

provement projects. The Fort Collins Downtown Development Authority, using tax-increment financing, supports projects ranging from new development to façade-improvements.

Redevelopment has thrived, with historical buildings renovated for high-end commercial and residential uses.

New developments include Penny Flats, a 147-unit, mixed-use development on downtown's northern edge. Boulder-based Coburn Development Inc. is building the 200,000-square-foot project, support from the city of Fort Collins and the DDA.

Penny Flats is just the latest example of new developments that have received support from the DDA, the city and other agencies.

Downtown is also a venue for a variety of festivals, including the popular NewWestFest in the summer, the Colorado Brewers Festival and many other events.

In late 2006, the city of Fort Collins, the DDA, Colorado State University, the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado and other organizations joined to form UniverCity Connections, a program designed to "create lasting, sustainable and meaningful connections" between CSU, downtown and the Poudre River.

Fort Collins listens to new 'Beet'

Its name harks back to Fort Collins' agricultural heritage, but "Beet Street" is growing roots of a different nature — in thematic arts, culture and scientific programs.

Beet Street, www.beetstreet.org, is a nonprofit organization that presents programs — in collaboration with dozens of other local groups — to raise cultural awareness. Beet Street aims to distinguish Fort Collins' central business district as a place where everyone "can share in discussion, reflection and creative expression."

Beet Street is a collection of events, ideas and experiences taking place in the Old Town District of downtown Fort Collins. Beet Street organizers hope eventually to have a dedicated amphitheater downtown.

Beet Street brings the community closer, in a common space where the public may come together and participate in a vibrant, creative culture — an inviting environment where the seeds of great ideas and inspiration are sown.

Examples of Beet Street programs include:

- ❑ Science Café, a monthly meeting that joins scientists and interested citizens to discuss issues of contemporary science.
- ❑ Chautauqua Literary & Scientific Circle, the oldest book club in the United States.
- ❑ Jazz Festival, a program produced in cooperation with the Downtown Business Association and Arts Alive.

The Fort Collins Downtown Development Authority is incubating Beet Street with tax-increment funds for three years while the Beet Street staff strives to achieve their mandated goal to become self-sufficient.