



# Work starting to transform eyesore building into new housing



**Michael Lopardi**

CREATED Nov. 6, 2013

**Las Vegas, NV (KTNV)** -- Work is underway to transform a vacant building, that some call an eyesore, into new housing space.

More than one year after neighbors first complained to Action News, construction on new apartments on Cactus Avenue near Bermuda Road is about to begin.

Between the busted up windows and covered graffiti, the structure isn't exactly home sweet home. Not yet, anyway.

"Vandalism, squatters, just general aesthetics," said Paul Pietrewicz, describing some of the issues with the building.

Pietrewicz manages the bar at the nearby Bermuda Village Pub.

"People don't like empty spaces," Pietrewicz said.

Some neighbors called the building an eyesore. They first turned to Action News in May, 2012, looking for answers.

"I have hope that somebody is going to step up to the plate and take care of it," neighbor Susan Peterson said in an interview last year.

A new owner took over the property in 2012 and gave the go-ahead in the past week to start developing the building.

"It's a wonderful thing to see," Pietrewicz said. "We've been waiting for this so long."

After months of sitting silent, the place sounds more like a construction site. Crews tell us they're cleaning up the inside to prepare for the work. Pietrewicz is thrilled.

"For someone to finally get it rolling, it's just great," Pietrewicz said.

The project is called The Lennox. Managing partner Ofir Hagay tells Action News the plan is to turn the building into 100 apartments. The project is expected to include a pool, gym, spa and parking. What took so long to get started? Hagay said owners had to replace the contractor and needed time to obtain a loan. In the meantime, the owners said they hired a security service with cameras to prevent anymore vandalism.

"At one point, I think we'd all given up," Pietrewicz said. "For things to actually resurrect, it's a great day."

Hagay said work on the project is expected to finish up in about eight months or less.