

South Court Street school coming down

- By Steven Collins & Nancy Radcliff Senior Reporter & Chief Photographer



Darby Creek Excavating began demolition Tuesday of the former South Court Street Elementary School. Economic development leaders say the property is going to be attractive to several business categories.

Nancy Radcliff/Chief Photographer

CIRCLEVILLE — The former South Court Street Elementary, built in 1956, is getting torn down to make way for future economic development. Darby Creek Excavating began the demolition Tuesday on the property located at 1250 S. Court St.

Southern Ohio Development, a Circleville-based entity, purchased the property within the last month from Light House Baptist Church. The church purchased the building at auction from the Circleville City School District in 2014 for \$400,000 and were the only bidder for the school.

Ryan Scribner, economic development director for Pickaway Progress Partnership (P3), said the spot becomes prime for development since the building is being demolished. "It's a tremendous spot for potential development," he said. "It has access to U.S. 23 through the connector that was built a couple years ago and proximity to Wal-Mart and McDonalds."

Scribner said interested parties have been poking around but declined to comment on specific brands or names. "The property has general business designation for the property," he said. "That'll support a bunch of different potential businesses including hospitality, different types of retail and box stores. We have an active enough market for the property, and I know there's been in interest from all those markets in the property."

Scribner said the building would be ready for development relatively quickly because the developer has jumped through some of the hoops already. "The fact that the building is coming down is one of the biggest hoops the property has to jump through," he said. "There's already good infrastructure there and the roadwork that's in place. The biggest obstacle was having that old building full of asbestos and the remediation that needed to be done. "I can guarantee you that as long as that building was standing nothing new was going to happen," he said.

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