

Olde Towne Developer to Clean Up Irving Blight

The first step in the Olde Towne redevelopment project calls for the demolition of a condemned Irving apartment complex. Delbert McDougal, of McDougal Companies, has entered into a contract for the purchase of the Villa Martinique Apartments, located at 418 S. MacArthur Blvd. The city is working in partnership with the Lubbock-based company on the project.

This is the first contract toward the redevelopment of the area, which will extend from the north of Pioneer Drive, east to Britain Road, south to Shady Grove Road and west to MacArthur Boulevard.

“We have been working with Delbert McDougal for the past six months and have identified several areas in South Irving to begin the redevelopment,” said Irving Mayor Herbert Gears. “The residents of South Irving have been waiting for a project like this for years and we are happy to take the first step toward making it a reality.”

Residents of the Villa Martinique Apartments had to vacate their units last September when it was determined that several of the buildings yielded unsafe living conditions. The blighted area will be torn down immediately after the sale.

“This contract is the first of its type and we are eager to move forward with our plans,” said McDougal.

Plans for the Olde Towne redevelopment project are expected to be completed by December, with the first phase of construction to begin in 2008. The plans under consideration to revitalize the area include an urban village complete with homes, shops, restaurants, offices and parks, centered on the Trinity Railway Express.