

Business

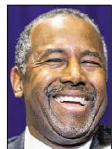
Island firm helps Ben Carson sell home for \$920,000

By DARRELL HOFHEINZ
Daily News Real Estate Writer

Former Republican presidential candidate Dr. Ben Carson has sold one of his two Palm Beach County homes in a \$920,000 deal handled by the Palm Beach office of Engel & Voelkers.

Carson serves as secretary of Housing and Urban Development in President Donald Trump's administration.

The retired neurosurgeon and his wife, Lacena, had their house at 10942 Egret Pointe Lane in suburban West Palm Beach's Ibis Golf & Country Club listed at \$1.1 million. Agent Arthur Martens listed it several months after the Carsons upzoned to a house in Palm Beach Gardens last year.



Carson

The buyers were real estate broker Stephen F. Lustgarten and his wife, Barbara. He is president and CEO of Blake Real Estate, commercial real estate, property-management and construction firm in Washington, D.C.

The Carsons had listed the five-bedroom, 7,677-square-foot house in early December at \$1.2 million. In mid-January, they dropped the price to \$1.1 million, according to the regional multiple listing service. The property landed under contract Feb. 22.

The Carsons bought the house for a recorded \$775,000 in January 2013 from John J. Rooney, whose family owns the Pittsburgh Steelers and has deep ties to Palm Beach. Rooney was the first owner of the house, which was built in 1994 and occupies a lot measuring about a third of an acre. It backs up to a golf course designed by Jack Nicklaus.

The two-story house features 22-foot coffered ceilings with hand-painted inlays, marble floors, custom built-in cabinetry, a ground-floor master suite and a well-equipped kitchen with golf-course views.

In July, the Carsons bought an 8,700-square-foot house in the Old Palm Golf Club in Palm Beach Gardens, property records show. They paid a recorded \$4.37 million for that 1-acre property.

The house that just sold was assigned an estimated "total market value" of \$1.08 million in last year's county tax roll.

Ben Carson, a Detroit native, is an avid golfer, according to published reports. Ibis Golf & Country Club lies west of Florida's Turnpike off Northlake Boulevard.

Carson's appointment to head HUD was confirmed March 2 by the U.S. Senate. He was among a wide field of Republican candidates when he dropped out of the race for the White House in March 2016.

Title specialist Angelo Cairo and attorney Eric J. Braunstein of Title Of America handled documents for the sale.

—dhofheinz@
pbdailynews.com



Photo courtesy Engel & Voelkers

Ben Carson and his wife, Lacena, have sold their house at 10942 Egret Pointe Lane in suburban West Palm Beach's Ibis Golf & Country Club. It had been listed at \$1.1 million.



Royal Poinciana Plaza hopes to soon turn into an oasis of fashion, food, entertainment and amenities. New businesses expected to bring the property to 80 percent leased.

Photo by Ben Fink Shapiro

MORE TO COME

Seven luxury labels plan to open in Royal Poinciana Plaza

By ALEESE KOPF
Daily News Staff Writer

The Royal Poinciana Plaza recently announced that seven new brands plan to join the historic shopping center this fall.

Representatives for the renovated plaza say the "carefully selected mix" of new businesses will bring the property to 80 percent leased. They aim to reinvigorate the 180,000-square-foot, open-air plaza as "an oasis" of fashion, food, entertainment and amenities for residents and visitors.

"Our goal is to bring back the soul of The Royal — to nurture an intimate and charming place where people love to be," said Samantha David, chief operating officer at WS Development and head of Up Markets, a division of WS, which owns and manages the plaza.

"The merchants and restaurateurs, we announce today, represent quality and uniqueness — most have fewer than five stores in the country and pride themselves on being high-touch in design and service, which is incredibly important to serving the rapidly evolving, young demographic," she said in a statement Monday. "We are proud to bring these brands we love, to this island we love, and believe that this eclectic mix speaks to how the community truly lives, aligning every day essentials alongside life's

true luxuries."

New brands joining the plaza include:

- **100% Capri** — A luxury resortwear boutique offering casual and elegant handmade linen for men, women and children.

- **Assouline** — A brand that specializes in supplying books, candles, stationery, furniture, gifts, accessories and other luxury items for private libraries.

- **BEACH** — A new concept designed specifically for Palm Beach by luxury swimwear brand Everything But Water. The store will feature swimsuits, cover ups, sundresses, hats, handbags, jewelry, sandals, travel accessories and exclusive designer pieces.

- **Bognar & Piccolini** — A Croatian children's fashion brand providing artisan-crafted clothes for newborns and children 6 and under. The store also offers shoes, hair accessories, hand-knitted items and fragrance.

- **Cremieux** — A French preppy menswear brand offering casual and chic styles. The brand features tailored classic shirts, pants, sports coats, suits, sweaters, shoes and accessories.

- **Rani Arabella** — An Italian cashmere brand specializing in women's ready-to-wear garments, home fabrics and luxury gifts.

- **Serenella** — A Boston-based American and European fashion

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Chief operating officer
WS Development

boutique offering curated couture, clothes and accessories from an array of luxury designers and fashion houses.

Businesses already announced include:

- **Kirna Zabete** — A New York City-based fashion boutique offering curated high-end designer pieces for women.

- **Hermès** — A French luxury brand specializing in leather, lifestyle accessories, home furnishings, perfumes, jewelry, watches and ready-to-wear.

- **Palm Beach Bicycle Trail Shop** — A locally owned store that sells, rents and services bikes. It also offers scooter rentals and bicycle accessories.

"From my years of experience vacationing in Palm Beach, I know that a discerning and captive audience lives on the island," Beth Buccini, owner of Kirna Zabete, said via email.

Buccini said her parents and in-laws live in the area. "The best of the best live and play in Palm Beach, and I'm beyond thrilled to bring my business to this very special place."

Two restaurants, Miami-based Coyo Taco and The Honor Bar @

Palm Beach Grill also plan to open in the fall. The Milanese restaurant Sant Ambroeus opened in December.

The Honor Bar will be a small adjoining restaurant to Palm Beach Grill that's open day and night with a limited menu, no reservations required.

"There are only a handful of Honor Bars across the country, including locations in Beverly Hills, Montecito, and in Dallas' Highland Park Village," Brian Biel, vice president of design for Hillstone Restaurant Group, said via email. "Like those places, Palm Beach shares a strong sense of place that has appealed for generations, which is why we were excited to originally bring Palm Beach Grill to the island, and now The Honor Bar."

Up Markets announced in April that it is negotiating a lease with a prospective tenant for the long-dormant Royal Poinciana Playhouse.

Laurel Baker, executive director of the Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce, said the "colorful cross section" of retail stores will draw customers from door to door.

"There is something for everyone," she said. "The plaza's spirit has been recaptured — a definite plus for Palm Beach and memories of what used to be."

— akopf@
pbdailynews.com
Twitter: @aleeschopf