

Former Pornography Store Turned into Something Positive

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Once an infamous hotspot in the Ashleyville / Maryville neighborhood, it's out with the old and in with the new for the former C & C Adult Video and Bookstore.

"They would buy the videos and take the jackets and throw them in the street and sometimes you'd see condoms in the street it was so disgusting," said Ashleyville / Maryville Neighborhood Association Leader Leonard Higgins Sr.

In 1999 then-councilman Wendell Gilliard along with other leaders and community members began a 5 year battle to shut down the former porn shop. A location they say was flooded with negative and often illegal activity.

"We looked at the police report and did the research and we found out it had prostitution on the site and drug deals and we could not allow that to continue," Gilliard said.

A once inconvenient eyesore now turned into a new state of the art convenience store the community can be proud of.

"I see here the persistence of people and the pride of people in this neighborhood," Higgins Sr. said.

"People riding by out of this very historical neighborhood feeling proud knowing their property values are up their spirits are up I see the young kids walking by not feeling threatened," Gilliard added.

Concerned residents now feeling safer having taken back the security they felt was taken from them.

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