

1500 Block of 21A St NW



Hello, my name is Keli Pollock, and I'm a 25-year resident of Briar Hill.

In the year 2000, I was searching for a home in Briar Hill. Despite my simple wish list — a 3-bedroom bungalow with a dining room — I struggled as homes were quickly snatched up by builders. I took matters into my own hands, dropping flyers in mailboxes looking for potential sellers. Eventually, someone reached out, and I purchased my 1100-square-foot bungalow. Over the years, I've completed small renovations and updates as my budget allowed. Now I live here with my husband Paul and our dog Fergus, hoping one day to add a laneway home to age in place.



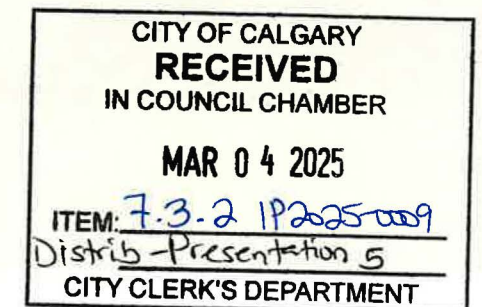
This is my neighbor CJ, who lives in a renovated bungalow to the north. At 75, she still changes her own winter tires and is often the first to clear snow from her sidewalk, she's a force. CJ maintains one of the most beautifully landscaped yards in the neighbourhood.

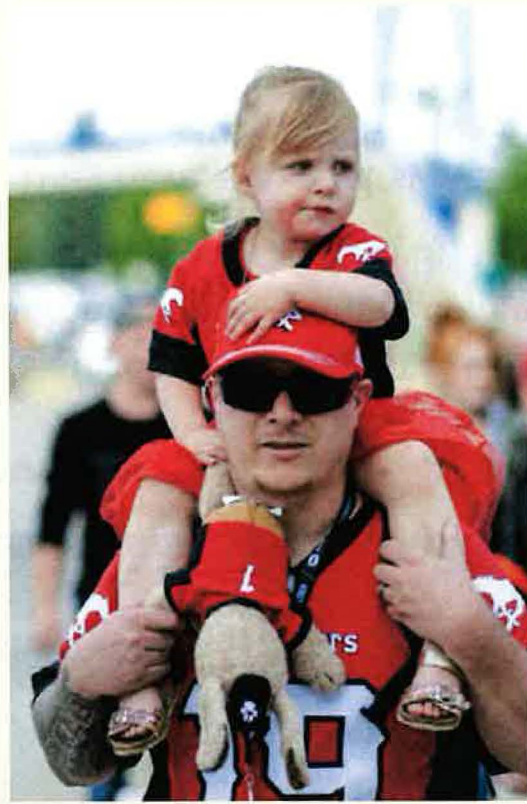
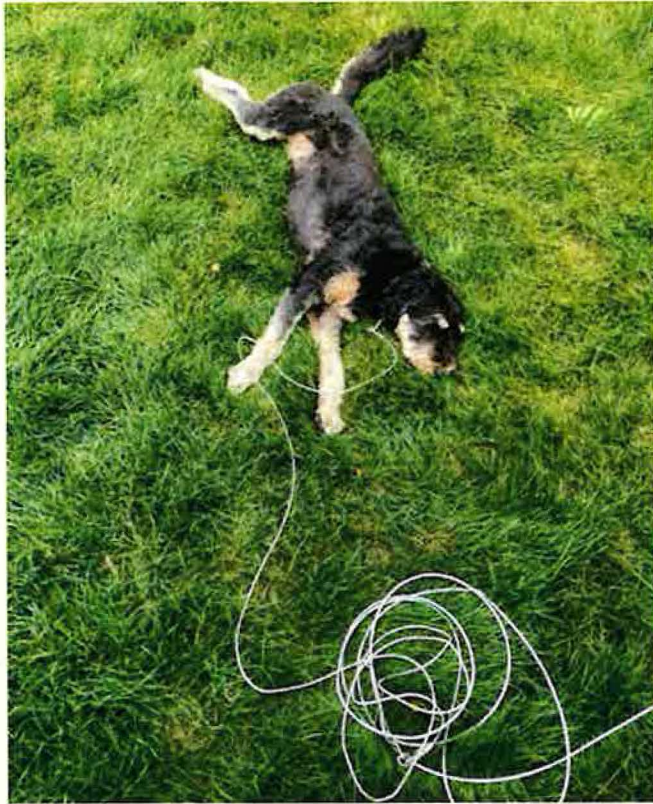
We still have our original 1952 chain-link fence. Not once have we considered putting up the typical 6-foot privacy fence because we enjoy connecting with our neighbours.



This is my neighbor SB. from across the street. SB keeps an eye on our block and takes in my deliveries while I'm at work. She's active in the community and volunteers for our annual community cleanup, driving around with her pickup truck to help neighbors clear out large items. SB knows everyone in Briar Hill.

SB and CJ have become close friends. They have a special system — each morning, they open their blinds to signal they're okay. If the blinds stay closed, they know to check on each other.





This is my dog Fergus. He prefers to hang out in our front yard on a long leash. Our street connects to the 16th Avenue pedestrian overpass, so we see lots of school kids and cyclists going by. Fergus is very social and loves interacting with daily commuters.

During Stampeders games, fans park and fill our streets — sometimes it can be an inconvenience. But we're okay with that. It's a handful of days each year, and we enjoy the energy it brings to Briar Hill. On game days we often leave items we no longer need on the front lawn with a "Free Stuff" sign. I've found new homes for several of my art school paintings this way.



We lost a willow tree in our front yard due to its natural life cycle. I contacted someone in the City's horticulture department to discuss a replacement that would look beautiful year-round. She suggested a Spicy Pear tree — I had no idea we could grow pears in Calgary. We love it so much we planted a second one. I think our fall harvest is impressive.

