



Glenn Baeske/The Huntsville Times

This home at 6348 Midtown Lane is the first green house that homebuilders are building for their fall showcase.

# Builders going way green

Fall Parade of Homes' showcase will be 1st to meet green standards

**By Mike Marshall**

Times Staff Writer  
mike.marshall@htimes.com

The house, still under construction, has 3,381 square feet and is expected to cost about \$450,000 when it's finished in late summer.

It's at 6348 Midtown Lane, in a new subdivision known as MidTowne on the Park. From here, there's a view of the high-rises in Cummings Research Park and the Saturn V that stretches above the U.S. Space & Rocket Center.

At first, it looks like the beginnings of most colonial-style houses with high Doric columns. But much of the sig-



Glenn Baeske/The Huntsville Times

**The fireplace enclosure shows foamed insulation of an exterior wall in the green house.**

nificance of this house is in the construction, scheduled to end in August.

Two months after it's fin-



Glenn Baeske/The Huntsville Times

**The attic area shows foamed insulation inside of the roof of the green house at 6348 Midtown Lane.**

ished, the house will be the Huntsville/Madison County Builders Association's showcase home on its fall Parade

of Homes.

When it's unveiled on the weekend of Oct. 2, the home will be the association's first showcase home to meet the green standards of the National Association of Home Builders.

The house is being built to the NAHB's silver level, one of the association's highest green standards.

"We wanted to strive for the green building level that made the most sense for the investment," said John Allen, owner of Southern Construction and Design.

Allen, the immediate past president of the local builders association, is a NAHB green building verifier.

Mark Rovere, president of Action Builders, is the construction manager for the

**See GREEN on B2**

# Green

Continued from page B1

home.

A five-person committee, composed of home builders officials, selected Rovere, one of three builders who applied to build the home.

Ground was broken on the home in early February.

"It's like starting a normal house, except for the few things we do with the foundation and flooring," Rovere said. "The difference is, we

seal all with Icynene."

Icynene is a soft foam insulation and air-sealing dispensing system. It helps homeowners, trade professionals and designers meet stringent guidelines set forth by prominent green building programs," according to the company's Web site.

Others green features in the early stages of construction: high-energy-efficient windows with low-emission glass and high-energy-efficient HVAC unit.

The lumber is being cut off site to minimize waste, and

the crawl space will be heated and cooled.

"You can go in there and sleep (in the crawl space) if you want to," Rovere said. "All that moisture and bugs (usually) down there? Forget it."

Walking into the house, Allen points out the large windows downstairs, along with a fireplace with a vented log set.

## 'Heat, but no gasses'

"There will be no contaminants emitted into the room," he said. "You get the radiant heat, but no gasses."

Outside, there will be no vents or ridge vents in the roof. The attic will have a conditioned system, which will keep it considerably cooler than most attics, Rovere said.

The siding will be composed of fiber cement products - concrete masonry designed to give the homeowner "longer lasting, low-maintenance products," as Allen put it.

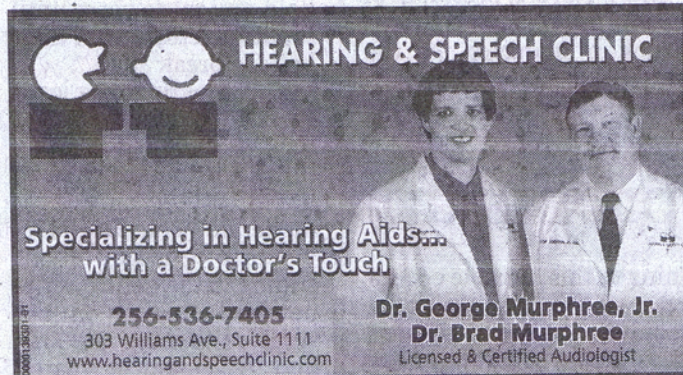
They built this home in response to the growing demand for green homes - homes with better insulation and lower electricity bills.

"We did this so more people can get on board with it," Rovere said, "and the whole town will take off."

When it's finished, the house will be designated an "Energy Star" house. Just as important, Allen and Rovere say, it will reach the silver level in the NAHB's green building program.

Both designations will help eliminate a practice Allen refers to as "greenwashing" - his term for the deceptive use of green in real-estate marketing.

"The outcome of this is the consumer will see you can make wise decisions up front to build in a green manner," he said. "There's too much confusion in the marketplace. We should be the leaders to build to that standard, and now we have the tools to tell people about that standard."



**HEARING & SPEECH CLINIC**

Specializing in Hearing Aids...  
with a Doctor's Touch

256-536-7405  
303 Williams Ave., Suite 1111  
www.hearingandspeechclinic.com

**Dr. George Murphree, Jr.**  
**Dr. Brad Murphree**  
Licensed & Certified Audiologist