

HARMONY

FLORIDA

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Melanie Lentz-Janney
321.945.4208

Melanie@doverwood.com

TOWN OF HARMONY RECEIVES OFFICIAL GREEN CERTIFICATION FROM THE FLORIDA GREEN BUILDING COALITION

HARMONY, FL - July 15, 2008 - When the visionaries behind the Town of Harmony began creating plans for this 11,000 acre master-planned community in Osceola County, they made a commitment to follow a path focused on environmental intelligence. Harmony's promise of sustainability --- the ability to meet the needs of today without compromising future generations --- has garnered a lot of attention for Harmony including a recent green certification by the Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC).

“Green building is a mixture of conserving natural resources and wildlife, reducing pollution, protecting eco-systems and improving air quality, as well as providing opportunities for people to enjoy a quality environment” said Greg Gologowski, Harmony's full-time Conservation Director who has been employed by Harmony Development Company since September 2002. “In designing Harmony, Harmony Development preserved open space and wildlife habitat and reworked development plans several times to reduce or avoid impacts on resources.”

In conjunction with a FGBC certification, all homes are built to Energy Star® standards that require energy-efficiency ratings that exceed state energy code. Harmony's homes are therefore able to conserve energy resources and reduce homeowner operating costs over comparable non-Energy Star houses.

Harmony was recently certified by the Florida Green Building Coalition making it Central Florida's largest Green Development and only the tenth in the state of Florida that has achieved this honor since the FGBC was founded in 2000.

“The Town of Harmony is truly setting the standard for green building in Florida,” said Drew Smith, President of Two Trails and Founding President of the Florida Green Building Coalition.

The green certification program is a voluntary process that verifies and evaluates a community's commitment to environmentally intelligent design and building practices. Harmony won points for its comprehensive approach to community design that included such measures as retention of open space,

leaving lakeshores undeveloped, relying on electric and other green propulsion for community boats, enhancement of wildlife habitat on the Harmony Golf Preserve and neighborhood parks, placing schools, future shopping, parks, playgrounds and work areas within walking distance of homes, dark sky street lighting, Energy Star construction and much more.

Community planners also received guidance from the Harmony Institute, a Harmony based organization that believes that people live better when they live in regular contact with animals and nature and which advocates for community practices that promote this.

NOTE: At least 200 points must be awarded to receive the green development designation. Harmony received 231, one of the highest scores in the FGBC program. For the specifics of how Harmony achieved its certification points, go to www.twotrails.net and click on “developments” (there is a section with the development broken down into the specifics of the rating).

In addition to being certified by the FGBC, the town of Harmony has been recognized for its leadership in environmental protection and commitment to community schools by such groups as the Council for Sustainable Florida, the Florida Education Foundation, the Florida Department of Education, Where to Retire magazine, the Home Builders Association of Metro-Orlando, Orlando Homebuyer Magazine, and the Florida Association of Realtors.

“A home is a major purchase, and the homebuyer wants a sense that they’re getting better quality,” said Shad Tome, President of Harmony Development Company. “In Harmony, we are building homes that use resources wisely, conserve energy and water, and provide a better indoor environment for its occupants. This coupled with the surrounding environment makes Harmony an ideal place to live.”

Harmony’s builders agree that consumers are drawn by green building’s promises of energy efficiency. They also like the duality of saving a little green and doing their part for the environment.

“Most people like the idea of their home being energy efficient,” said Don Wetherington, president of Wetherington Builders, one of the approved builders in Harmony, and current president of the Home Builders Association of Metro Orlando. “It saves them money and people are more environmentally conscious. Energy efficiency is something we’ve always tried to stress to our customers. It’s important to our buyers and to us.”

Now beginning its third phase of development, Harmony is home to approximately 1,000 residents. Community tours are available daily. For more information on the town of Harmony, visit www.harmonyfl.com or call 407-891-8358.

###