

121 W. Broadway St.
Prosper, TX 75078



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 30, 2010

Contact: Celso Martinez, 972-623-8836

Prosper home builders expected to build “green” *Ordinance makes environmental considerations mandatory*

PROSPER (August 30, 2010) The Town Council of Prosper took a stand on the side of the environment in August of 2009 when it passed an ordinance mandating minimum standards for residential construction that reflect modifications intended to diminish the environmental impact of the construction and occupancy. The ordinance takes effect on Sept. 1 of this year, according to Prosper Building Official Wayne Snell.

The Town of Prosper Residential Green Building Program is a set of regulations that makes it obligatory for home builders to take prescribed steps in material selection, site management and waste reduction during construction; water conservation in the home’s delivery system and landscaping; energy efficiency in appliances and insulation; indoor air quality of the completed structure; and homeowner education.

“Prosper has joined selected communities in the area that adhere to the Green Built North Texas initiative of the local homebuilders association. In addition to that, though, the Town has developed an addendum that takes the initiative further. We are committed to seeing that new residential construction is built with thoughtful consideration of the environment,” he said.

For example, prior to construction, homebuilders are expected to select lumber that has been optimized, meaning that the maximum amount of lumber is extracted from timber, leaving little to no waste in the process. During construction, tree preservation and protection are mandated, as well as the highest levels of recycling where appropriate, and to the maximum extent possible storm water controls must be in place.

To conserve water, builders must provide efficient water delivery systems indoors, and drought tolerant plants and landscaping outdoors. Water saving appliances, and smart irrigation systems with evapo-transpiration controllers are required. In the area of energy efficiency, appliances must have an Energy Star rating and the home’s insulation and weatherization components must meet certain minimum requirements.

-more-

“We are very concerned with the efficient use of all natural resources, but especially water and energy, since these are not currently renewable. So we want to do anything we can to maximize their use,” he said.

Once construction is complete, the homes will be measured for acceptable indoor air quality, since contaminants, pollutants, allergens and other harmful substances can leak into the home during construction. Through filtering and proper ventilation practices, residential construction companies will be challenged to ensure a healthy environment within the home.

And, finally, since homeowners play such an important role in the performance of the additional safeguards, homebuilders will conduct a thorough orientation of the home’s efficiency features.

Residential construction companies contemplating any building within Prosper should avail themselves of the ordinance’s requirements because there are penalties associated with ordinance violations. More information can be obtained from the building inspection department 409 E. First St. in Prosper or by calling (972) 346-3502. More information is also available on www.prospertx.gov under the Building Inspection tab of the Development Services page.

“Our hope is that Prosper sets the standard in responsible construction that respects the environment,” he added.

###

ABOUT THE TOWN OF PROSPER – The Town of Prosper is a fast-growing suburb with small town charm, located 30 miles north of Dallas at the crossroads of U.S. 380, Preston Road and the Dallas North Tollway in Collin and Denton Counties. Prosper sits on 27 square miles and is home to more than 9,000 people. A home-rule municipality, governed by a council-manager form of government, the town has full-time fire and police departments, including its own dispatch service. As the Town grows to its projected build-out population of 90,000 residents, Prosper’s vision is to remain a “Place Where Everyone Matters.”