

news of management promotions, corporate board appointments, and awards, runs each week. Send announcements by email to business@theblade.com or by fax to 419-724-6147. Write "Business Achievements" in the message field.

CALENDAR

■ Eastman & Smith Ltd. and Kaminsky & Associates will hold interactive seminars for business owners who want to learn more about the Affordable Care Act. The seminars all will be on Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.; this week in Toledo; April 17 in Findlay; April 24 in Archbold; May 1 in a Michigan city to be announced, and May 8 in Fremont. For more information or to register, contact Andrea M. Kenney at 419-247-1616 or aca@eastmansmith.com.

■ Cheryl Conley from the Alzheimer's Association of NW Ohio will be guest speaker at the Waterville Area Chamber of Commerce lunch from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. April 18 at Browning Masonic Community, 8883 Browning Dr., Waterville. Cost: Members \$12, others \$17. Info/registration: watervillechamber.com.

■ The Toledo Glass and Ceramic Award presentation and dinner will be April 18 at the Toledo Club, 235 14th Street, Toledo. This year's honoree is Larry Hench. Cost: \$35 members and guests, \$20 students with ID. RSVP by April 15 to 248-348-6585 or jebailey@wow-way.com.

■ A health-care forum to provide employers with Affordable Care Act updates will be 11 a.m.-noon May 10 at the PNC Auditorium, 405 Madison Ave. The panel will include State Rep. Barbara Sears, senior staff of the Ohio Department of Insurance, and an expert in employment law. Cost: \$15 for Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce members, \$25 for nonmembers. Register: 419-243-8191 or toledochamber.com/events.

Notice of business meetings must be received by The Blade 10 days before the event. Send items by email to business@theblade.com or by fax to 419-724-6147. Write "Business Calendar" in the message field.

TRANSITIONS

■ Walbridge-based Gem Inc. has acquired mechanical contracting and HVAC firm Morgan Mechanical Services from MDA Engineering in Maumee.

Green features abound in old-style house

Blissfield, Mich., firm produced made some custom, energy-efficient features

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

WEBSTER GROVES, Mo. — David and Thuy Smith's new house blends well with its neighbors, some more than a century old.

From its clapboard siding and stone-trimmed foundation to its wraparound porch with tapered Craftsman-style columns, the Smiths' house appears at home, so to speak.

But behind the old-time appearance is the latest in residential energy efficiency and low maintenance. Going green was the Smiths' goal when they decided in 2011 to leave their 1940s bungalow in Brentwood, Mo.

What they are getting is the first "active" house in North America, according to those involved in the project and specialty trade magazines.

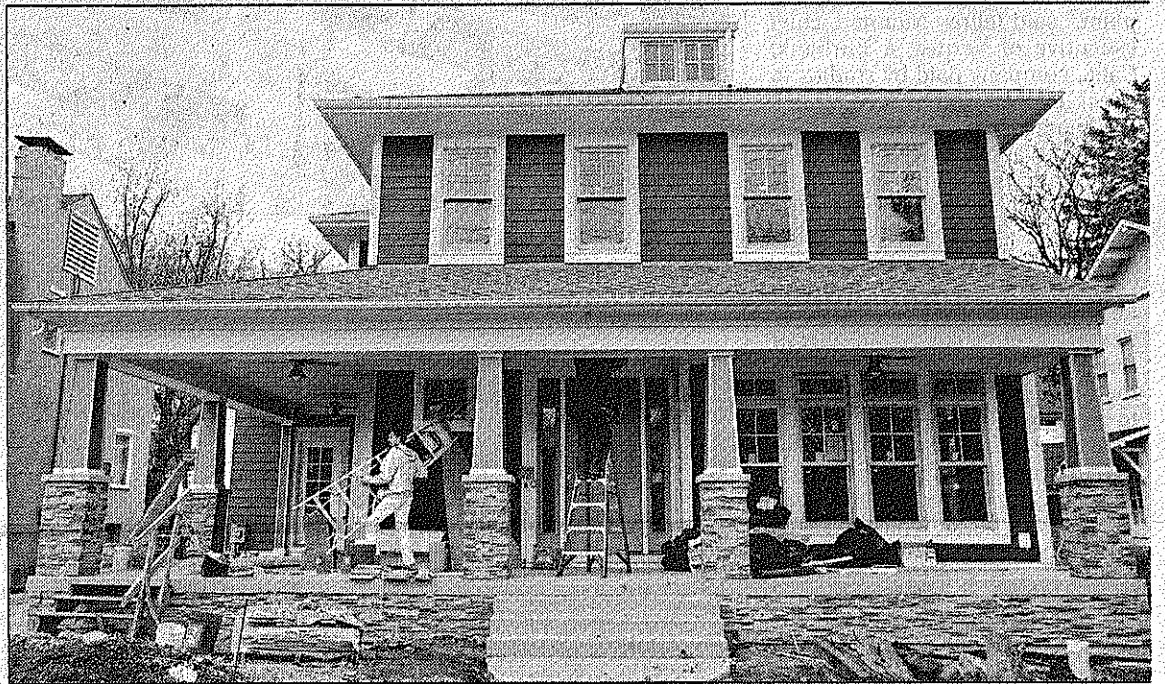
"Active" construction combines energy efficiency, healthy indoor air, and designs that take advantage of sun, shade, and breezes. "Active" house techniques are similar to those in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design houses in the United States.

