



Butch Adams/RIMG

A carpenter builds an interior wall in the kitchen area of the home.



Developer Joe Samra points out the different green features like the Green Guard RainDrop Housewrap, which has drainage channels to move water away from the wall.

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 home would boast a tankless water heater, recycled contact carpet and fiber cement siding. The latter, he explained, was made from recycled fly ash — residue from coal burning — or sand.

Samra said his family had been in the real estate business for approximately three decades. He said the Overhill development was his family's first foray into green building, and that the idea had been worked on for the last two years before building began. MEJJ, he said, is a Certified Green Professional and Energy Star builder. In addition to building houses that are green in nature, he said the company intended to clean up in an environmentally-friendly manner as well, with 90 percent of the scrap materials left to be recycled.

Samra said that MEJJ will consider the addition of solar panels or other such additions to further reduce the carbon footprint of the homes. However, he pointed out that now was not an opportune time to do so, since government incentives for such work had been allowed to expire.

According to Samra, the house currently being constructed will likely be the largest one in the development at just over 3,100 square feet, with a price of slightly over \$500,000. It will have three bedrooms and two and-a-half baths,

plus a "bonus room" above the garage, to be used as the buyer sees fit.

Houses built in the neighborhood in the future, which will sit on half-acre lots, will be custom built, ranging in size from 2,400 to 3,000 square feet. Samra said that the current house and two other lots were already taken, with ground breaking likely to start on a second house in the next week. The house currently under construction is expected to be completed in approximately seven months, he said.

An open house was planned at The Wooded Acres at Overhill last Sunday. More information can be found online at <http://www.mejjdevelopment.com>. MEJJ's office phone number is (401) 257-6413.

