

Derby stakeholders envision a new downtown

By Patricia Villers

DERBY - Local residents, business owners, and interested Valley community members Wednesday considered preserving the past as they looked to the future at a Downtown Now! session.

About 60 people attended a Community Choices workshop on redeveloping close to 14 acres on the south side of Main Street.

The workshop was led by a team from DPZ Partners, an urban design consulting firm with locations in Miami and Washington, D.C. at The Ballroom, 33 Elizabeth St.

The consultants gave presentations on how the project would affect land use, demographics, and infrastructure.

Consultant Gianni Longo of the New York City-based Gianni Longo and Associates said last month's Community Voices workshop participants were asked what they would like to see in development of the site. He said their responses were split into nine categories that included:

- Create an exciting, walkable, visually pleasing, mixed-use space;
- Put Derby on the map;
- Build in traditional New England style;
- Attract business that expands the city's tax base;
- Create safe pedestrian and bicycle connections.

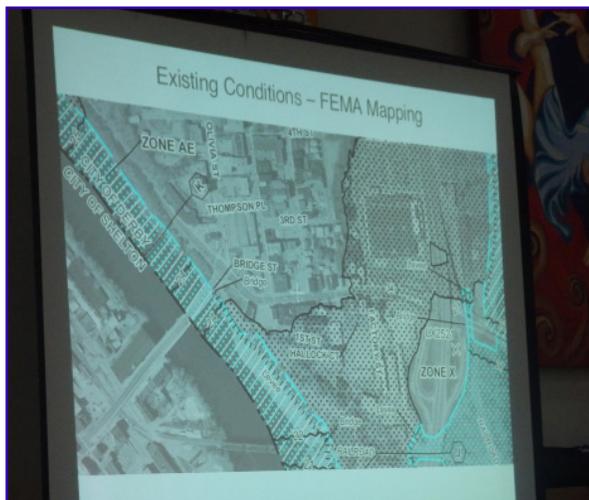
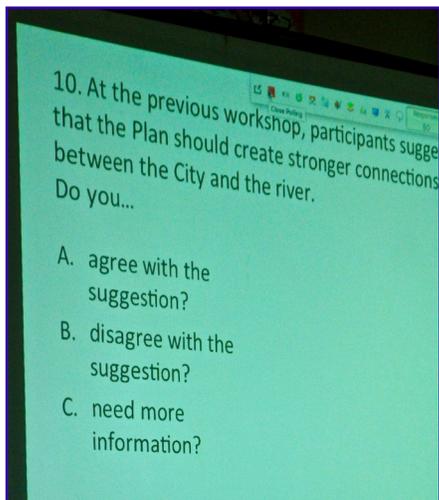
Participants Wednesday used keypads to respond to a variety of multiple-choice questions. One of those questions was: "What group of new residents would you prefer to attract to the site?"

1. Millennials: age 18-30; no children; top earners; looking for excitement.
2. Families: age 30 and up; with children; looking for good schools and support.
3. Baby boomers: age 55 and up; adult children; looking for urban life.

The majority chose millennials as the most preferable group to attract to downtown Derby.

The city will host a five-day charrette focusing on the redevelopment project Nov. 14-18 at The Ballroom. It is billed as "an intense and interactive design workshop" for members of the community.

See our article about first *Downtown Now!* in the [Sep. 29 Valley-Voice Newsletter](#)



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Irving School students Read for the Record

By Patricia Villers

DERBY - Who at Irving School “stole” Principal Jen Olson’s sandwich?

That was the question posed to student detectives last week to kick off the school’s participation in a nationwide program, Read for the Record, designed to promote the culture of reading.

The initiative is the world’s largest shared reading experience. Students throughout the country Thursday read the same book, *The Bear Ate Your Sandwich* by Julia Sarcone-Roach.

The "detectives" investigated the disappearance of Olson's sandwich and tried to determine the culprit.

Student detectives who figured out that it was school librarian Helen Thomas were: Makaila Briscoe, Lilyana Russell, Ryan Lebel, Horatio Glover, Xavi Aquino, Ceajah Wilson.



Literacy specialist Keely Edwards said the school has participated in Read for the Record for the past several years. “We’re trying to break a worldwide reader record,” she said.

Each classroom received participation certificates and a copy of *The Bear Ate Your Sandwich*. Classes also studied new vocabulary words found in the book.

Several students in Grades 3-5 were chosen to read to the book in classes in Kindergarten and Grades 1 and 2.

They included Tre’vion Jackson, Madelyn Kellogg, Samantha Hernandez, Cailyn Edwards, Chelsea Ayala, Jamie Oraziotti, Natalie Crook-Cos, Machi Ingram, Donella Delija, Vanessa Guerra.

Jumpstart
Read for the Record

Jumpstart’s *Read for the Record*® is a national campaign that was launched to address the educational inequities that leave too many children unprepared for kindergarten. See more at the website:

<https://www.jstart.org/campaigns/read-for-the-record>



E-Street Gallery has new sign - and upcoming events

DERBY - The E Street Gallery at 35 Elizabeth Street has installed a new sign to replace the old sign that was destroyed in a storm this past Summer. The Valley Arts Council art gallery now has an eye-catching and colorful entrance.

The current exhibit continuing through November 5 is *Night Gallery*, a Celebration of Autumn and Halloween. A closing reception will be held today at 7 PM, with free admission.

A wonderful new art exhibit is opening soon. *Visions From Veterans* is an exclusive free art exhibit for all veterans of all skill levels and any media. Cash prizes and awards will be given. The opening reception will be on November 11 at 6 PM

Applications are available at:

www.valleyartscouncil.org

or at the E-Street Gallery



The Valley-Voice CT Newsletter
2016 Alcam Writing & Admin LLC,
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