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green West Orange

Westmont Homes becomes model of Green building

By Michael Laval

Local homebuilders Curt Roese and Jim Rahman, co-owners of Westmont Homes in Winter Garden, are working to show the community and the world how to build an environmentally sound home.

Green Builder Media selected Westmont Homes to build a model home as part of its Green Builder VISION House Series, which will be showcased during the 2008 International Homebuilder's Show in Orlando.

The Green Builder house series will consist of high-end, architect-designed custom homes. The home being built by Westmont Homes is currently under construction in the Gourd Neck Springs subdivision, located on the shores of Lake Apopka in Montverde.

"We are excited and proud to be a partner in such an important emerging trend in the building industry, and to have the opportunity to showcase so many green building products, building practices and design features on such a large scale as the International Homebuilder's Show," Rahman said.

Construction of the Green home will incorporate the planning and use of products and construction techniques to ensure the home is energy efficient, conserves water, has a healthy indoor environment and minimizes the impact on natural resources. The home will be certified according to the NAHB Model Green Home Building guidelines, the Florida Green Building Coalition Standards, the Institute for Business and Home Safety "Fortified for Safer Living" guidelines and the Florida Water Star



program. Since Westmont Homes' VISION house will sit along Lake Apopka, the main focuses of the design and construction are water conservation, water reclamation and proper management of stormwater runoff. The home will feature cistern tanks providing 7,000 gallons of rainwater storage capacity underground to be used for irrigation. A closed aerobic wastewater treatment system will be installed to capture, store and treat waste from the washing machine, showers, sinks and dual flush toilets. The processed wastewater will be distributed through drip tubes to supplement the irrigation for sodded areas. Westmont Homes will also implement Florida's friendly landscaping principles as outlined by the University of Florida Yards and Neighborhood Program.

Low-flow water fixtures and water efficient appliances will also be installed.

Roese and Rahman said this project has inspired them to expand Westmont Homes to offer Green homebuilding services for all its clients.

"We have decided to change our business practice to focus on building certified green homes," Roese said. "We have built a brand new Web site to educate the public about the benefits of building healthier, high-performance homes that are environmentally friendly."

The company's newly launched Web site can be found at www.WestmontGreenHomes.com. Construction of its VISION house is being documented on an online blog at <http://greenhomes.typepad.com>.

Westmont Homes is located at 446 W. Plant St. in Winter Garden and can be reached at 407-654-4010.