



City of Bridgeton
Department of Development & Planning
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James B. Begley
Mayor

John L. Barry III
Director

April 17, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: *Removal Underground Storage Tanks 155 Irving Ave / Adaptive Reuse*

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On Monday (April 14, 2008) Bridgeton Mayor James Begley announced the completion of the removal of underground storage tanks at the former gas station at 155 Irving Ave here in Bridgeton. This step, according to Begley, is a key step in redevelopment efforts for this site.

The property, 155 Irving Ave, was the site of a former gas station which was operational until approximately 1990. The property has been vacant and boarded since that time. Begley has directed city officials to prepare and issue a **Request for Proposals** (RFP) for development of the site and adaptive reuse of the structure, now that the tanks have been removed.

“It is important that vacant properties, such as this one, be put to some productive use and back on the tax rolls”, Begley said. This redevelopment approach has been used not only on individual buildings, but on larger areas such the recently designated *Phoenix Redevelopment Area* on Bridgeton’s South side.

The RFP, will ask prospective developers to submit their plans for either a retail, commercial or professional use of the space.

The removal of the underground storage tanks that were present when the site hosted a gas station was necessary before the RFP process could begin. The project was part of a number of initiatives utilizing UEZ funds. The project, put forth by Mayor Begley and approved by City Council last year, will allow for adaptive reuse of a property that sits on one of the major traffic arteries in the city.

In addition to the development that will take place from this project, an added benefit is the elimination of environmental concerns from underground tanks leaking or otherwise discharging into the soil. This aspect is consistent with Mayor Begley’s “Lean toward Green” campaign which focuses on everything from energy efficiency workshops for local residents to the use of “green” technologies and attracting business and industry that are centered on the use of “green” alternatives.

The RFP for this location will be issued within the next month, and depending on response, a developer selected later this year.