



Waldmann Construction Inc. in St. Germain has built its fourth Energy Star home in the North Woods. The energy-efficient home was recently built in Arbor Vitae. --Contributed Photo

Waldmann Construction builds fourth Energy Star home here

ST. GERMAIN — Waldmann Construction Inc. has announced the completion of another Wisconsin Energy Star® home.

The high-performance home has been evaluated, built and tested to provide the homeowners with the means to better control their indoor environment, as well as save them money on their monthly energy bills, according to Waldmann Construction project manager Greg Baas.

Not only did the home meet Energy Star standards, but it rated in the top 5% of all homes built in Wisconsin in terms of energy efficiency.

The Arbor Vitae home was built for Donovan and Melody Gillespie after a fire completely destroyed their previous home last winter. The Gillespies wanted to build an Energy Star home because they wanted to do their part for the environment and be able to live in a less drafty, more efficient house.

The Gillespies chose Waldmann Construction Inc. to build their home because

they knew the company was an experienced Energy Star home builder, having already completed three other certified homes.

They also wanted a company that was knowledgeable with the new products and techniques that make a home more energy efficient, as well as a general contractor who would oversee the entire project, including help with all the insurance paperwork.

Melody Gillespie said the entire cost of the project was not significantly higher than that of a conventional home.

“We chose to upgrade many aspects of our home, including the heating system, windows and light fixtures,” said Melody Gillespie. “The extra expense has already paid off as our first utility bill was about 70% less than the same month last year.”

Wisconsin Energy Star homes are built tighter than a typical new home in Wisconsin, according to Baas.

“This is an important building characteristic and speaks to the high quality of construction that, when com-

bined with managed ventilation, potentially adds to the homeowners’ comfort, building durability, indoor air quality and energy efficiency,” said Baas.

The Gillespies’ home exceeded Energy Star airtightness guidelines by 67%.

Wisconsin Energy Star-certified homes also are more efficient in terms of heating than similar-sized new homes built in Wisconsin.

“This is significant considering Wisconsin’s tough building codes, and the fact that these savings have been verified through actual field studies,” said Baas. “Ventilation capacity is also tested to ensure moisture control and indoor air quality.”

The Gillespies’ home exceeded Energy Star ventilation capacity by 43%.

By satisfying Wisconsin Energy Star Homes Program standards, Baas said Waldmann Construction Inc. has done its part to protect the homeowners’ investment and provide them with a safe, comfortable, durable and energy-efficient home.