



Online: Research new developments at chron.com/newhomes

Ashton Woods offers designs in Willow Creek Farms
Page 2



A Realtor can help with new home purchase
Page 3



More energy-efficient homes being built in Houston

Masco's Environments For Living program gets spotlight

Solar-powered and energy-efficient homes are now available and affordable to residents of all walks of life in Houston. Under Houston Mayor Bill White, Houston recently launched a program to help fund hyper-efficient, solar-powered homes for low-income residents.

"This city, state and nation need this kind of construction for middle-class homeowners if we're going to reduce energy bills," said White.

Local developer Zack Burghli is passionate about this initiative — he's already built 11 of these homes in Houston and has more than a dozen more under consideration.

Burghli participates in the Environments For Living program, a turnkey program offered by Masco Home Services Inc. that assists builders in constructing energy-efficient homes using the principles of building science. He adds solar panels, which are not required under the Environments For Living program, to increase homes' energy efficiency and help lower utility bills.

Many other builders in Houston are participating in the Environments For Living program to provide budget- and environmentally friendly homes without incurring significant overhead costs. Several of these builders recently were recognized by Masco Home Services for their commitment to excellence in energy efficiency, including David Weekley Homes, McGuyer Home Builders Inc., Chesmar Homes, Gracepoint Homes and Wilshire Homes. Ashton Woods and Ryland Homes also were recognized for their longstanding participation in green



ON BOARD: Houstonians now have a range of energy-efficient homes to choose from. Many builders including David Weekley (shown) are participating in Masco's Environments For Living program.

building programs.

"In addition to environmental responsibility, home buyers today are interested in a wide range of issues, from rising utility costs to indoor environmental qual-

ity," said Mike Humphrey, vice president of operations, David Weekley Homes. "Our participation in the Environments For Living program has reinforced our green message and our quality message."