



Click to See
Our Showc
Listings

[Home](#) | [Login](#) | [Mobile](#) | [Subscribe](#)



Decatur Daily.com

THE INDEPENDENT VOICE OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY SINCE 1912

TN VALLEY
SEARCH:

All Local News Yellow

[TN Valley Contests](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Autos](#) |

67° Sunny

Decatur, Ala. | Thursday, February 2, 2012 | Last Update:

[Home](#) | [Local News](#) | [Other News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Living](#) | [Business](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Multimed](#)

12/21/11 | 1 comment | 838 views



Another project for Blackwater?

Birmingham developer sets sights on 2nd Sixth Avenue property

By Tiffeny Owens

Fresh off last week's land deal to build a new shopping center, Birmingham developer Blackwater Resources now has its sights set on a second Sixth Avenue property.

A four-acre site on the corner of Eighth Street Southeast, across from McDonald's and Walgreens, is poised for commercial development, said John Abernathy, Blackwater's director of leasing and development. His company is in talks with a corporate chain that he and other city officials close to the matter declined to name.

"The project is in the very early stages, but if everything stays on track, construction could begin next fall," Abernathy said.

The location would be the second Decatur property Blackwater develops. Last week, the company bought a 10-acre site on Sixth Avenue at Brooks Street Southeast for an undisclosed amount to build Market Shoppes shopping center.

October opening

The development is slated to open in October, and crews have begun preliminary construction. It will include a Kohl's department store as an anchor tenant and beauty retailer ULTA Salon, along with a second unnamed anchor store and nearly a dozen other shop spaces.

"It's great news because we've got another business trying to set up on that end of Sixth Avenue," said Wally Terry, the city's director of economic and community development.



Daily photo by Gary Cosby J

Birmingham retail developer Blackwater Resources wants to develop this vacant lot at Sixth Avenue and Eighth Street Southeast, across from Walgreens pharmacy. The project will be the developer's second Decatur venture on Sixth Avenue.

[BUY THIS PHOTO](#)

The thoroughfare's image has taken hits in recent years as title loan, payday advance and gold buyer businesses have proliferated, while critical residents call for higher-profile retailers.

Walgreens' impact

"Getting Walgreens to build on Sixth Avenue really helped get the ball rolling as far as development goes," Terry said.

The new project requires the city to give up an 80-foot portion of Fifth Avenue Southeast, which runs behind the property, and a 20-foot alley that dissects the land. On Tuesday, the Decatur Planning Commission voted unanimously to vacate both areas between Eighth and Ninth Street Southeast. District 2 Roger Anders abstained because the City Council still has to sign off on the arrangement before Blackwater can develop the property.

Abernathy said Blackwater is negotiating with eight property owners, including Ninth Street United Methodist Church, for the proposed site. The historic church is not part of the project, but a portion of its property would be he said. Another property owner involved in negotiations is Eleanor Cook, widow of the late John R. Cook Sr., who grew his father's company Cook's Pest Control into one of the country's largest pest-control businesses.