

cated to help businesses with the cost of constructing more attractive versions of the hastily assembled parklets.

However, as City Manager Sorensen told the CN&R, what killed any plans for incorporating street parklets into existing city code was the eventuality (in Feb. 2024) that the state's department of ABC will lift its temporary allowance of serving alcohol to a detached patio (e.g., across a sidewalk and not connected to a building). That leaves restaurants and bars with the current contiguous options for patio additions (e.g., those attached to the outside of The Rawbar and Tres Hombres).

## Could "downtown" really get a new name?

At a March 7 Chico City Council meeting, Councilman Van Overbeek made a request to agendize a discussion to "change references to Downtown Chico in Chico's public documents and signage to *Historic Downtown Chico*."

It's one of many requests pertaining to downtown that Van Overbeek has brought to the council during his first six months on the dais. Others have included implementing diagonal parking on multiple downtown streets; creating pedestrian-only zones (he gives Third Street between Broadway and Main as one example); and posting monument signs on historic buildings.

"Downtown is a focus of mine," he said during a recent telephone interview.

In his proposal, Van Overbeek said that Chico's "unique personality" is largely due to having so many preserved historic buildings in the downtown area. "That creates a differentiation and also some interest," he added.

Van Overbeek said that the decision on the name will have to be made by the downtown business owners, and DCBA President Scott said that he'll respond to the City

Council with members' official position by the end of July.

While Scott says he is in favor the change, ultimately it's up to membership. "My most important goal as DCBA President is to rebuild the relationship with our shareholders."

Many downtown business owners the CN&R has spoken to have expressed concerns, saying that a name change isn't necessary and that adding "historic" could bring with it an "old-timey" connotation (see: Old Sacramento) that is out of touch with the college demographic that so many businesses depend on attracting into downtown each school year.

## Hey, what happened to 7-Eleven?

One day the iconic downtown convenience store was there, the next day the Buffalo Chicken Rollers stopped rolling and the tiny speakers blasting classical music to the parking lot went silent.

The 7-Eleven at the corner of First and Main streets was a Chico staple for nearly four decades until late last year, when it was shuttered seemingly overnight. No one who the CN&R has spoken to knows for sure why it suddenly closed. Social media chatter circulating mentions that it was a corporate-, not franchisee-, owned location and employees there say they were told it wasn't making enough money (emails from the CN&R to 7-Eleven were not returned).

Some have speculated that it was the lack of gasoline sales—apparently a vital part of the company's business model—that doomed the convenience-store-only location. However, only one of the remaining three 7-Eleven's in Chico has pumps, so who knows.

Whatever the reason, it's the end of an era for sure. Let us pour out a Double Gulp in honor of the memories. □

The 7-Eleven building erected in 1984 at corner of First and Main streets now sits empty. PHOTO BY TINA FLYNN



RECYCLE this Paper\* ♡ After you read it!

CN&R  
Chico News & Review




MADSEN PROPERTIES

PROFESSIONAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

**VOTE FOR US!**

530.570.6192 madsenpropertymgmt.com CalBRE#01912310

*Concours Elite*

YOUR COLLISION REPAIR CENTER

Quality with a Personal Touch

**VOTE BEST AUTO BODY & PAINT SHOP AGAIN!**



PRIVVY  
MODERN HEALTH

IV Therapy • Weight Loss • Aesthetics  
Dr. Nerissa Prieto, Medical Director

FEEL GOOD  
LOOK GOOD  
FOR LIFE

Vote for  
Privvy Health,  
Best Alternative  
Health Care  
Provider

Located in the Chico Marketplace  
at 1950 20th Street, Unit E523  
530.309.0671 • privvyhealth.com