

# Grads help vision a new downtown

By **Ronica Shannon**  
*Register News Writer*

Eastern Kentucky University graduate students who are helping with the revitalization of downtown Richmond revealed the results of a comprehensive study Tuesday at a meeting of the Richmond City Commission.

The EKU Colonel Consulting Team, which includes Brandon Lang, Michelle Parish, Jittiporn Ruchutusnakool, Janita Schoodnerwoertdt and Christopher Woods, presented the commission and audience with a PowerPoint presentation that summarized the study's findings.

One of the first tasks for the group was to grade downtown as it stands now. The group gave the area a 61 percent when considering several aspects, including dining and entertainment.

Based on the study's results, the downtown area includes 11 retail businesses, eight arts and craft attractions, seven restaurants, five entertainment establishments and two businesses dedicated to outdoor sports.

About 25 downtown business owners responded to the surveys given as a part of the study. According to the information gathered, down-

town merchants consider the lack of parking, restaurants and retail businesses among the weaknesses in the area.

Some suggestions included in the study were to begin marketing downtown's strongest assets, create a bigger presence on campus, sponsor campus events and increase collaboration with the university.

The city's Main Street Association will seriously consider the suggestions, many of which already are under consideration, said Richmond City Manager David Evans.

"This is a really outstanding study and I'm very excited," said Richmond Mayor Connie Lawson. "Hopefully, we can expand on these ideas."

In other business:

- The Parks and Recreation Department, which won the "Outstanding Department" award and "Facility Award" from the Kentucky Recreation and Parks Society Convention, were recognized during the meeting.

- A new street in the city's industrial park will be named "Bill Robertson Way" in memory and in honor of William T. "Bill" Robertson, who served as president of the Industrial Corporation from 1986 until his death in

2002.

- The commission acknowledged the resignation of Lawrence Bernhard, a court security worker, and Ross Howard, a city building inspector.

- The commission acknowledged the retirement of Wanda Singleton of the Richmond Police Department; transferred Betty Houghton to the position of city clerk; and approved the promotion of Officer Eric Long to the rank of Senior Patrol.

- An ordinance to annex .45 acres of land on Barnes Mill Road into the city limits received its second and final reading.

- Certain streets in the Hidden Hills subdivision will be a public way of the city after its second reading Dec. 11. The streets are Dylan Court, Wesley Court and Greathouse Drive.

- Coleman Whitaker and Marsha Roe have been named temporary court security workers.

- The \$60,500 bid to light the Ann Vescio Little League Field and Herb Vescio Field was awarded to R.L. Curry Inc.

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