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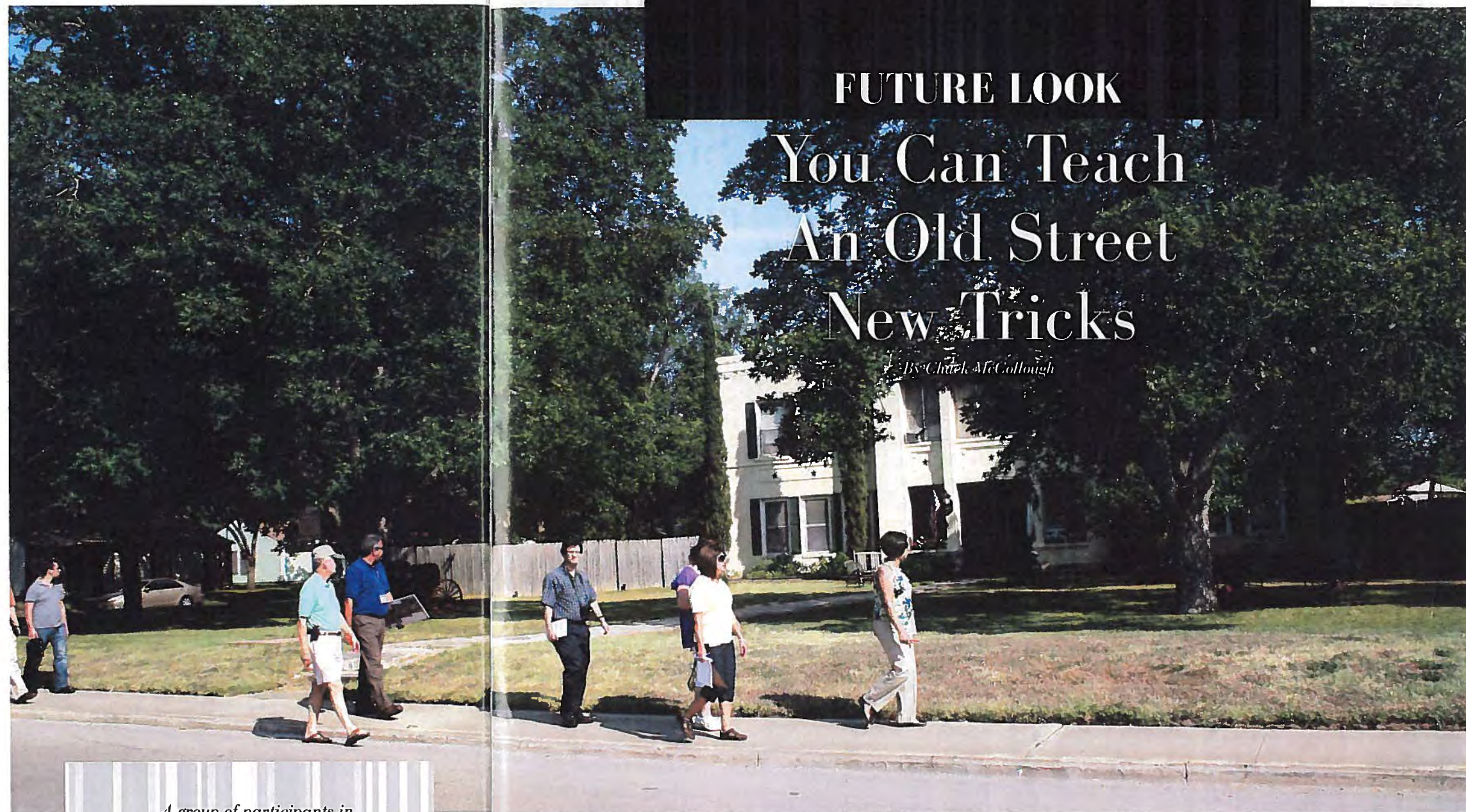
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FUTURE LOOK

You Can Teach An Old Street New Tricks

By Cheryl McCollough

A group of participants in a Downtown Schertz (Main St./FM 78 area) Charrette take a walking tour of Main Street June 25 as they pass the historic Schertz Community Hospital building.

The walking tour was part of the input gathering process from stakeholders in the Downtown area. The second part of the Downtown Charrette was an open house Tuesday, June 26, at the Schertz Civic Center.

Sometime, a Lady of Many Years longs for the days of her youth. That feeling seems to be catching on with the Grand Dame of Downtown - Main Street.

