

RECREATING MAIN STREET

HOW ERIE IS USING LOCAL CONTROL TO SOLVE ITS AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROBLEM



ISTOCKPHOTO

An aerial view of the town of Erie in Weld County.

BY MARIANNE GOODLAND
marianne.goodland@coloradopolitics.com

Imagine walking out your front door, and five minutes later, walking into work.

Or a park.

Or the grocery store.

Or a doctor's office.

Or hopping on a commuter rail to head into Denver.

That type of “Main Street” is what some in Weld County envision as the model for resolving a whole host of critical needs as America enters the mid-21st century — from a drier climate to traffic congestion to affordable housing to workforce development — and to do it without the state imposing changes on zoning, building codes or any of the

other myriad ideas surfacing at the Colorado state Capitol.

At the core of that vision, they say, is a robust approach to resolving Colorado's housing crunch, which is hitting rural communities like Weld County even harder than the state's urban centers. That approach, they add, does not need

SEE ERIE • PAGE 16

BOWING OUT
State Board of Ed member Stephen Varela quits GOP's state chair race. **Page 3**

GUN BILLS
Democratic lawmakers roll out four bills to rein in Colorado gun violence. **Page 5**