

Fairfield Skyline rebuilding months after fire ripped through the restaurant



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FAIRFIELD —

Fairfield Skyline Chili owner Dennis Kurlas promised he would rebuild his popular restaurant after a destructive fire — and that process started last week.

“It’s our livelihood. This is what we do,” Kurlas told the Journal-News last September, just hours after fire destroyed his family’s restaurant.

The fire started in the kitchen of the Skyline around 2:30 a.m. on Sept. 26, 2018. Flames were seen through the roof when Fairfield police Officer Jake Hauer drove by the restaurant at 7105 Dixie Highway. He immediately called dispatch.

It took firefighters more than two hours to extinguish the fire, and the roof over the kitchen area collapsed just as crews were ready to breach the front door, according to fire officials.

No one was inside the restaurant at the time of the fire, and there were no injuries reported to first responders.

The restaurant, at the corner of Dixie Highway and Hicks Boulevard, had been open for more than 20 years at this site, Kurlas said, and previously located across Dixie Highway.

The wreckage of the former restaurant was cleared, and this past week crews started the reconstruction process.

The Kurlas family was recognized in 2017 by Skyline for 50 years with the Cincinnati chili company.