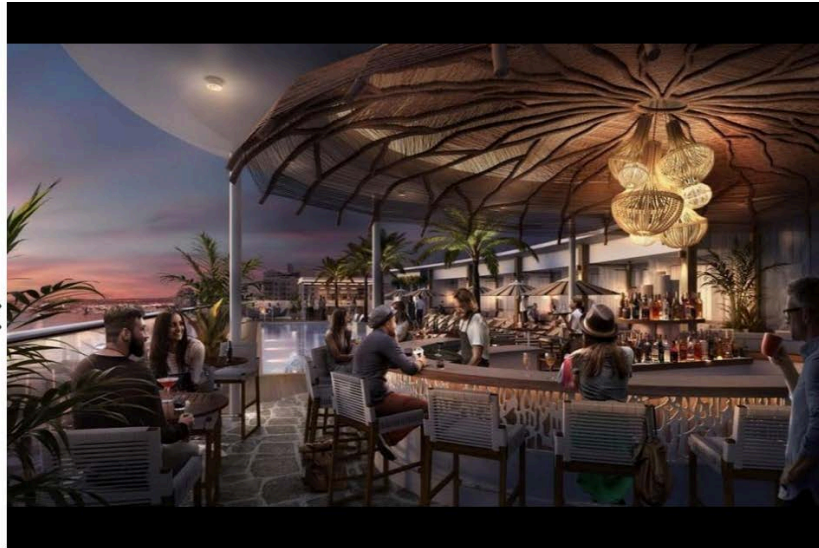


The Palm Beach Post

REAL NEWS STARTS HERE

West Palm Beach hotel with pioneer, adventure theme to open



By Alexandra Clough



Posted Mar 14, 2019 at 10:28 AM
Updated Mar 15, 2019 at 10:52 AM

Another hotel in [West Palm Beach](#) is moving swiftly toward completion as the [county continues to prepare for future growth](#) in both leisure and business visitors.

The Ben is slated to open later this year on the site of **Flagler**

Banyan Square, the old city hall site now being developed into a hotel, apartments and shops. On March 19, The Ben will be “topped off,” a construction milestone meaning the building’s last beam is placed at the top of the structure.

>>[RELATED: Palm Beach County needs more hotel rooms, and they are on the way](#)

The Ben name refers to a home in West Palm Beach owned by a pioneering resident, Author **Byrd Spilman Dewey**, who owned land that later became Boynton Beach. She and her husband also owned a home in downtown West Palm Beach along the water dubbed **Ben Trovato**, said **Frank Navarro**, master developer of the hotel complex and a partner in the hotel with **Concord Hospitality**.

Evoking the pioneering West Palm Beach Dewey sets the stage for the themes of this 208-room hotel slated for 251 N. Narcissus Ave. It’s Old Florida and history, plus adventure — but with a modern twist. Expect a blending of design styles when the hotel is completed, including exposed concrete floor and late 19th-century period furniture.

The Palm Beach Post

REAL NEWS STARTS HERE

Sections News Sports Entertainment Obits Classifieds Homes Cars Jobs E-Edition Legal Notices

Navarro said “ben trovato” means, roughly, “a very interesting story, in Italian. Plausible. It could even be true.”

[>>RELATED: Canopy Hotel, opening this fall, already booking convention business](#)

So the hotel’s adventurous decor will be a place where maybe the truth could be stretched a bit when travelers come back from, say, a fishing excursion. The effort might be assisted by a visit to a planned rooftop bar atop the hotel.

Although The Ben’s decor suggest whimsy, the finishes and service will be buttoned down. After all, The Ben is a **Marriott Autograph Collection** hotel, which means the property will conform to Marriott’s hospitality standards.

The hotel’s completion by year-end is expected to be accompanied by the completion of apartments and retail space by that time as well, Navarro said.

[>>READ ALSO: Palm Beach County convention center turns profit thanks to hotel](#)

With the project planned for cultural events and entertainment, Navarro predicts the site will enliven this portion of town and create a reason for people to linger along the city’s waterfront. “I do think it has the potential to be a destination, meaning if you come downtown, maybe you come to Flagler Banyan Square,” Navarro said. “We’re an authentic experience, right on the waterfront.”

NEW DIMENSIONS
A New 3D ART Exhibit
Hosted by VeroBeachArtClub.org

MARCH 29, 30, 31, 2019

**FRIDAY 6-8PM
SAT & SUN 10AM-4PM**

FREE ADMISSION

Marsh Island Club
Vero Beach, FL

The Ben’s advancement comes amid news of record-breaking visitors to Palm Beach County in 2018.

