been more than 3 years since the words "Station Area Redevelopment Plan" were first uttered in Brentwood. The complexities of the plan and the process that led us to this point are challenging to convey in monthly 500 word updates and can sometimes be, as anyone who has read this far can attest, a tad on the dry side. In contrast, media reports often favour controversy and juicy soundbites over in-depth information and de-

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