Lakewood Forum Brings Together Housing Minds, Builds Momentum

On May 15, the City of Lakewood held its first Housing Forum - marking first time the City, housing developers, brokers and others with an interest in Lakewood gathered as a group to discuss opportunities.

Almost 100 people packed the Sharon McGavick Student Center at Clover Park Technical College for the event, which featured several speakers who covered everything from off-base housing at Joint Base Lewis-McChord to housing and market trends in the Puget Sound to bank and credit union financing.

The basic message: There is unlimited potential for single-family and commercial development in Lakewood.

“You have some unique opportunities,” said Raelene Rogers of McCament & Rogers - one of the forum's featured speakers. “You just need to think outside of the box.”

The City also discussed what it's doing to help developers in Lakewood, as well as what developers might expect when working with City Hall. Congressman Denny Heck from Washington's 10th District offered the crowd perspective on what the federal government is trying to do to spur housing.

Afterward, those who attended got a chance to speak directly with City senior leadership. Many who attended and spoke said they like the direction in which Lakewood is headed and appreciate the fact that the City decided to hold the forum.

Business Showcase: H&L Produce

In 1980, two teens from Boise Idaho - Brian Lloyd and Paul Heist - set out to make a few bucks. Armed with a knife and 50 cases of oranges, grapefruit, and apples, they drove around residential neighborhoods selling fruit. Their journey took them from the Gem State to the South Sound. In 1993, they opened H&L Produce and haven't looked back since. Today, the longtime Lakewood store employs 20 people, with half the staff having worked there at least 10 years. It also sells more than fruits and vegetables, over the years expanding to dry goods, milk, cheese, bread, and beverages.

Click here to read the City of Lakewood's story behind H&L Produce.

Did You Know?

Nearly half of the homes in Lakewood were built between 1969 and 1979. In Pierce County and Tacoma, the figure is about 25 percent. That means there's unlimited potential for redevelopment to much of the housing in Lakewood.
Hobby Lobby, Big Lots Open To Much Anticipation

Over the past three months, Hobby Lobby and Big Lots have opened the doors to their new Lakewood locations. And local fans of both popular stores couldn't be more excited. Hobby Lobby is one of the country’s most popular arts-and-crafts retailers, while Big Lots is the country’s largest broadline closeout retailer. The two stores are located next door to each other at 5401 100th St. SW, next to the U.S. Post Office.

Community Visioning Begins

The City of Lakewood has embarked on a “community visioning” program - a process in which local stakeholders have the opportunity to express ideas about the future of their community, offer a valuable voice in decision-making and influence the future of Lakewood, especially economic development. The City of Lakewood will hold the first of three stakeholders meetings from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m., June 5, in Room 3A, Third Floor, Lakewood City Hall, 6000 Main Street SW.