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Manasquan builder to be featured on History Channel

By Chris Sheldon

A home that is in the process of being built at 415 Carter Ave. in Point Pleasant Beach will be featured on the History Channel's "Modern Marvels" series next year.

Terrance Hegel is the owner of Atlantic Modular Builders, which is building the house for a family currently residing in Howell.

Atlantic Modular Builders, based in Manasquan, specializes in factory-built modular homes.

Mr. Hegel said the History Channel contacted him about three weeks ago and asked him if he would like to be featured on an episode of Modern Marvels that focused on cars and homes that can be built quickly.

He said a friend of his on the West Coast gave the History Channel his name and he jumped at the opportunity to be featured.

Mr. Hegel said the house is built in four large sections, two for the upper floor and attic and two for the lower floor, in a factory in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Hegel said the four sections were built in about five days and arrived in Point Pleasant Beach last Tuesday.

The four sections come with the windows, doors, cabinets and sinks already installed.

The house is also built "weather tight" so it can withstand rain and the elements while construction is taking place.

The four sections of the house were combined and

built into a three-bedroom, two- and one-half bath, 2,000-square-foot unit in about seven hours, according to Mr. Hegel.

Mr. Hegel said modular housing is not a new science, but has been more heavily utilized in recent years.

"It's been around 20-plus years, and is becoming more popular now," Mr. Hegel said.

"They're high quality houses and can be built faster, cleaner and stronger than normal housing."

Mr. Hegel said modular homes are energy efficient and that recyclable materials are used for certain phases of construction.

He said the factory recycles every piece of scrap used during construction.

He also said that during traditional building, four Dumpsters are usually needed to handle waste. During the construction of the house on Carter Avenue, only one Dumpster was needed.

"Most of the waste will be generated from the building of the porch," Mr. Hegel said.

He said the quick construction is also more convenient for neighbors.

"We built this house in a few hours compared to six months with traditional construction," Mr. Hegel said.

"It's less irritating for neighbors and they won't be listening to generators and our equipment."

He said the house should be complete in about three months.

"The owners should be able

to celebrate Christmas in their new home, and it will be very attractive when it is finished," Mr. Hegel said.

On Wednesday, a producer, assistant, cameraman, and soundman were present during the house's construction.

"They interviewed me and I did a few walkthroughs of the house," Mr. Hegel said.

Mr. Hegel said the episode will show three components of modular housing including construction in the factory, construction at the site and the finished product.

He said he would be heading out to Pennsylvania with the History Channel crew to shoot the factory portion of the episode.

He added that the crew went to a completed modular house in Spring Lake to shoot additional footage.

Mr. Hegel said he was flattered that the History Channel would choose to feature him on "Modern Marvels."

"I'm excited about what I do and I love talking about it," Mr. Hegel said. "They wanted to choose somebody who was active enough in modular housing to actually see the process happening."

He is looking forward to seeing how the episode turns out.

"I want to see how they spin it," Mr. Hegel said. "People are interested in how the process works and what the capabilities of modular homes are."

He said this episode of "Modern Marvels" is supposed to run in the spring of 2010.



SUEANNE GOSS, The Coast Star

Atlantic Modular Builders, based in Manasquan, built a modular home on Carter Avenue in Point Pleasant Beach last week. The History Channel filmed the construction for an upcoming episode of its series, "Modern Marvels."

Mr. Hegel has been the owner of Atlantic Modular Builders for five years and has overseen the construction of 25 modular homes during that time.

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