

# Iconic Ohio Club now under new ownership

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The front entrance to the Ohio Club is shown in 2021. - File photo by The Sentinel-Record

The Ohio Club is now under new ownership, according to a news release from Urban Living and Development Inc.

Owner Dona Pettey has sold the business to Saddiq and Jeannie Mir, who also own and operate J&S Italian Villa and Copper Penny Pub.

The sale was handled by Amber Henson, the owner/broker at Urban Living and Development.

"This is my third time to represent and work with Saddiq and Jeannie," Henson said in the release Thursday evening. "I am privileged to be a part of this transaction and am thrilled the Ohio Club will be in their hands. Dona has done a great job to set the stage for a smooth transfer. This sale continues the growth momentum downtown Hot Springs is realizing."

Pettey plans to remain in Hot Springs, and she and her band will still perform at The Ohio Club.

"I'm not going anywhere," Pettey said in the release. "I love Hot Springs, entertaining and will still help support the Ohio Club."

The Ohio Club is considered to be the state's oldest continually operating bar, and the Mirs said they were honored to purchase a property with so much history.

"We are humbled and honored to take over a legendary property like the Ohio Club," Saddiq Mir said in the release. "Our goal is to preserve and enhance not only the business, but the team as well. We want to thank the people of Hot Springs and our local friends that have made us fall in love with the community."

The Ohio Club opened in 1905 as a bar and casino, according to the business' website.

A popular spot for both locals and tourists, The Ohio Club is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and it gained popularity as a meeting place for notorious mobsters such as Al Capone, Charles "Lucky" Luciano, Owen "Owney" Madden and Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel.

Many Major League Baseball players were also known to visit the location, including Babe Ruth.

The Ohio Club underwent a major restoration of its facade in 2020, moving the entrance out around 3 feet. The former wall was recessed under the second floor of the building, but the renovation made the entire facade flush.