The Smiths and their daughter, Cameron, 6, plan to move in next month.

In his design, architect Jeff Day of St. Louis included numerous skylights to brighten the interior and, when open, to provide ventilation. The broad porch — something common before air-conditioning — shades first-floor rooms and protects part of the home's fiber-cement siding.

The durable siding is attached to the home's structural insulated panels. That, in builder talk, is a term for energy-efficient exterior walls. SIPs, as they're called, have a foam insulation core that's sandwiched between sheets of high-strength oriented strand board.

Matt Belcher, a specialist in "green" construction, said SIPs



ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

A firm from Blissfield, Mich., is providing the energy-efficient exterior walls in the house under construction in Webster Groves, Mo. Many active houses in Europe are modern looking, but this house, with clapboard siding and wraparound porch, is right at home in a traditional neighborhood.

have advantages over traditional building methods. One is quick construction because SIPs arrive at building sites ready for use. Mr. Belcher, manager of the Smith project, said the home's walls went up in a week. InsulSpan of Blissfield, Mich., provided custom-made SIPs shipped by truck.

Belcher works with Velux Group, a Danish manufacturer of skylights and solar panels that helped form the Active House Alliance in 2010 in Copenhagen. The group has promoted construction in Europe of about two dozen "active" houses, many of starkly modern design.

Kim Hibbs, whose Hibbs Homes is building the Smiths' house, said last year that "active" construction is a Danish version of LEED construction without the detailed doc-

umentation of efficiencies required for certification.

He said last week that the traditional design for the Smiths' house shows that "active" homes don't have to look like "a spaceship," an appearance the owners wanted to avoid.

"You can build a deep green house in a St. Louis neighborhood, and it will look like it has been here for decades," Mr. Hibbs said.

The Smiths' house is the deepest of greens. In addition to SIPs, the house has two arrays of rooftop solar panels — one to heat water and another to provide much of the home's electrical needs. Electricity-sipping LED lighting exists throughout. Grains of quartz in the roof shingles will reflect summer heat and help keep the interior cool.

All of the upstairs bedrooms have skylights. Two more at the top of the stairwell can be opened to allow breezes to circulate and vent unwanted heat.

The Smiths' detached garage is wired for a car charger if they opt for battery-powered transportation. The garage also has space to store compressed natural gas in case the family chooses a vehicle that runs on CNG.

David Smith, 38, said he and Ms. Smith, also 38, got involved in every facet of the house project, especially after learning from Belcher, Day, and Hibbs that "active" construction can be adapted to any location.

"The great thing about what they're doing is that it's a building standard that can be done anywhere," he said.

Many ways to clean mold, mildew from deck

Q: I have two decks at my home, one on top of the other. The treated lumber floor joists on the upper deck are covered with a black and green film. The water that drips through the floor boards transfers the gunk to our



with a regular nozzle.

When powdered oxygen bleach is mixed with water, it releases countless oxygen ions that break apart mold, mildew, and algae. The solution is not harmful to any of the landscaping, lawn, or trees

into the wood to deep-clean it. Allow the solution to soak on the wood for at least 10 minutes, and then use a scrub brush on a pole to lightly clean the surfaces. Immediately rinse the scrubbed areas with clean water. You'll be amazed at