

# Neighbors will be 'green' with envy

■ Lake County Dream House will be environmentally friendly in 2008

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Every year, the winner of the Lake County YMCA Dream House can choose to take the cash option over the newly built luxury home, but the choice facing 2008's winner will be "green" either way.

That's because this year's Dream House is being built using the latest green-building techniques, making this the first time in the contest's 14 years the house will be built in

such an environmentally friendly, energy-efficient manner, said George Davis, president and owner of ProBuilt Homes.

"We're excited about it because this is the wave of the future," said Davis, whose company has built the Dream House since 2006.

"Building is not going to stop, but we want to build responsibly."

This year's Dream House will be a 2,600-plus-square-foot executive ranch located at the intersection of Summerwood Drive and Concord-Hambden Road, in the Summerwood community of Concord Township.

The 2008 Dream House will

feature a state-of-the-art, high-efficiency geothermal heating and cooling system with an enhanced insulation package, Davis said.

It also will have a plumbing system that allows for direct routes to faucets, thus there's less piping and less water sitting in the lines, resulting in less water wasted by residents letting it run to get hot, Davis said.

Air quality in the house will be better because of the use of low volatile organic compound flooring and paints, Davis said.

In addition, a certificate of origin will be required for lumber used on the house to make sure it's from a properly managed forest.

Once completed, the house will be certified by the Northeast Ohio Green Building Initiative, a nonprofit organization that promotes green buildings.

The homes built in Summerwood are concentrated in areas where they would minimally affect the environment, Davis said.

"It's responsible development," he said.

"We're building roads and putting in homes, but at the same time we're preserving the beauty of the natural surroundings."

Tours of this year's Dream House will be offered daily from noon to 8 p.m., between June 27 and Aug. 17.