

Phillips Farm: Customized homes at a great price

By Mike Springer

Phillips Farm is attracting homebuyers with its custom craftsmanship and affordable prices.

“It’s Avon quality at East Hartford prices,” said new homeowner Joseph Ierna.

Joseph and Johanna Ierna found themselves quickly drawn to the 18-acre development in a cozy hamlet near East Hartford’s Silver Lane.

“We liked the development – we liked the location and easy accessibility – but what we were most impressed by was the builder, who met with us personally,” Joe Ierna said.

“He was just so engaging and accommodating that we felt we could do something really nice with our home.”

The developer, Bill Ferrigno, is a third-generation homebuilder and the owner of Sunlight Construction.

“I think any person who’s going to trust me to build their house should know who I am and my business philosophy,” Ferrigno said.

“Many of our customers like to have upgrades and to add customized options, so I like to know exactly what they want and what they need,” he said.

Like many families who move into active-adult communities, the Iernas wanted a house that would be comfortable for the two of them but had enough room to accommodate visiting children and grandchildren.

They also wanted to customize their home. They extended the hardwood floor from the kitchen to the sunroom, upgraded to granite countertops and added a wine cellar in the basement.

They also asked for French doors leading to their patio and backyard – outdoor space that is perfect for lazy summer afternoons.

“I like being outside, gardening and grilling,” Ierna said. “We like this backyard because it will give us a lot more room for when we want to do those activities.”

Joe Ierna also escapes to the sunroom, where he listens to opera or watches March Madness basketball.

Johanna Ierna’s favorite features are the French doors and ample closet space. But it was in a cozy hamlet near East Hartford’s Silver Lane, the developer’s flexibility and willingness to meet their needs that impressed her most.

“We had talked to other people and looked at other places, but none came close to having that same flexibility that we found here,” her husband said.

That flexibility extends to the house style buyers can choose from.

Phillips Farm offers nine custom home designs. There are six cape designs, including the 2006 HOBI Award-winning Cornwall, which was recognized as “best 55+ detached home for over 2,000 square feet.”

Buyers can also choose from Saybrook A and B models, the Westbrook model, the Stratford A and B models, the Madison model and the Guilford model.

The 1,500 square-foot Saybrook model A model features a two car garage, 2.5 baths, a cathedral ceiling in the living room, a dining room and three bedrooms. The listing price is \$259,900.

The 2,100 square-foot Guilford comes with a two-car garage, three baths, a den and three bedrooms for \$329,900.

There are also three custom ranches: Clinton, Mystic and Greenwich.

The ranches range from the 1,150 square-foot Clinton – which has a one car garage, two bedrooms and two baths and lists for \$259,900 – to the 1,900 square foot Greenwich, which features a two-car garage, two bathrooms and two bedrooms for \$309,900.

All of the houses come with GE appliances, Andersen Thermopane vinyl windows, Lennox heating systems and Moen fixtures. The larger homes come with Corian kitchen countertops and cultured marble sinks in the master baths.

Each also comes with an attached one-or two-car garage, central air conditioning, high efficiency natural gas heating and a full basement.

Gas fireplaces are standard with the larger models; buyers of smaller have the option of adding one.

Location was another strong draw for the Iernas. Phillips Farm is a short distance from Bradley International Airport and Interstate 91. It is also near Hartford Hospital and St. Francis Hospital.

The community is on a bus line, so residents can hop aboard for a ride to the nearby Buckland Hills Mall, Evergreen Walk and Somerset Square without worrying about traffic and the rising price of gas. Walgreens, Stop & Shop and the post office are all within walking distance from Phillips Farm. Or they can just stay home and enjoy the area.

“ I think East Hartford is going through a renaissance” Joseph Ierna said. “ I think Rentschler Field and Cabelas will have a positive effect on the area and that this city going to be something special.”

For more information, stop by the Phillips Farms sales office on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m.

Or contact Phillips Farm’s Director of Sales, Cathy McCahill, at 1-860-568-2000 or email at cathy@sunlightconstruction.com. You may also visit the Phillips Farm website at www.phillips-farm.com.