



## All-area team announced

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## Parcells spurns offer from Atlanta owner

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# THOMASVILLE TIMES-ENTERPRISE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2007

THE PULSE OF THE COMMUNITY

FIFTY CENTS

## Sweetbriar Lakes house receives special designation for efficiency

By Alan Mauldin  
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THOMASVILLE — While most people are familiar with the Energy Star stickers hanging from appliances like refrigerators to certify energy efficiency, they may not know that houses can also receive the designation.

The first house in the county to receive an Energy Star blue seal was constructed in the Sweetbriar Lakes Phase II subdivision. The 2,100 square foot home has Lycene insulation, a propane tankless water heater that produces hot water on demand as well as energy-effi-

### ■ Energy-saving tips, 3A

cient air conditioning, windows, appliances and light bulbs.

Capital Home Builders, which constructed the home, is listed by energystar.gov as one of the 128 builders and developers in the state who have built one or more Energy Star homes or are planning to do so. The vast majority are in the Atlanta area.

Izzy Bienes said his company is embracing

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Alan Mauldin/Times-Enterprise  
Marlene Bienes displays the tankless water heater which provides hot water on demand without continuously heating water in a tank.

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## House

the future and being good stewards of the environment by building green homes.

"We're committed to that. We have kids, and we're trying to help the environment as much as we can," he said. "We don't want to leave them with environmental problems. This is the path that we're taking in all our houses. It's just better for the quality of our homes."

Capital Home Builders has been in business for about 20 years building conventional homes, he said.

The home is listed for \$319,000 and a discount on closing costs would make the total price \$309,000, Bienes said.

Energy Star homes are typically 20 to 30 percent more energy efficient than standard homes, with annual savings

in energy bills of about \$200 to \$400, according to [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov). More than 750,000 Energy Star homes have been constructed, and 2 million more are expected by the end of the decade.

Energy Star is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy.

To earn the Energy Star rating, a home must be independently verified by a home energy rater, who tests the home after its completion.

Mills Herndon of First Thomasville Realty said there may be a market for energy efficient homes in the area.

"I think so, as long as they're competitive with other similar homes," he said. "I think that would appeal to certain people. I think it's a good idea. I think those are good features to have."

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