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of Calgary Communities
Improving neighbourhood life in Calgary

TERENCE LEUNG
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CALGARY COMMUNITIES

Businesses in most neighbourhoods can range from the big box store all the way to the home based business looking for a foothold in its industry.

The Northern Hills Community Association (NHCA) held their Community and Businesses Services Fair Nov. 14 at Cardel Place to help spur some interest for residents to shop within their community and connect them to services they may not have known about.

"It helps in our Northern Hills area and helps businesses promote themselves. Residents in their area know there are other outlets for residents to go to," says HNCA administrator Mae Seifret.

"We have 40 tables from home based businesses selling things like Tupperware, Avon... all the way up to financial services through various banks or mortgage brokers. Residents get to see there are businesses in the neighbourhood and not just downtown. Our fair is mostly informational and participants aren't there to



The Northern Hills Community Association had their fourth annual Community Business & Services Fair with over 40 businesses participating to connect with residents in the community Nov. 14 at Cardel Place.

Photo Courtesy Northern Hills Community Association

directly sell you stuff."

Seifret has seen more and more attendees at the event with businesses seeing the value of the fair.

"It's very popular. Even after we shut down registration we still get businesses who call. We'll take any business maybe except for government help. This year we have someone that does electrical work, someone who organizes homes, a company that does IT services, tech services. Our community is growing so there are a lot of businesses like this," she says.

"It's good for businesses to adver-

tise themselves anywhere but also for someone who lives in the community it makes sense for them to connect with the people living around them."

Each business typically offers discounts and specials at the fair, with a table costing between \$30 and \$40 depending on size.

"It's to promote, in general, the small businesses we have in our area. There are two sides to community. One is the resident and we do provide programs and services to them. This (fair) is the other component; local and small businesses that have developed.

This is how we promote creativity and diversity of businesses," says Mark Scholz, president of the NHCA.

"It's unique. We sometimes forget about the impact of local businesses in our community and the services they deliver. I would encourage other communities to do something like this."

Scholz says it is integral to the community to actively create a connection between businesses and residents.

"I think in general we have a lot of individually owned, not corporate affiliated, people who own a business and live in the community. We have lot of those businesses who have chosen our community as their home and have certainly made it clear they want input and ability to play an important role," he says.

"It's just developing our community and presenting our local businesses to residents. If through this we can allow our small businesses to thrive even more, we've accomplished what we set out to do."

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Lincoln Park

Lincoln Park is located in Calgary's southwest, north of Glenmore Park. It is well connected to Calgary's main traffic routes via Crowchild Trail and Glenmore Trail. The Glenmore Dam, constructed in 1929, is a popular site for residents to gather for picnics and recreational activities.

The North Glenmore Park was the site of a stone quarry in the early 1900s, and many of Calgary's historical buildings were constructed with stone from this quarry. North Glenmore Park was annexed in 1956 and residential development began there in 1957. The area is close to Heritage Park, Weaselhead Park, a number of golf courses, Glenmore Athletic Park, Centennial Arena and Chinook Mall, as well as the Rockyview Hospital and Mount Royal College.

North Glenmore Park's community centre is located along the city's pathway system and attracts visitors from all over the city as well as area resi-

dents. The centre contains a music program room, a popular dance studio, a gym, a lounge, a boardroom and a number of offices. Other activities within the facility includes karate classes, Dutch Canadian Choir, Calgary Sport & Social Club, and two separate churches, as well as the Canadian Association of Retired Persons, and Toastmasters. The North Glenmore Park is continuously adding to the programs they offer, and hope to introduce computer workshops targeting kids and seniors. With such a wide range of programs, the North Glenmore Park offers something for all age groups.

Schools

- Central Memorial High School — Public
- Shaughnessy High School — Public
- St. James Elementary and Jr. High — Separate
- The Calgary French School
- Emily Follensbee Centre — Private
- Jennie Elliott Elementary School — Public

Demographics

Located in Ward 11, Lincoln Park has a population of 2,703 (2006 Civic Census) with approximately 22.2 per cent comprising the immigrant population (Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Canada). Lincoln Park has a total of 380 children still living at home with 38.2 per cent of these being 6-14 years old.

According to Stats Canada, 2001 Census of Canada the median household income for Lincoln Park in 2005 was \$39,986. In addition, 57.2 per cent of the population over 20 completed college, attended university or graduated university with a degree — an additional 6 per cent graduated from Trade Schools (Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Canada).

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