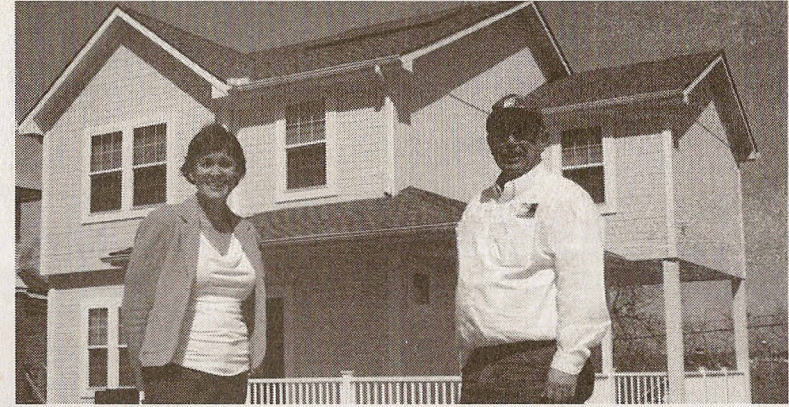


Spring Homes



Ann Brandau Murguia, executive director of Argentine Neighborhood Development Association and Unified Government commissioner in the 3rd District, and Bob Solger, proprietor of the Energy Savings Store. (Photo by Bettse Folsom)

Building affordable energy-efficient homes in KCK

by Bettse Folsom

Ann Brandau Murguia, executive director of Argentine Neighborhood Development Association and Unified Government 3rd District commissioner, will speak at 2:30 p.m. April 29 at the 2010 BPU Build Green Conference, Reardon Civic Center, 520 Minnesota. Her presentation, which includes assistance from Bob Solger, proprietor of the Energy Savings Store, will focus on "New Affordable Homes Made More Affordable through Energy Efficiency and Solar."

Both Murguia and Solger have first-hand experience in

this technology. Collaborating, they were able to develop three homes in the Argentine neighborhood near 12th and Ruby that include energy-efficient central heating and cooling fixtures, solar energy, and practical design. They included 1,600 square feet, four bedrooms and three baths. All three homes were sold for \$165,000 to \$170,000. The previous four newer homes built in Argentine by ANDA several years before were not based on energy-efficient methods and sold for \$155,000.

Murguia said that ANDA is measuring the potential cost savings for a year of the energy-efficient homes vs. the previous ones built. They will share the data in the future.

"(I found building energy-efficient homes) a little (complicated) in the beginning," Murguia said. "I really questioned if we were doing the right thing. I relied heavily on our general contractor and solar contractor for advice."

Murguia said that she personally knew very little about energy-efficient options available for residential housing

and spent a lot of time reading and talking to people who had installed solar on their homes. She said there are so many options, it can be confusing, but she met with several different energy-efficient contractors.

"(The most rewarding) feeling (was being) very confident that everything we were doing to those homes was going to save our home buyers money for the rest of their lives," Murguia said.

Six additional houses based on energy-efficient models are planned for the

Argentine area this summer, Murguia said. They will have different floor plans and include some handicap accessible amenities for the elderly and disabled.

To learn more about Argentine Neighborhood Development Association, go to www.andakck.org. To learn more about the Energy Savings Store, go to www.ewindandsolar.com.

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