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Bulb-outs: Main Avenue beautification in works

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13-foot statue and base from the VFW – will be at the four-way stop and is the group's first project during this second decade.

Next is a way to fix the power pole bulb-outs.

"This is one of the projects that was identified in the (agency's) plan and, 10 years in, I think we're happy to move forward in the downtown area and make an impact," City Manager Linda Engbretson said.

On Tuesday, landscape design consultant Beth Holland presented plans to city commissioners, who also act



Plants would go in bulb-outs.

as the Urban Renewal Agency. They'll dig out the concrete around the bulb-outs, enhance the soil, and add small crabapple trees and low-maintenance shrubbery. The reflective posts could be painted green to fade into the shrubbery.

While some agency mem-

bers were skeptical, most were enthusiastic.

Holland's third proposal is to turn an area north of the high school into a pocket park.

The intersection of Main Avenue with Alternate Highway 101 would be planted with grass, trees and shrubbery with a half-dozen benches added and sidewalk improvements.

"That's what urban renewal funds are meant to do; they're meant to rejuvenate," Engbretson said. "To see people using the downtown area, well, it will be real nice to do it right."

Restaurants: Pizza restaurant under construction

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a lounge. They won't be open 24 hours initially, although it may evolve into that, Lounsbury said.

She closed her Seaside restaurant, Guido & Vito's Italian Cuisine, a month and a half ago. Raniero worked for her there as a cook.

As the official owner of Jim's Place, Raniero said he will be in charge and his mom will work for him.

In some ways, opening a restaurant in Warrenton is like coming home, Lounsbury said. She graduated from Warrenton High School and her son was born in Warrenton.

There's more news among Warrenton's dining establishments.

• Domino's Pizza is under construction next to Panda Express in the North Coast Business Park. This week, plumbing and other infrastructure improvements were going in. A timeline for completion wasn't available.

• Katrina and Ronald Hunt are taking over operations at Rod's Bar & Grill, purchasing the lounge and eatery from her father, Rod Mullins.

They plan to change the name to Trina & Ron's Place.

• Tacos El Catrin in the Premier Center has changed its name to El Catrin Mexican

Cuisine.

The restaurant, known for its authentic Michoacan, or Central Mexican cuisine, has added a business partner, Librado Perez Gutierrez.

El Catrin expanded recently, adding a larger lounge and a few more seats in the former hair salon next door. Emiliano Alvarez, also a partner at El Catrin, moved his hair salon to the other end of the center.

• And, of course, Uptown Café has changed hands. New owners have remodeled the 4-year-old restaurant and moved the lounge into the former community room, making room for more tables.

Intersection: Bottleneck near school to be widened

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Tem Rick Newton urged fellow commissioners. "I'd like to move forward on that."

The four-member panel, with Mayor Henry Balensifer absent, unanimously approved the plan.

"That's really good news," Warrenton-Hammond School District Superintendent Mark Jeffery said

Wednesday morning. "It's a busy intersection, particularly from our perspective, and tight for buses getting in and out of there."

Last school year, a student was struck by a car in the crosswalk there.

"It's one of two major intersections we impact – the other is Ninth and Cedar – and it's a challenge for everybody, even me in my pickup from

time to time," Jeffery said.

City Engineer Collin Stelzig, who is also interim Public Works director since the departure of Jim Dunn, said his department has done some property surveys to find out where the right of way is so corrections can be made.

Work would be done during the summer so it doesn't conflict with school.