

# DOWNTOWN SANDUSKY

## Owners plan on rebuilding

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The owners of the properties at 125, 131 and 141 E. Water St. in Sandusky intend to rebuild, and not tear down, their structures, damaged in a straight-line wind storm in July. The storm made parts of these structures uninhabitable for tenants and businesses.

### SANDUSKY

Owners of structures substantially damaged throughout 2018 across Sandusky recently informed city officials about their intentions to rebuild, and not tear down, their properties.

Among the updates on those notable properties:

937 W. Washington St.

- What happened: In May, a portion of the vacant building's roof collapsed due to an unknown reason. Since then, city officials barricaded the sidewalk in this area, forcing pedestrians to take an alternate route.

- Context: "Basically, pieces of it fell down between it and the building behind it on McDonough (Street)," city chief development officer Matt Lasko said.

- What will happen: The building's owners, Moore Shameka Latoria Trustee, submitted construction documents to repair the roof. "It would be considered a rebuilding of the wall that had the structural failure," city chief building official Scott Thom said. "The demolition orders were specific regarding the wall section that failed (and) not the entire section."

125, 131 and 141 E. Water St.

- What happened: In July, straight-line winds topping out at 60 mph mangled three adjacent structures — the Biemiller, Barnes and Reber buildings — across from Daly's Pub in downtown Sandusky. Since then, city officials barricaded the sidewalk in this area, forcing pedestrians to take an alternate route.

- Context: Despite roofs, siding and other brick materials fiercely falling from a trio of three-story-tall structures, which wrecked cars and made these buildings uninhabitable for now, nobody in this densely populated area experienced any injuries. Several businesses operating from these storefronts needed to relocate.

- What will happen: According to Thom, for:

- 141 E. Water St., the Reber Building, "It had limited damage and is almost back to pre-damaged condition."

- 131 E. Water St., the Barnes Building, “The owner is still negotiating with the insurance company.”

- 125 E. Water St., the Biemiller Building, “The owner has submitted construction documents for repairs to rebuild it to pre-storm condition.”

About a month before the weather incident, city officials secured \$184,500 in state tax credits, helping offset an estimated \$1 million project, backed by private investment group Renaissance Too, to reoccupy this longtime vacant structure. The plan revolved around relocating Lake Erie Shores & Islands on the first two floors with a pair of apartments on an upper floor.

As of today, the owners want to continue pursuing this avenue.