



Aerial images of downtown Sandusky from 1958, left, and 2021.

*Provided photos/TOM HORSMAN and SANDUSKY LIBRARY FOLLETT HOUSE MUSEUM*

### **History by Horsman: A look from above**

Tom Horsman

SANDUSKY — Over the course of the past few months, we have looked at the history of many buildings in downtown Sandusky — some that are still here, and some that are long gone.

Most of those buildings can be clearly seen in this aerial view of the city from 1958. Ones that are no longer standing are the old City Hall on Market Street, the row of buildings on Water Street next to the Sandusky State Theatre, and the Exchange/Porter House Hotel at Water and Wayne streets.

Despite having lost many buildings, this historic image of downtown Sandusky is still instantly recognizable and does not look all the different from today.

The most jarring differences between the historic and modern photos are on the waterfront:

- There were still railroad tracks on Shoreline Drive.
- The Chesapeake Lofts building was still a factory
- Jackson Street Pier was just a fraction of its current size.
- Schade-Mylander Plaza did not exist.
- Many other industrial buildings lined the various slips along the bay.

A once-industrial shoreline is now a beautiful place for Sandusky residents and visitors to congregate and enjoy the water.

*Editor's note: Tom Horsman works for the city of Sandusky's department of community development as serves on the board of trustees for the Erie County Historical Society.*