

Business

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Homes to be environmentally friendly

Developer says houses will follow LEED certification

By **MARIAN ACCARDI**
Times Business Writer
marian.accardi@htimes.com

Construction will begin this fall on a 371-house development in northwest Huntsville that the developer said will include the city's first certified green homes.

Nashville-based Parkside Homes held a ground-breaking cer-

emony Monday for the Anslee Springs community on Indian Creek Road. Parkside said 64 percent of the houses will be built to meet the requirements for Leadership in En-

ergy and Environmental Design, or LEED, silver certification.

With energy and construction material costs continuing to climb and with growing concerns over glob-

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al climate changes, "We've got to start building responsibly," said Randy Chastain, president of Parkside Homes.

A green home uses less energy, water and natural resources and cre-

ates less waste, according to the U.S. Green Building Council, which developed the LEED rating system. The benefits of a LEED home include lower energy and water bills; reduced so-



Courtesy of Powell Creative, LLC

Please see **HOMES** on B5

An artist's rendering of the "green" Anslee Springs development.

Homes

Continued from page B6

called greenhouse-gas emissions; and less exposure to mold, mildew and other indoor toxins.

"The product we have fits Huntsville very well," said Joey Smith, president of Stonebridge Development in Franklin, Tenn., developer of Anslee Springs and Chastain's partner in the project.

Houses in the 83-acre project near Douglass Road - west of Alabama 53 - will range in price from about \$230,000 to \$330,000, with most less than \$300,000, Chastain said. The houses will range in size from 1,300 square feet to 2,900

square feet.

Land development starts this month, and lot reservations will convert to contract to buy in late July.

Ansee Springs will feature four styles of houses in all, with three styles available initially. The first phase, expected to be completed in about two years, will have 117 houses.

The three housing types in phase one are:

■ "Cottage" - ranging from 1,300 to 2,100 square feet and available in one, one and a half and two stories. They will have alley access to rear garages. Prices will range from the \$230,000s to the \$280,000s. The cottages will be LEED-certified.

■ "Courtyard" - ranging from 1,800 to 3,100 square feet, built around private courtyards

and available in one or two stories. Floor plans will include a private courtyard with ponds, waterfalls, outdoor fireplaces and grills. Prices will range from the \$290,000s to the \$330,000s. All courtyard homes will have environmentally friendly upgrade options available.

■ "Carriage" - range from 1,700 to 2,900 square feet, with recessed garages. The houses will circle the development and are designed for residents who want a more conventional backyard. Prices will range from the \$250,000s to the \$280,000s.

About 73 townhouses are planned for the fourth and final phase, Chastain said, and those will be LEED-certified. Total buildout is expected to take five to six years.