

The Commercial Record

Rockville Bank, Avon Builder Work On Energy Efficient Home

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Rockville Bank has partnered with a local builder to produce an energy-efficient home in Avon.

The 4,950-square-foot single-family house at 35 West Hills Drive is designed and being built by Bill Ferrigno and his company, Sunlight Construction Inc. of Avon. The five-bedroom, three-story, high-end traditional home incorporates a wide variety of new cost-effective technology and techniques that conserve energy or utilize alternate energy strategies.

"Rockville Bank has a strong track record of supporting 'green' products and initiatives," said Mark Kucia, senior vice president and commercial banking officer for Rockville Bank. "And Sunlight Construction has been a solid customer of ours for years. So when they offered us the chance to become involved with a residential prototype that is good for the environment and very appealing to the eye, we jumped at the opportunity to provide financing for the project."

"The science behind our energy-efficient prototype is as much common sense as it is sophisticated technology," said Bill Ferrigno, president of Sunlight Construction. "It proves that a complex energy-efficient house can also be architecturally attractive." Ferrigno said the home will be virtually indistinguishable from the 13 other conventionally constructed residences he is building in the West Hills of Avon luxury subdivision off West Avon Road (Route 167).

With advanced framing techniques and state-of-the-art insulation and sealing, the entire house is being "enveloped" to prevent air leakage to prevent warm air from escaping and keep cold air from seeping inside. "This construction ensures that less energy for heating/cooling is needed to begin with, and will be climate-controlled with a sophisticated new geothermal underground heating and cooling horizontal loop system to maximize energy efficiency," said Ferrigno.

Located on a lot selected for its southern exposure, the house's solar photovoltaic energy-producing cells will help to run the electrical infrastructure and the majority of the lighting will be energy-efficient LED fixtures. Domestic hot water will be provided by a 95 percent efficient tankless hot water heater and all appliances will be Energy Star rated. The subdivision is served by natural gas.

Sunlight Construction's gray clapboard house is part of the current *CT Zero Energy Challenge*, a statewide design and build competition. The program is designed to educate and demonstrate that constructing a super high efficiency (near zero energy) home is achievable today, while informing on the technology and techniques it takes to get there.

