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Ground breaking today for 'green' home

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Westside Home Builders Association (WHBA) chose today's Earth Day to break ground on its first EarthCraft-certified home in its "Westside Goes Green" program.

The ribbon cutting will be held at 1 p.m. at the WHBA model home site in Whitestone subdivision on Highway 5, just south of the Highway 166 roundabout.

"This is the first of three EarthCraft homes to be constructed in Douglas, Carroll and Haralson counties," said Chris Collier, WHBA executive officer. "The program will demonstrate the energy efficient and environmentally friendly features found on these homes."

The WHBA "green" initiative involves building model energy efficient (green) homes in selected subdivisions and renovating foreclosed homes to meet these green standards.

The home building industry will likely be the first in Douglas County to make use of federal incentive funds to put employees back to work. The builders hope to use some of the \$3.8 million of the foreclosure renovation funds awarded the county by the federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP).

The green home program will encourage buyers to buy foreclosed homes that are renovated to meet the EarthCraft green standards. Buyers will get 5 percent down payment assistance and a \$20,000 second mortgage to pay for the renovations. They'll also receive a first-year warranty (unheard of in other foreclosure sales) on appliances, plumbing, electrical, structure and upgrades. Optional 2 to 10-year warranties will be available for purchase to provide all of the above plus additional protection against roof leaks. Collier said three banks, First National Bank of Georgia, Douglas County Bank and First Georgia Bank, have agreed to work with WHBA on the program.

For more information on the Westside Goes Green program, contact Collier at WestsideHBA@bellsouth.net or call 678-715-0904.

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