

MEDIA ADVISORY

Wednesday, October 13, 2004

PENNSYLVANIA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

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***LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR CATHERINE BAKER KNOLL WILL ATTEND
“VISITABLE” OPEN HOUSE IN DAUPHIN COUNTY***

- WHO:** Lieutenant Governor Catherine Baker Knoll, Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency; Pennsylvania Housing Research/Resource Center of Penn State University; Life and Independence for Today (LIFT); Zimmer Grove Homes, Harrisburg; Liberty Homes, Pocono Lake; JAYAR Construction Co., Inc., Turtle Creek; Montgomery & Rust, Inc., Allison Park; SHC, Inc., Cannon Custom Homes, Glenn Riddle; and, Palumbo Construction, DuBois
- WHAT:** VisitAbility Open House—recognition of participants in the *VisitAbility in Pennsylvania* Initiative at a newly constructed “visitable” house built by Zimmer Grove Homes.
- WHERE:** 5837 Simsbury Drive, in the Stoney Brook Development off Stoney Brook Drive (Lower Paxton Township), two miles east of the Union Deposit Interchange (Exit 48, old Exit 29) of Interstate 83 near Harrisburg.
- WHEN:** 1:00 pm through 3:00 pm, Thursday, October 14, 2004.
Presentation of special recognition awards at 1:30 pm.
- WHY:** Lieutenant Governor Catherine Baker Knoll will visit the site to promote the concept of “visitable” features in new home construction among the public, the real estate community, and within the building industry. Key “visitable” features are:
- *At least one “no-step” entrance
 - *Wide doorways allowing wheelchair entry
 - *Barrier-free travel throughout main floor
 - *Bathroom providing basic access.

The concept is that these features can be added to new homes at minimal costs, making houses more “visitable” for family members and acquaintances with mobility impairments. Six building companies participated in the statewide program. The project was funded by the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, and is administered by Life and Independence for Today (LIFT), originators of *VisitAbility* in Pennsylvania. Research is provided by the Pennsylvania Housing Research/Resource Center of Penn State University.

Media participation in this event is welcomed and encouraged.

DIRECTIONS TO THE VISITABILITY OPEN HOUSE
5837 Simsbury Drive
Stoneybrook Development

From Interstate 83 east of Harrisburg take Exit 48 (Union Deposit) and go east on Union Deposit Road for slightly more than two miles. Union Deposit Road will turn into a country two-lane, blind-curve, “think-you-may-have-driven-too-far” kind of road, and, just past a VFW sign on the left (north side) and a Jehovah’s Witness Tabernacle on the right (south side of the road), round a tight right turn, turn right up hill onto Stoney Brook Drive into the Stoney Brook Development. Then turn right onto Simsbury Drive. Go to the end of Simsbury Drive. The house, number 5837 Simsbury Drive will be well marked on the south side of the cul-de-sac.

If traveling by the Pennsylvania Turnpike (Interstate 76), use Exit 247, (Harrisburg East) and drive north on Interstate 283 until reaching Interstate 83. Go a couple miles north on I-83 until reaching the Union Deposit Exit.

If arriving by Interstate 81, take Exit 70 onto Interstate 83 South. The Union Deposit Exit is a couple miles south of I-81.