We're fortunate to have space and sunlight for a vegetable garden in our backyard. We took advantage of the city rain barrel program for irrigation.



I don't love the slope of our backyard — cutting the lawn is a pain — but that small hill served us well during COVID. We created a backyard movie theater where friends could gather at a safe distance.

After COVID restrictions were lifted, we hosted a summer party with a DJ and danced until 1 AM. It was VERY loud, but none of our neighbors complained — some even joined in. They knew this was a rare celebration of being able to gather again.

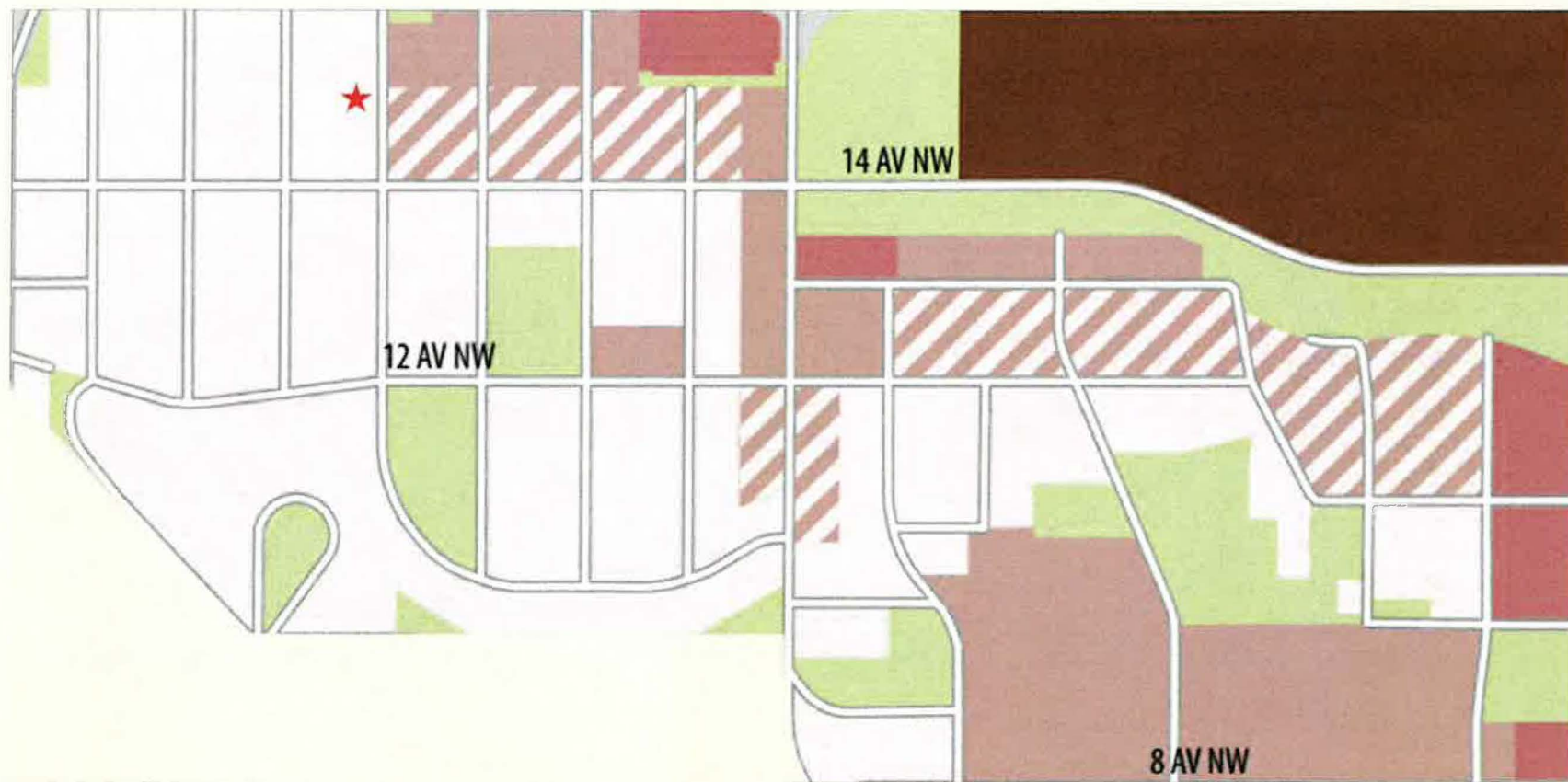


It's not lost on me how lucky I am to have a home in such a wonderful neighborhood, I'm deeply grateful for this. Everyone deserves a home in a great neighbourhood. The stories I've shared today aren't just anecdotes — they're threads in the fabric of Briar Hill that strengthen our community and support us all. I'm here today to ask you to take a more thoughtful approach to adding density to our neighbourhood.



The latest Riley Local Area Plan means a concentrated upzoning of half our neighborhood - I believe this threatens the social connections that define Briar Hill/Hounsfield Heights.

When established homeowners are gradually displaced through redevelopment, we lose informal support networks developed over decades—neighbours who look out for each other, organize community events, and maintain our collective history. These social connections take generations to rebuild and may never be replicated with new developments.



The revised plan also disproportionately targets our more affordable housing stock — the original bungalows. These 1950s homes represent naturally occurring attainable housing where lower purchase prices allow middle-income families like mine to purchase and renovate over time as budgets allow. We all know the replacement housing is almost always substantially more expensive.

**THINK
NEIGHBOURHOODS**

**NOT
JUST NUMBERS**

I ask that you return to the plan presented in October 2024, which our community was consulted on and engaged with. Please think about our neighbourhood, not just the numbers.

Thank you for your time.