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Tuesday, November 20, 2007

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Thursday, November 8, 2007



Photo by Sam Wolfe

Gustavo Olivo, left, and members of the crew from Jones Masonry of Vero Beach on Wednesday level out the foundation for a home that will be built for Martha Rainey on State Street in Fellsmere. On Saturday, crews will be building two homes in one day — one for Rainey's family and one for Pamela Jefferson's family

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**FELLSMERE** — Very little has occurred to dampen the preparation for the benevolent effort to build two homes this Saturday in the Carter Hall James subdivision.

Regatta Construction and a few dozen contractors are planning to build from scratch a pair of three-bedroom homes for two needy families on State Street.

"We don't have to sweat the manpower," Regatta supervisor Ron Harless said.

But frequent rain last month had Regatta officials concerned about keeping the project on track.

October's rain had left the ground moist where the dirt foundation had been laid for one of the properties. Harless said if the ground hadn't dried in time for last week's compaction test, the construction may have been delayed.

But the ground proved dry enough for a work crew from Jones Masonry of Vero Beach to pour the concrete base for the home Wednesday. Prestige Ab Ready Mix of Fort Pierce donated the cement.

"The rain helps out in the compaction, but it needs time to dry out," Harless said.

Pamela Jefferson, a mother of two who is on workers' compensation, sought government money to help make her repairs on her worn-down home, but couldn't get any.

That's when the Indian River County Health Department's Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence program learned of her plight and got Regatta executives interested in replacing her home. The program conducts meetings in communities and tries to develop solutions.

Jefferson's next-door neighbor, Martha Rainey, 63, was in a similar plight, which is why Regatta agreed to build a home for her in one day as well.

Their neighborhood, Carter Hall James in the northeast part of Fellsmere, is predominately filled with low-income families.

Work crews tore down the families' old homes during the summer and Regatta has held several organizational meetings since then to prepare for building the new homes.

Last year, Regatta built a home in one day for a needy Wabasso woman.

Organizers for Saturday's construction said they're unaware of any other benevolent effort to build two homes in a day.

### **Regatta Construction of Vero Beach and several contractors will try to build two new homes in Fellsmere in one day. Here's the game plan:**

6 a.m. — Erection of pre-built framework for the walls of the homes.

8:30 a.m. — Plumbing, air conditioning and electrical installation

10:30 a.m. — Roof installation

1:45 p.m. — Cabinets, shelves and countertops

2:30 p.m. — Water and electrical connections

3 p.m. — Landscaping and appliances

4 p.m. — Final inspection

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#### **COMMENTS(6)**

#1 Posted by **hoobachick817** on November 8, 2007 at 7:46 a.m. ([Suggest removal](#))

Amazing that they are able to build a home for a needy family in a day, however if you are paying for your home it takes 6 months to a year to build... somethings not right.

#2 Posted by **murdoc240** on November 8, 2007 at 9:39 a.m. ([Suggest removal](#))

I checked the time table and did not see any time set aside for code inspectors. Or is this a case of a big company patting itself on the back ... using the media for exposure ... and turning its nose up at the laws us common folk have to fight with.

#3 Posted by **JennDavis** on November 8, 2007 at 1:48 p.m. ([Suggest removal](#))

They have their own private inspectors on site during the entire process. So shove it murdoc. And hoobachick, when you have hundreds and hundreds of people on-site to do the work, and an inspector to make sure everything is being done correctly, it can get done. They did it last year, they'll do it again this year. But twice as good this time around.

#4 Posted by **murdoc240** on November 9, 2007 at 7:24 a.m. ([Suggest removal](#))

You wouldn't happen to have your hands in this Jenn would you? And by the way there is no such thing as a private county inspector.

#5 Posted by **junehall** on November 9, 2007 at 11:41 a.m. ([Suggest removal](#))

MURDOC SORRY TO BURST YOUR BUBBLE, BUT MY HUSBAND IS A PRIVATE INSPEVTOR, AND GOOD LUCK GUYS WITH THE HOUSE.

#6 Posted by **JennDavis** on November 9, 2007 at 7:15 p.m. ([Suggest removal](#))

Murdoc- EVERY city and county allows private inspectors to inspect buildings. Mostly because the city and county ones dont even bother walking on a roof or checking things out- they will just pass by, look and ok the job. Plenty of builders my company works with uses them and they are 100% valid. So why dont you try and comment on something you know about next time, not something you know nothing about.

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