

The Anniston Star

Thursday, July 8, 2010

sign in

Home News Sports Opinion Blogs Life Entertainment Multimedia Extras Businesses Classifieds Obituaries About Us |
Digital Edition | My Content | My Profiles | My Events | My Blogs | My Buddies | Contests | Subscribe/Renew |

Chalkline cleanup ahead of schedule

by Laura Camper

lcamper@annistonstar.com

Apr 22, 2010 | 1655 views | 3 | 11 | | |



Earnest Moore has lived next to the old Chalkline property in Anniston since 1963.

Earnest and Beatrice Moore have been living next door to the Chalkline property between 10th and 13th streets since 1963. In that time, they've seen it go from a bustling factory to a run-down empty building to a dangerous eyesore. They are thrilled to see the property finally cleaned up.

"I think they are doing a wonderful job now," Beatrice Moore said Tuesday on her front porch, where she had a view of the work going on nearby.

"It's already making it look better than what it was, just looking at it," she said. "You know, moving all the rubbish and stuff and if they do what they talked about in the meeting, I think it's going to be OK."

The cleanup effort at the old Chalkline property between 10th and 13th streets is three weeks ahead of schedule because of nice weather, and Anniston city planner Toby Bennington said it should wrap up in about two weeks.

"The last two weeks we're going to be kind of getting things prettied up a little more," said Doug Bullock, owner of Bullock Environmental, which is managing the project.

The city received a \$400,000 grant three years ago to clean up the property and create a master plan for its use, Bennington said. The cleanup started almost two months ago under the supervision of Bullock Environmental and Action Environmental.

The property had some arsenic contamination in the soil and piles of debris containing asbestos. After testing the piles for metals and asbestos, Bullock found there was less asbestos contamination than originally estimated and was able to get the work done quickly. The company is preparing to haul away the arsenic-contaminated soil to a landfill regulated to accept such waste.

The chemical contamination at the site worried the Moores. They had attended several informational meetings about the project.

"We knew it was chemicals and stuff down there," Beatrice Moore said. "I was concerned at first about the dust. ... You know we live right in the midst of it."

However, they've been pleased with the measures to keep the contaminants contained. The workers used sprinklers to keep the dust down and stop the spread of the potentially contaminated dust, she said.

Once the project is complete, the city will have to wait for Alabama Department of Environmental Management to confirm the site is clean before moving ahead with its plans.

articles search

The Anniston Star Best of Help pick the best businesses in the Calhoun Co. area
Click here to nominate and vote

HOT DEALS
Save Like Never Before!
SALON PACKAGE AT BAREFOOT TANS AND SALON
Regularly \$105
Today Only \$50 (52% Discount)
Click Here To Get The Deal
Buy This Deal Today Only!

Stories

Most Commented Most Recommended

[Obama needs to do his job](#)
[Pet poisoner in Anniston?](#)
[Salon owners feeling burned by tan tax](#)
[Bingo dominates talk as Demo runoff for AG nears](#)
[Oxford mayor back from hospital](#)

Bennington said the city would like to see mixed-use development in the area, including some public buildings, open, green space and a continuation of the business district. The city is considering a community garden, a connector to the Chief Ladiga Trail and a civil rights museum, but there are no firm plans.

"Public buildings, open space, more connecting the west Anniston community and downtown," Bennington said.

The Moores have similar ideas in mind.

"Just something that's real nice going to help the community be better, look better and bring in something good for Anniston and the neighborhood," Beatrice Moore said.

Contact staff writer Laura Camper at 256-235-3545.

[Share This Article](#) |

similar stories

[New building for old Chalkline site?](#) | 1 month ago

[Waves, winds limit oil spill cleanup on Alabama coast](#) | 1 day 14 hrs ago

[Bains Gap Road still closed after WWI shell found](#) | 4 months ago

[PCBs to be dredged from Hudson River](#) | 14 months ago

[Thanks for cleanup help](#) | 3 months ago

post a comment

comments (3)

« [email@123.com](#) wrote on Thursday, Apr 22 at 12:51 PM »

The city government is the owner of the property. The city (through the Spirit of Anniston) bought it in 2003, apparently by paying off the back taxes of the previous owners. Chalk Line declared bankruptcy in 1993; that's why the structure was vacant and falling apart. The city probably wouldn't have had much luck getting Chalk Line to pay for the cleanup, whatever it cost, when the company went out of business 17 years ago owing millions to its creditors.

« [Hootchapppy@cableone.net](#) wrote on Thursday, Apr 22 at 10:10 AM »

I agree scarlett5! It's the same ole thing... POLITICS with our city officials. I wonder just who really got to pocket most of the 400 grand that was given as a grant. We all know that it didn't and shouldn't cost near that much to get the job of cleanup done. Enough is enough. Just as the rules apply to "slum-lords", it should be the same for everyone else that owns commercial property. It's time for our city officials to grow some balls and start making these business owners either clean up their mess, or sell off the properties at a reasonable price. Those people jack up the prices purposely so high that of course, nobody would even consider buying it. Even worse, they play with their company paperwork just so they can use those delapidated properties for a tax write-off. Is this fair? No, it's FRAUD. This has been going on for years and years. If the gov't were to say, you can no longer write off taxes for those properties, they would sell them in a heartbeat and someone would come along and fix them up and put them into good use. The city has NO BUSINESS in cleaning up other peoples mess. If that's the case, then they better get busy with all the chemical contamination created by the surrounding business's such as, Anniston Army Depot, Fort McClellan, Monsanto/Solutia, along with many others that are dangerous and have cause so much damage around here. However, I don't think the city could handle trying to come up with 10's of billions of dollars out of their own pockets. Enough is enough.

« [SCARLETT5@AOL.COM](#) wrote on Thursday, Apr 22 at 08:25 AM »

The owners of Chalkline should have to bear the burden of the expense for this clean-up and it should have been done years ago. Why should it fall on the taxpayer by way of a grant?

[help](#) [contact us](#)

software copyright © 2010 [matchbin inc.](#) content copyright © 2010 Anniston Star. business listing data provided in part by Localeze.

this software is in a public beta test phase [read our privacy policy](#)

Anniston Star - Local News, Business, Sports, Events, Blogs, Videos, Podcasts - Anniston, Ala. is in Anniston, AL