

Chaparral Estates

2016 Condo of the Year Submission

Awards and Recognition Committee of the CCI
Southern Alberta Board



Chaparral Estates
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WHO IS CHAPARRAL ESTATES AND HOW DO WE BUILD COMMUNITY SPIRIT ...

Chaparral Estates is a 56 unit townhouse community that was built in 1998 in south-east Calgary area of Chaparral. Chaparral Estates is a fenced community located on our private road, Chaparral Ridge Terrace SE. Each townhouse unit is approximately 1,200 square feet that has two parking stalls, one in the attached garage and the other on the driveway. We have ample visitor parking located throughout the community and on the street.



The majority of the homes are occupied by owners and their families; we do have a few rentals (about 5%). Everyone is welcome to all our events. Our community consists of professional and young adults, families with children (multiple age groups), seniors, immigrants and new Canadians – in short, a very diverse community. We embrace and respect all of our neighbors and benefit from everyone's vast experience and unique perspectives.



The residents of Chaparral Estates are always looking to build community spirit which is demonstrated in part by our two community planned events each year. The Summer Fling in June/July, this year we had a petting zoo, and our Christmas/Holiday Party in December. Each event is well attended and each year at our AGM there is an excellent turnout where the community shows its commitment to keep the events going.

WE HAVE SOCIAL CLUBS ...

Chaparral Estates is a tight knit community but we are not exclusive; rather we are extremely inclusive. Everyone knows each other and many have become great friends, almost family. We actively support our local businesses and home-grown talent. From the HVAC "guy" to our in-house pet sitter/dog walker, we always support our residents first.

We also have many residents that have started clubs. From a walking club, wine club, card club, movie club and more, we always find ways to get together and have fun.

OUR SPECIAL/UNIQUE STORY ...

When Chaparral Estates was first built it was initially planned as a "Seniors Complex". However, over the past several years families have moved in and made Chaparral Estates their home.

Chaparral Estates is unique because it offers a community-based environment to raise children. It has been said that it takes a village to raise a child; well our village is home to 20+ children that the whole community takes a part in rearing. Many of the children have adopted some of our older residents as "grandparents" which is not only great to witness but also helps our older residents remain connected to the community. It's amazing to see what the older generation can give back to the kids and what the kids can give to help our "elders" feel wanted and needed.

With encouragement from the community and our kids' insistence, the Chaparral Estates Youth Committee was created. This committee is spear-headed by two of our young people with a commitment to not only make Chaparral Estates a great place to live, but also to make Calgary a great place to live. The Committee is open to all children at Chaparral Estates and is guided by three pillars of care:

Take care of YOURSELF

Take care of OTHERS

Take care of CHAPARRAL ESTATES and CALGARY

Since inception our hard-working kids have raised almost \$1,000.00 for the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation and the Calgary Food Bank and assisted the community in clean-up efforts.

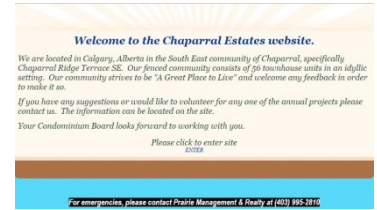


Our kids have also helped keep Chaparral Estates relevant with the changing environment of technology. This year one of our more technically savvy youth members helped create a video AGM notice that engaged the residents. We are so proud of young members! We invite you to have a view here: <https://youtu.be/xCHSeGIENRI>.

WHAT'S COOL ABOUT CHAPARRAL ESTATES ...

The environment is very important to Chaparral Estates. We are always looking for ways to find costs savings and to “GREEN” our community. We work hard to ensure that we are leaving our planet better off for our kids.

With that in mind we have created and maintain a website that was initially set-up for the sole purpose of disseminating information to our community members. Occasionally we have the luxury of being able to communicate information with ample advance notice (e.g. a week or more) while on other occasions we need to disseminate information out to our residents in a quicker fashion. With that in mind plus wanting to be more cost-effective and environmentally friendly by reducing the need of resources like paper, postage, etc., together we decided to build and maintain a website as a single point of contact for everyone’s benefit. Feel free to check us out at www.chaparral-estates.com. What a success it has been! Communications of news and events around the community, to AGM notices, and everything in between, are posted to our site. Everyone has shared their email address so that information distribution is essentially in real time and relevant which all residents appreciate.



In 2013 we installed a bat house on one of our buildings as insect control instead of using pesticides that can leak into the soil and cause issues for future generations. There have been reports that a small colony of bats have taken up residence in the accommodation set out for them. We are all hoping that they are a hungry bunch that will feast on the aphids and “can’t see ums” nightly. Some of the children have been staying out until dusk in hopes of seeing our little friends wake from their home and set out into the night sky. How cool is that?

Then in 2014 the Board proactively “topped-up” everyone’s insulation in their attic with a high efficiency insulation to cut down on energy being used to cool/heat homes. This also aided in the preservation of our new roof that was installed in 2013.

Just last year, we installed two large capacity bike racks for residents that choose to use pedal power to get around. We have single car garages which makes it difficult to park a bike and a car (especially for our families) in spaces with minimal room. In fact, several residents have even donated bikes for community use! Pedal power equals using less of fossil fuels and promotes a healthy lifestyle.



WE CARE ABOUT OUR HOME

You can tell that you are entering an area where the people take a great deal of pride in their homes the second you turn onto our private road. We recently had all the garage doors repainted which has improved everyone’s curb appeal.

Chaparral Estates has many private gardens maintained by residents. There are several experienced gardeners in our midst that are always available to provide tips and tricks that help keep our landscapes beautiful. In fact our “in-house” volunteer gardeners have lovingly maintained the gardens at the entrance of Chaparral Estates over the past 10 years. We are fortunate to have willing residents eager to help each other.

WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE FOR US

Chaparral Estates IS a Great Place to Live - we are a strong and inclusive community. Any neighborhood can have nice homes, nice landscaping, etc. but it’s the people that make it GREAT. That’s where Chaparral Estates stands apart. We are more than just a cluster of homes; we are a group of people that are unique, caring, progressive, and fun.

We invite you to visit our home to see firsthand how we care about our neighbors, homes and lifestyle; then you’ll truly understand that Chaparral Estates is a “Great Place to Live”.

Best regards,

The Condominium Board of Chaparral Estates