



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORMER WAUKESHA YWCA SITE SOON TO BE HOME TO AFFORDABLE GREEN HOUSING

Tim O'Brien Homes broke ground on the first of three single-family homes as part of revitalization efforts through the City of Waukesha and the Waukesha Redevelopment Authority.

Waukesha, WI (June 24, 2011) – Vacated in 2004 after 84 years of operation, the Waukesha YWCA building was demolished in May of 2010. Today, with the efforts of the City of Waukesha and the Waukesha Redevelopment Authority, the unused 2-acre greyfield site is being transformed into an affordable green-housing neighborhood with new single-family and two-family homes in a historic Waukesha neighborhood.

Dunbar Oaks Revitalization Neighborhood focuses on offering affordable, energy efficient homes and strengthens one of the City's oldest neighborhoods through reinvestment. The project became a reality in late 2009 when the City of Waukesha, in partnership with Waukesha County, secured a \$904,000 US. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Neighborhood Stabilization grant through the State of Wisconsin Department of Commerce to purchase the property, demolish the building, and prepare the site for redevelopment.

On Friday, June 24 at 9:00 am, Tim O'Brien Homes broke ground on the first of three single-family homes constructed by the Waukesha-based builder. The ceremony was attended by City of Waukesha Mayor, Jeff Scrima; Waukesha County Executive, Dan Vrakas; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Region V Administrator, Antonio Riley (previously the Director of the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority); and City of Waukesha Redevelopment Authority Chairman, Mike Ward from US Bank - who all spoke in regards to the Dunbar Oaks Neighborhood Project. The groundbreaking ceremony was held in Waukesha at the Dunbar Oaks Neighborhood at 320 N. West Avenue, Lot 3 (corner of Dunbar Street and West Avenue).

"This is a significant development adding to the quality and the revitalization of the City of Waukesha," said Community Development Director Steve Crandell. "This is a unique opportunity to build new homes that will add value to a long established neighborhood and revitalize a blighted property."

The homes that will be built are also noteworthy. Tim O'Brien Homes, a certified Green Built™ and Wisconsin ENERGY STAR® home builder, was selected by the Waukesha Redevelopment Authority to build three single-family homes which will be certified by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Green Building Program™ in the Dunbar Oaks Neighborhood. In fact, all the homes constructed will carry the certification. In addition to the Green Certification, Tim O'Brien Homes is striving to attain "Emerald" certification status, which would be the first Emerald qualified home in the State of Wisconsin through the NAHB Green Building Program.

"We are honored to be part of this project to bring affordable green homes to the City of Waukesha," says Tim O'Brien, president of Tim O'Brien Homes. "Given our green building philosophy, it is a natural progression for Tim O'Brien Homes to build in a revitalized neighborhood."

Each single-family Tim O'Brien home in Dunbar Oaks will feature a 3-kilowatt solar electric system, which will produce about one-third of the electrical demand for the home. Solar electric (photovoltaic or PV) power is a form of renewable energy that uses the sun's energy to generate electricity.

The three solar homes will feature approximately 1,700 square feet, three bedrooms, two and a half bathrooms, two-car detached garage, numerous energy-efficient features and will be priced below \$208,000. "We are providing an opportunity to introduce solar energy to interested consumers that previously would not have been able to afford it," added O'Brien.

When complete, Dunbar Oaks Neighborhood will feature eight single-family homes and three two-family condominiums and is within walking distance to the downtown Waukesha shopping district, the Riverwalk, Central Middle School, Waukesha Public Library, Carroll University, and many of the City's largest employers as well as having amenities such as Bethesda Springs Park, historic homes, a traditional neighborhood layout and a connection to the Glacier Drumlins State Trail.

For more information, call Tim O'Brien Homes at 262-542-5750, or email to info@TimOBrienHomes.com. Tim O'Brien Homes website is www.TimOBrienHomes.com.

Tim O'Brien Homes is a semi-custom, single-family home builder committed to energy efficiency, innovative designs, green building practices, and renewable technologies. Every home meets the Focus on Energy® and NAHB Green Building Program which are third party tested, ensuring a solid investment and low cost of home ownership. With over 17 years of home building experience in southeastern Wisconsin, their team of industry professionals have provided over 900 new homes to satisfied customers. A Tim O'Brien high-performance home can be built on a homebuyer's pre-owned lot or in one of Tim O'Brien Homes' neighborhoods.

Tim O'Brien, president of Tim O'Brien Homes, is a past-president of the Metropolitan Builders Association (MBA), active member of the National Association of Home Builders, and is the proud builder of the Wisconsin Trend Home (www.WITrendHome.com), a joint project with the Wisconsin Builders Association Foundation and the Energy Producing Home (www.EnergyProducingHome.com) featured in the 2009 MBA Parade of Homes.

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