

# TREASURE *Homes*

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## Fallen Leaf at Riverbend Wins Gold Nugget Award of Merit

**(SACRAMENTO, Calif.)** –Treasure Homes in Sacramento is solidifying its position as the leading green builder in Northern California with its recent Awards of Merit at the California Building Industry Association's Gold Nugget Awards. A finalist in both the Sustainable Residential Community and the California Green Builder Community categories, its Fallen Leaf at Riverbend community is the most comprehensive energy-saving community in the Sacramento region.

“We are proud that our industry colleagues have recognized our efforts in energy efficiency and resource conservation,” said Jim Bayless, president of Treasure Homes. “We are dedicated to combining the highest construction and design standards with today’s energy technology to provide efficient, beautiful and comfortable homes for Sacramento homebuyers.”

Treasure Homes has partnered with the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) to open Fallen Leaf at Riverbend, the foremost Zero Energy Home community in Sacramento. At Fallen Leaf, residents may actually receive a check from SMUD each month, instead of a bill for their electricity use. By incorporating built-in energy efficient components and state-of-the-art renewable energy sources, these homes reduce the homeowner’s utility costs and help protect the environment.

The project has been named a California Green Builder Community, a designation

awarded by the California Building Industry Association, which recognizes that Treasure Homes is using energy-saving components that will lead to quantifiable environmental savings. California Green Builders must incorporate higher energy efficiency standards, home water and wood conservation, advanced ventilation design and installation, as well as waste diversion and recycling techniques into their communities.

But energy savings is just one of the perks at Fallen Leaf. Recreation is an easy escape, with close proximity to the Sacramento River and the American River Bike Trail. With quality construction, elegant design, upscale amenities, a great location and a reasonable price, this community is the perfect place to balance life. Fallen Leaf at Riverbend offers four different floor plans ranging in size from 1,026 to 2,271 square feet.

The goal of the Zero Energy Home program is to reduce homeowners' utility bills by up to 50%. "In a time when energy conservation is a huge concern for all of us, we are putting our efforts into creating homes that can truly create more energy than their residents use," explains Bayless. "Not only is that a fantastic benefit for our environment, but homeowners will also see a direct, positive benefit to their pocketbooks."

State-of-the-art energy efficiency, solar power and "green" building techniques are a perfect fit for Fallen Leaf, because this community was designed by Treasure Homes using many of the "smart growth" principles that are endorsed by the "SACOG Blueprint". As the Sacramento region's first comprehensive long-term land use plan, the Blueprint seeks to improve the future quality of life for the region and to reduce the resource demands and environmental impacts of our growing population. By providing "right-sized" homes on smaller lots on an in-fill site that is close to jobs, transit, recreation and downtown, Treasure Homes' design for this community helps the Sacramento region achieve the goals of the Blueprint.

The primary feature of these energy efficient homes is the solar panel system. With a low profile design, these solar panels are nearly invisible on the roof, virtually maintenance-free and offer a 25-year warranty.

“The homes at Fallen Leaf are directly connected to the electric grid,” says Mike Keese, the coordinator of SMUD’s solar advantage home program. “They will be generating free energy from the sun during the day, even if no one is home. If a homeowner uses less energy than their home has put onto the grid, they will have a “zero” energy bill from SMUD.” According to Keese, homeowners can “bank” a certain amount of energy from SMUD from which they can draw from during the months they will use more energy than they’ve produced.

But the solar panel system isn’t the only energy saving and environmentally friendly feature in these homes. A short list includes:

- Dual flushing toilets that can save up to 20,000 gallons of water a year
- Radiant heat barrier which can reduce energy consumption up to 35% during peak hours
- Tankless water heater – saves up to 50% in energy costs compared with traditional water heaters
- GE Energy Star appliances
- Long lasting, energy efficient lighting
- Enhanced exterior moisture control with vapor barrier membrane
- Super-efficient, dual paned windows with specially coated “Solarban” glazing to reduce radiant heat gain
- Gas fireplaces that burn cleanly and efficiently without generating airborne particulates
- Total wall insulation
- Non-toxic insect and mold deterrents

To visit Fallen Leaf at Riverbend, exit Interstate 5 at W. El Camino and go west to Orchard. Turn left onto Soaring Hawk Lane. From Interstate 80, exit W. El Camino and go east to Orchard and turn right. The sales office is open everyday from 10am to 6pm. For more information call Jake Allen at (916) 923-3770.

For more information on Treasure Homes, visit [www.treasurehomes.com](http://www.treasurehomes.com).

The Gold Nugget Awards will be presented at PCBC 2006 in San Francisco. The award ceremonies featuring the “Best in the West” winners will be held on Thursday, June 22, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. at San Francisco’s Moscone Convention Center. For more information on award winners and category descriptions visit [www.goldnuggetawards.com](http://www.goldnuggetawards.com).

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Photo Cutline: Fallen Leaf at Riverbend offers four floorplans with two to four bedrooms and two or three bathrooms in great location close to the downtown corridor.