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Citizen Input Shapes Downtown Plan

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“The evening was filled with high energy and enthusiasm,” says Leech. “Residents were buzzing with ideas and were eager to talk about them.”

The “Downtown Brentwood 2010” visioning process follows the adoption of the City’s Downtown Specific Plan in December 2005. The Specific Plan’s purpose is to help guide private development and redevelopment activity in the greater Downtown area, including allowable uses and building design.

The Plan encourages retail development with restricted first-floor uses in the Downtown Core and by identifying sites suitable for retail, residential and office uses throughout the Downtown, according to Redevelopment Manager Gina Rozenski.

Developing the Specific Plan for the Downtown has provided the City with many benefits, says Rozenski.

“First, it enables the Redevelopment Agency to concentrate its financial investment in infrastructure, which ultimately creates the conditions for private investment,” she explains. “Secondly, the Plan also serves as a marketing tool for developers with an affinity for downtowns. We’ve already fielded a number of requests from developers in the Bay Area who have expressed interest in developing some of our opportunity sites.

“And lastly,” she adds, “the Plan serves as a perfect platform on which to build ‘Downtown Brentwood 2010’ vision for area residents.”

Feedback from the first “Downtown Brentwood 2010” workshop was displayed at this year’s CornFest which produced more feedback from the community.

A second workshop was held Aug. 17 at which City staff and consultants presented results of the first workshop and reviewed the common themes of the models created as well as the areas of differences.

The ideas generated from that workshop will be added to the broader vision

of “Downtown Brentwood 2010.”

“With help from the residents, we hope to reach some conclusions to help shape the downtown core and specifically help further define our new City Hall,” says Leech.

In April 2006, the City retained a consulting team to develop designs for the City Hall structure and downtown streetscapes and to redesign City Park and other facilities, including other civic uses and parking, says Leech.

A variety of recommendations have come forward over the past year regarding civic and cultural uses in the Downtown, including one from the Citizens Advisory Committee on Community Facilities that suggests having a City Hall, a library, a community center, a senior center and a cultural arts center.

A copy of the Downtown Specific Plan is available for review at the Community Development Department at 104 Oak Street or online at the City’s website at [www.ci.brentwood.ca.us](http://www.ci.brentwood.ca.us).

For more information on the “Downtown Brentwood 2010” visioning process, please visit the City’s website or contact Leech at (925) 516-5118.

O’Hara Extension to Improve Traffic Flow

By the end of the year, Brentwood residents will be able to drive directly along O’Hara Avenue from downtown Brentwood to downtown Oakley.

Meritage Homes, which is building a residential development near O’Hara Avenue’s current intersection at Grant Street, will build the two-lane, 1,500-foot roadway extension to the City’s specifications, Senior Associate Engineer Brian Bornstein says.

“Before Meritage can open its third phase and have new homeowners move in, the road must be open to the public,” Bornstein says.

(See O’HARA AVENUE, Page 8)

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