

EasyLiving News

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EasyLiving Homes^{cm} are homes built "for life."

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DID YOU KNOW?

New Ordinance Requires TRCC to Provide List of Homebuilders Who Provide Accessible Floorplans

You know that on September 1, 2007, Texas *House Bill 1038* went into effect. But did you know that it includes requiring the Texas Residential Construction Commission (TRCC) to make available to the public a list of homebuilders "who are registered with the commission; and provide in this state building services, including **accessible floorplans**, to persons with mobility-related special needs." (cont. on pg. 2)

OVER-55 POPULATION TO REACH 85 MILLION BY 2014

A report from the National Association of Home Builders' (NAHB) 50+ Housing Council predicts that the 55+ population is expected to reach 85 million by 2014. The number of households in the 65-74 age bracket by itself will grow by 4.5 million between 2005 and 2014, an increase of more than 38 percent in only 10 years. (<http://www.ghba.org/50PlusAnnouncement.asp>)

SO WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR HOMEBUILDERS?

Baby Boomers are today's largest homebuying market AND **EasyLiving Home^{cm} Texas** is an **easy and inexpensive** option homebuilders can offer to this growing market.

WHAT IS EASYLIVING HOME^{cm} TEXAS?

EasyLiving Home^{cm} Texas is a nonprofit statewide voluntary visitable home certification program.

VISITABILITY

an international movement to change home construction practices so that virtually all new homes --whether or not designated for residents who currently have mobility impairments-- offer a few specific accessibility features.

Wikipedia

EasyLiving homes are built for individuals who do not have disabilities. Yet, because an EasyLiving home^{cm} incorporates minimum accessibility features into the the home, it is easily adaptable **for homeowners to age-in-place** and/or allows individuals who use wheelchairs, walkers, canes, crutches, etc. to comfortably visit the homeowners.

For more information, please visit: www.easylivinghometexas.org.

DID YOU KNOW?

(cont. from page 1)

AND WHAT ABOUT VOLUME BUILDERS WHO DO NOT PROVIDE ACCESSIBLE FLOOR PLANS?

H.B. 1038 states, “The commission shall contact all volume builders in this state and **encourage those builders to develop floorplans** that are designed to be accessible for persons with mobility-related special needs.”

EASYLIVING HOME^{cm} TEXAS IS A SIMPLE SOLUTION THAT GETS YOU ON THE LIST

When you become an EasyLiving Home^{cm} Texas member builder, the program can work with you to

create at least one **EasyLiving Home^{cm} floorplan** that you can offer to homebuyers as an option. If you already have a floorplan in mind, the program can work with you to offer that particular plan as an EasyLiving Home^{cm}.

For more information about *HB 1038* Sec. 409.0011, go to www.legis.state.tx.us/tlodocs/80R/billtext/pdf/HB01038F.pdf. For more information about EasyLiving Home^{cm} Texas, please call 713-520-0232 ext. 112 or visit www.easylivinghometexas.org.

FEATURED EASYLIVING HOME^{cm} TEXAS MEMBER BUILDER

Estate Craft Homes, Inc. Casey Butaud, President

Based in Conroe, this custom home builder recently joined the EasyLiving Home^{cm} Texas program as one of the options to **maintain status for the Star Builder Program**. This decision benefits homebuyers as they are able to choose an EasyLiving Home^{cm} as an optional floor plan.

Simple and beautiful - - this certified EasyLiving Home^{cm} in Stone Creek will provide lasting benefits for many years; whether its the ease of moving in because of wider doors and hallways, or the comfort of having the option to age-in-place - - all are features the homeowners are sure to appreciate!



**The EasyLiving Home^{cm} Texas program - -
a win-win concept for
homeowners AND homebuilders!**

ARE YOU ALREADY INCORPORATING ACCESSIBLE FEATURES INTO YOUR NEW HOMES?

A number of new home builders say they are incorporating accessibility into the construction of their homes - - this is great news for homebuyers!

BUT ARE YOU TRULY PROVIDING ACCESSIBLE FEATURES? Many builders believe they are providing accessibility when the reality is - they may not be.

As an EasyLiving Home^{cm} Texas member builder, you receive any needed technical assistance, the **home is site-visited during construction to ensure it meets the requirements** AND when certified - authenticates to homeowners that the home truly meets minimum accessible standards.

IT'S A NICHE! If you are building visitable homes - then market the features! Building visitable homes is a marketing niche you can't afford to miss. As an EasyLiving Home^{cm} Texas Member Builder you can market

that you offer an EasyLiving Home - - an option homeowners will appreciate for years!

SO WHAT REASON DO YOU HAVE NOT TO BECOME AN EASYLIVING HOME^{cm} TEXAS MEMBER BUILDER? Can't think of one? Then download the member builder application at www.easylivinghometexas.org/builderApplication.html and get started with the program today!

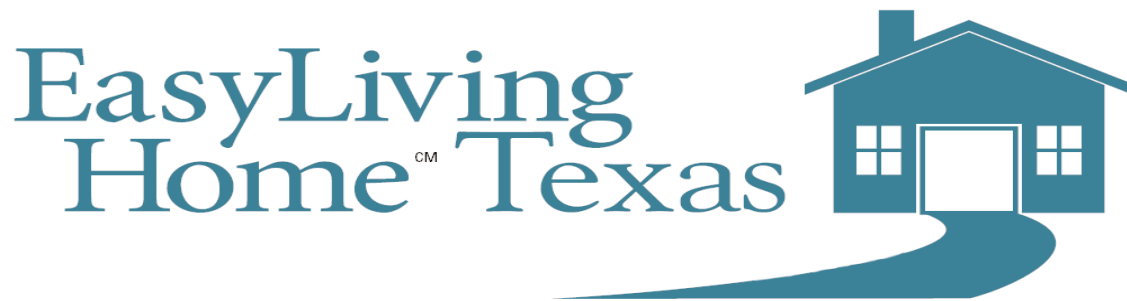


FEATURES OF AN EASYLIVING HOME

- Accessible path that leads to a zero-step door threshold (Can be the front door or garage);
- A first floor (can be a two-story home) that includes:
 - Access to at least one entertainment area (living room/den/family room)
 - Access to the kitchen - All guests love to gather in the kitchen!
 - Access to at least one sleeping room;
- Access to at least one bathroom that provides a tub or shower, a sink and a commode with at least 48-inch space adjacent to each of these (the space can overlap) and have a clear door swing to provide room for the door to be closed;
- All interior doors need to provide at least 32 inches of clear passage.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

FROM



The logo that means you are purchasing a home
that genuinely offers minimum accessibility.

www.easylivinghometexas.org

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