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STEPHEN THOMAS HOMES—EASY LIVING HOME COALITION- DREAM HOME® TOUR MARCH 8- 9TH AND 15-16TH

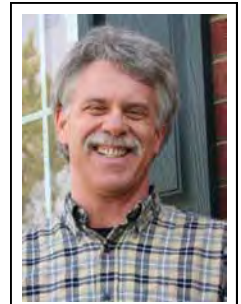
According to Stephen Thomas "Building new homes and renovating existing homes is more exciting – and challenging – than ever". Life happens to everyone. We see our parents aging. We ourselves age. We may personally suffer an injury and temporarily lose our own mobility, wondering how in the world we will ever be able to even get into our own home until we heal. Stephen Thomas Homes "gets it" and hopes to change the way new housing and renovation needs are addressed within our community by responding to the increasing demand for user-friendly and visitable housing.

"We are privileged to be part of the Virginia replication of the EasyLiving Home Coalition which originated in Georgia in 2002". The concept of EasyLiving Homes is to promote visitability for everyone, regardless of physical circumstances. At least one step-less entry, a master bedroom, full bathroom, cooking facilities and an entertainment area all on the ground level of these homes welcome everyone and create a user-friendly and comfortable environment for everyone from grandpar-

ents to the young couple with toddlers in tow. "We are proud to be involved with the introduction of this new certified home concept to the Commonwealth of Virginia".

Thomas, a 29 year home building veteran, says: "The formation of the EasyLiving Home Coalition is almost complete. The 501-c-3 is now legitimate and all we're waiting for is a finalization of the license agreement with the Georgia organization."

The philosophy behind these welcoming homes enables not only aging in place, but gives peace of mind to owners, knowing that they will not necessarily have to experience the



Stephen Thomas

stress of selling their existing home in the face of an unexpected change in
(cont'd on pg 6)



ODC Mission Statement

Our mission is to enable people with spinal cord injuries and disease to achieve their highest level of health, independence and quality of life.

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STEPHEN THOMAS HOMES (CONT'D FROM PG 1)

health or mobility, or purchasing a new home and suffering the ordeal of moving. According to Stephen Thomas Home's Penny Anderson: *"We hope to be able to care for our aging parents in the comfort of their own environment rather than seeing them unhappily relocated to an extended care facility". "The thoughtful design of EasyLiving Homes gives us the opportunity to welcome our loved ones into our daily lives and understand the many blessings of sharing all those great times we may well have otherwise missed. Small changes make these homes not only easy to visit, but highly marketable as well"*.

Anyone at least in their 40's, considering a new home investment, may want to think carefully about how many more times in their life they expect to move, and if they really want to face the possibility of maneuvering in a home with unwieldy exterior steps, unmanageable interior stairs, narrow halls and doorways, and completely inaccessible bathrooms. If you love entertaining and are a baby-boomer, how long will your existing home lend itself to gracious entertaining for everyone in your personal circle? If you love your neighborhood and hate the thought of moving, certain home modifications may also yield the result you desire, enhance your property values, and increase resale potential if you decide to move later.

The concepts of both EasyLiving Homes and Universal Design are relatively new to central Virginia, and Stephen Thomas Homes is committed to educating both its' neighbors and fellow builders about not only the benefits these design concepts embrace, but also the importance of including 'green' building elements and energy efficient products that contribute to personal health and the health of our environment as well.

According to Thomas *"A couple of years ago, we realized the importance of re-thinking our new home designs to reflect our commitment to building accessible and efficient housing that is livable for a lifetime for everyone. With each passing day we see a startling and growing need for homes that are friendlier and more convenient for us all, and we will strive to help our community meet this expanding demand"*.

We invite everyone to experience the first certified EasyLiving Home in Virginia, located at: 2332 Thomas Kenny Drive in the new Spring Lake subdivision in Glen Allen during the annual Dream Home® Tour from 11am-5pm on March 8- 9th and 15-16th. Please stop by and experience the comfort, freedom, and mobility an Easy-Living Home provides for everyone.

We encourage you to visit these websites for additional information:
www.easylivinghome.org , www.earthcrafthouseva-sf.org ,
www.energystar.gov

For more info contact Stephen Thomas Homes at: 804-672-6806
www.stchomes.com or visit the Home Building Association of Richmond's site at: www.hbar.org