A vision of how Main Street and the rest of downtown might look in a future renaissance was unveiled in a Charrette last month that is helping build excitement.

Gateway Planning Group - which has previously held Charrettes that looked at the North Schertz and South Schertz areas - focused on the Main Street/FM 78 (Downtown) area and an extended part of North Schertz on June 25 and 26.

Will Downtown Schertz someday be the site of annual street festivals and a collection of eclectic shops and restaurants nestled near tree-shaded heritage homes?

Can it become a walking tour destination area that mixes history and commerce while retaining the charm of a bygone era?

Those were the type of "thinking broadly" questions the City of Schertz explored during the Planning & Design Charrette run by Gateway Planning.

The Charrette also looked at an Additional North Schertz Study Area southeast of IH-35 from just north of Eckhardt Road

down south to just below the FM 2252 bridge over IH 35.

The first Charrette kicked off at Monday morning, June 25, with a Walking Tour of Main Street starting at the Java Nook Coffee Shop, 509 Main Street. The public

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August 2012

Thursday, 2

Transportation Safety Advisory Commission
5:30 PM - Council Chambers

Monday, 6

Library Advisory Board
7:00 PM - Schertz Public Library

Tuesday, 7

City Council
6:00 PM - Council Chambers

Wednesday, 8

Planning & Zoning
6:00 PM - Council Chambers

Monday, 13

Buffalo Valley Youth Association
6:00 PM - 401 Oak St.

Tuesday, 14

City Council
6:00 PM - Council Chambers

Tuesday, 21

City Council
6:00 PM - Council Chambers

Wednesday, 22

Planning & Zoning
6:00 PM - Council Chambers

Thursday, 23

Economic Development Corporation
6:00 PM - Council Chambers

Monday, 27

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
5:30 PM - Bob Andrews Room

Board of Adjustments

6:00 PM - Council Chambers

Tuesday, 28

City Council
6:00 PM - Council Chambers

Meeting locations may change, please visit the calendar at www.schertz.com for confirmation.

FUTURE LOOK

You Can Teach An Old Street New Tricks

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participated in a pedestrian view of what many envision as potential destination area of Schertz. The tour took about an hour and ended back at Java Nook.

Monday evening, June 25, at the Schertz Civic Center, the second Charrette was a community meeting on the Additional North Schertz Study Area. At that event stakeholders - including residents, property owners and business owners - heard a number of Guiding Principles put forth by Gateway Planning Group.

Those include:

- Creating a transportation & street network that provides access in the area including where a train station could be located.
- Regional drainage creating infrastructure, providing linkages through trails, paths and greenways.
- Maintaining the rural character and "small town" feel in the vicinity of historic Comal (FM 482 area)
- Honoring the historical heritage of the Comal Community.
- Agricultural Conservation with cluster neighborhoods that help maintain open space/farmland.

On Tuesday, June 26, the second part of the Downtown Charrette moved to the Civic Center for an Open House where folks dropped in between 4:30 PM and 7:00 PM. Stakeholders and members of the public got a chance to further see and hear what is being proposed for the area and give their input.

After gathering information from the walking tour of Main Street Gateway Planning Group came up with a number of concepts and suggestions.

Those include:

- Gateway elements - structures of some kind marking entrance to the Downtown Schertz area. The Gateway Planning Group concepts showed three gateway elements onto Main Street. One would be at Schertz Parkway and then at 1st Street and Mill Streets for traffic turning in from FM 78. Examples of two area gateways are the entrance into Fort Sam Houston from Harry Wurzbach Road and into HemisFair Park from Alamo Street downtown.
- Another concept shows a multi-use civic space in-

cluding a plaza area at 1st Street and Main Street. The area could have specialty paving and a food truck/farmers market/parking area nearby.

- And yet another concept envisions turning the old Schertz Post Office site at Main Street and Lindbergh Street into a Beer Garden and having a Heritage Center in the area.
- Aesthetic improvements would include sidewalk improvements, façade upgrades to businesses, parallel parking spaces and additional trees.

Brian James - Executive Director of Development for the city said the concepts and proposals incorporate ideas from a 2010 study of the area and from other cities that have revitalized their downtowns.

He said the city will look at ways it can better help businesses in the downtown area, such as building improvement incentives and a streamlined permitting process. James said he expects Gateway Planning to have a set of recommendations in about four months or so.



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