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Chicago investors to open Irish pub in Third Ward

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A group of Chicago investors plans to open a pub, featuring live Irish music, in Milwaukee's Historic Third Ward by August, one of the owners said Thursday.

The new pub, simply called The Pub, will open at the site of the former M and M Club, 124 N. Water St., which closed last month after a 30-year run. The Pub's owners include John Colgan, a manager at Celtic Crossings, an Irish pub in downtown Chicago.

Colgan said the goal is to have The Pub open before Irish Fest, which begins Aug. 17. He said it will offer Irish food, and will aim for a "neighborhood feel."

The 4,000-square-foot building was sold in May to an investors group, 124 N. Water LLC, for \$990,000, said Tom Gale, a broker with Equity Commercial Real Estate LLC. Just a few years ago, before the current Third Ward development boom, the building was listed for sale at \$550,000 but drew no offers, Gale said.

This time, with new condos and offices popping up in the neighborhood, demand for the building was strong, Gale said. He said the building, on heavily traveled Water St., has a very visible location.

Colgan said the ongoing redevelopment of the Third Ward, including the growing number of neighborhood restaurants and clubs, attracted him and his co-owners to Milwaukee.

Colgan said the new owners also like the historic nature of the cream city brick building. It was built in 1904, and was originally used as a Pabst tavern, according to Gale.

DEVELOPMENT: IRISH PUB
Developers plan to open an Irish pub at 124 N. Water St. in the Historic Third Ward by mid-summer.

