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"Million Dollar Townhomes Built In Franklin"

When developer Bernie Butler announced his intentions to build 26 million dollar plus town homes in downtown Franklin a few years ago, the reaction was quick. "People said I was crazy," said Butler. "They said no one would ever pay those kinds of prices to live in downtown Franklin," he said. They were very wrong. "We've sold 20 of the 26 and the first ones won't even be completed for another 45 days," said Butler. Currently, only six of the 26 home, are still available.

The prices for the town homes start at \$1.1 million and go up to almost \$2 million, so it is not surprising they are not your average town homes. The homes are about twice as large as the average single family home, ranging from 3,700 to 5,000 square feet.

"Every floor plan is custom. We have some with floating circular staircases, rooftop gardens, we have acoustic walls that can absorb 98 decibels of sound," said Butler. "Every one has an elevator, all custom woodwork and 12-foot ceilings."

Still, Butler said that these prices would never fly in other locations. "You couldn't get these prices in Cool Springs. The appeal is downtown Franklin, everyone wants to be here, people love it."

Built within Franklin's historic overlay, the buildings are designed to fit in with the historic nature of the downtown area.

Butler said the buyers of the town homes are between 55 and 75. "Folks ready to trade in the country estate for something right downtown with enough room for the kids but something they can leave for a couple of months at a time," he said.

Butler said the total cost for the project was \$35 million, making the city block in downtown Franklin very expensive.

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