

# Avtec's Constellation 5 model can make you money

BY MARIA SONNENBERG  
 FOR FLORIDA TODAY

A house that can actually put money in your pocket - imagine that!

Actually, you don't have to test your imaginative skills, for the house is very real. In fact, it is the Showcase Home for this spring's Parade of Homes.

Avtec Homes' Constellation 5 model at Manchester Lakes in West Melbourne has plenty of thoughtful features carefully crafted to maximize space and comfort, but the star of the home's list of features is its energy miserliness.

"It generates as much electricity as it consumes," said Avtec president Sandi Sietsma Forest.

"If you don't consume what you generate, Florida Power & Light will buy the extra from you."

The idea for the Constellation 5 came from the personal experience of Avtec Homes owner Larry Sietsma.

"He has a photo-voltaic system at his own home and was very impressed by it," said Sietsma Forest, his daughter.

"He saw this as the trend for the future."

Photo voltaic technology of solar roof panels, combined with



the Eco-Star High Performance package, allows for this triumph over energy costs.

The optional Eco-Star package includes a solar-powered 80-gallon hot water heater, radiant barrier between ceiling and roof, R-38 insulation in ceiling, 15-seer insula-



The Constellation 5 Model at Manchester Lakes in Melbourne is this Spring's Parade of Homes Showcase Home. Avtec Homes is the builder of this model which is entry #6 along the parade route.

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tion in ceiling and Low-E double pane windows.

Add Energy Star appliances and the home's operational costs are indeed easy on the wallet. The Constellation 5 is also easy on the eye, with a design that includes all the must-haves together with a flexible floor plan that makes full use of every inch of space.

Base price for the Constellation 5 is \$204,900. The model home, with all the bells and whistles, goes for \$258,580. The 2,175-square-foot residence features four bedrooms, three baths and a den. The guest suite includes a full private bath.

"You can bring in your in-laws or your parents and they will have plenty of privacy," said Sietsma Forest.

The only problem could be they may not want to leave.

One-floor living makes it easier on the knees for everyone in the family.

"We do pack a lot of room and bathrooms all

**WHAT:** Spring 2014 Parade of Homes  
**WHERE:** Various locations throughout Brevard County  
**HOURS:** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays, and noon until 5 p.m. on Sundays, now through April 13  
**INFORMATION:** Call 321.254.3700 or visit [floridatoday.com/paradeofhomes](http://floridatoday.com/paradeofhomes)

in one floor, so you don't have to go upstairs," said Sietsma Forest.

The Showcase Home sports tile floors in all the wet areas, oak, maple or cherry cabinetry, granite countertops, sprinkler system and storm shutters for all glass openings.

The Constellation 5's open plan, which flows from dining area to living room and family room, is centered on the kitchen, which includes an expansive walk-in pantry.

"We get a lot of comments about how large our walk-in pantry is," said Sietsma Forest.

"You have plenty of room to stock up from BJ's or Sam's."

Only nine lots are left

for Avtec to build at Manchester Lakes, conveniently located to shopping, restaurants and schools.

In 2004, Larry Sietsma - who 20 years before had launched what was to become one of the nation's largest home building companies - founded Avtec Homes with the goal of creating affordable, energy-efficient residences. With the Constellation 5, Sietsma proved that efficiency and affordability can indeed go hand in hand.

Avtec Homes' Constellation 5 model is located at 1797 Attilburgh Blvd., West Melbourne. For more information, call 321-733-6014 or visit [avtechomes.com](http://avtechomes.com). **HF**

