

Wonderland models open today at Stapleton:

Deserving Iraq veteran gets a new home by Wonderland in Stapleton's new Willow Park East neighborhood



On The HOME FRONT

Mark Samuelson

In a year when families are clamoring to get into new homes with good amenities, builders in Stapleton's Willow Park East are working non-stop to get homes ready. But yesterday, Wonderland Homes' team took some time off to scribble welcome messages on the drywall going up in one of their newest homes. This summer, the family of U.S. Army Sgt. Marco Dominguez will move in, bought-and-paid for by Wonderland, its contractors and suppliers, and by Stapleton master developer Forest City.

During his second tour in

Iraq, Sgt. Dominguez earned a purple heart after an armor-piercing charge struck the vehicle he and his squad were traveling in. Last month, he, wife Tammi and three kids were at an Avs game at the Pepsi Center when they got word of what they were about to receive, via a surprise-announcement on the Jumbotron by Wonderland Vice President Mike Hart. Yesterday they had their first look inside – not far from where Wonderland sales rep Sean McAleavey will show you Wonderland's Expressions model home; and the attractions that are rapidly taking shape in Willow Park East.

Wonderland made Stapleton happen for Sgt. Dominguez through a 10-year program by Operation Finally Home (at OperationFinallyHome.org) – the first Colorado home by a non-profit that has done those for 137 deserving vets in 27 states. Wonderland is modifying the home to work seamlessly for the family – providing a plan that has a main-floor master suite, adding some extra clearances to make getting around easier, and providing a finished 'man cave' area in the basement. Wonderland is a pioneer in new energy technology – and is including a cutting edge ground-source heat pump system that should keep energy costs very, very manageable for the family in coming years.

In Willow Park East, the



Wonderland Homes' Expression Series in Stapleton.

IF YOU GO...

WHERE: Wonderland Homes' 'Expressions' in Stapleton's Willow Park East; furnished model, close to new parks, high school opens this fall, The Shops at Northfield Stapleton. 4987 Tamarac St., Denver; from central Stapleton take MLK Blvd east to Central Park Blvd, turn north 1.9 mi. (across I-70) to Northfield Blvd, left on Northfield 0.3 mi. to Uinta, north 2 blks to 49th Pl, west 1 blk to Tamarac and north

PRICE: From high-\$300s

WHEN: Today noon until 6 p.m.

PHONE: 303-355-3117

WEB: StapletonDenver.com

Dominguez's neighborhood will be wrapped in a half dozen new parks – including Sandhills Prairie Park with a promontory that'll have mountain views; and a wedge-shaped 'Pizza Park' with a wood-fired oven for pizza parties. There'll be a community garden, a dog park, and a new high school Denver Public Schools opens this fall. Of course, Willow Park East puts residents close to The Shops at Northfield Stapleton, a regional

attraction for its Macy's, Bass Pro and other shopping, along with a dozen dining spots including Texas de Brazil, Bar Louie, La Sandia, Starbucks, and TGI Fridays.

Wonderland Homes' Expressions, from the high \$300s, is one of three Wonderland collections you can tour today at Stapleton, along with others by David Weekley, Infinity Home Collection, Standard Pacific, Parkwood, KB

Home, New Town Builders, and Boulder Creek Neighborhoods. From central Stapleton, take Central Park Boulevard north, past I-70, to Northfield Boulevard and turn left a half mile to Uinta.

Mark Samuelson writes on real estate and business; you can email him atmark@samuelsonassoc.com. You can see all of Mark Samuelson's columns online at DenverPostHomes.com