Discover The Palm Beaches, the tourism marketing organization for Palm Beach County, said year-end hotel performance data shows 8 million visitors came to the county last year, a 1.7 percent increase from 2017. The increase marked ten years in a row of visitor growth to Palm Beach County and serves as a good indicator of things to come.

Numerous hotels are in the works throughout the county to accommodate the growing demand.

In West Palm Beach alone, the **Canopy by Hilton Hotel** on Dixie Highway is set to open in the fall. Meanwhile, plans are afoot to build a **Radisson Blu** at 415 S. Dixie Highway, between Fern and Gardenia streets. An **Indigo Hotel** north of **CityPlace**, at Railroad Avenue, between Third and Fourth streets, also is planned.

The Palm Beach Post

REAL NEWS STARTS HERE

Sections News Sports Entertainment Obits Classifieds Homes Cars Jobs E-Edition Legal Notices

In addition, **One West Palm**, a two-tower complex at 550 Quadrille Blvd. featuring offices, hotels and apartments, also has started construction.

Jeff Greene, One West Palm's developer, said he just inked a deal to have New York's **Rockwell Group**, "the best designers in the world," handle the towers' interior design. Rockwell will design the hotel, office space common areas, apartments and an indoor tennis courts that will convert to meeting space for more than 1,200 people.



BUYING
DIAMONDS
WATCHES
GOLD
ANTIQUE JEWELRY
COINS
MONDAY-FRIDAY, 10 AM-5 PM
7775 GLADES ROAD, BOCA RATON
800-462-2888 **KRAVITZ**
JEWELS INC. SINCE 1904

Look for a contemporary design with plenty of photo-worthy features. "I want people to walk into the lobby and say, 'Wow,'" Greene said.

He expects the foundation will be poured in another month, at which point the 30-story project will start to go vertical.

Topping off is expected in about a year, with another year needed to do all the interior build-out of the towers, Greene said.

There's also talk about building another hotel next to the **Palm Beach County Convention Center**.

Discover The Palm Beaches noted increases in visits both by leisure and business travelers. Interestingly, visits from international travelers increased by half a percent to 749,000, with growth from the United Kingdom, Brazil and Colombia.

The Palm Beach Post

REAL NEWS STARTS HERE

Sections News Sports Entertainment Obits Classifieds Homes Cars Jobs E-Edition Legal Notices

But Discover sees room for more growth from the international markets, and in February it said it planned to launch new marketing efforts in Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Germany and Mexico.

Helping goose tourism was the West Palm Beach convention center, which has seen strong growth since a **Hilton** hotel opened there in 2016. Discover President **Jorge Pesquera** recently said that [business and corporate meetings are an increasingly important element](#) of the county's economy, providing a hedge against dips in leisure travel.

Worth the wait

The law firm of **Comiter, Singer, Baseman & Braun**, has been looking for new office space in Palm Beach Gardens for some time but wasn't able to find it, until now.

Founding partner **Michael Singer** said the firm will take more than a floor of space at **DiVosta Towers**, the [twin-tower project being built](#) at 3825 PGA Boulevard, at the intersection of Alternate A1A and Kyoto Gardens Drive.

Comiter, Singer is the first business to announce it is moving to the property. Singer said the firm will take the entire 7th floor in the south tower, as well as a quarter floor in the ground space.

The towers are the first new office project in Palm Beach Gardens in a decade, and Singer said the firm is looking forward to the added space.

The firm, which has about 31 employees, will move Nov. 1 from smaller space nearby, at 3801 PGA Blvd., the **Financial Center at the Gardens**.

Comiter, Singer handles estate planning, corporate and business transactions and estate, trust and guardianship litigation.

Alexandra Clough writes about real estate, law and the economy.

aclough@pbpost.com

[@acloughpbp](https://twitter.com/acloughpbp)

(561) 496-2300 • LaRueFurniture.com



As Seen On TV

Spring Savings
Up To 60% Off
select items*

Sale Ends Monday at 6pm

No Dental Insurance?
No Problem!
We have you covered!

LEARN MORE

2 healthy mouth cleanings, exams & X-rays
& discounts on treatments.



GARDENS DENTAL CARE
Appointments available 7am-7pm and on Saturdays