

# Developer helps stop the dirt

A local developer is doing his part to stop silt runoff in Beaver Creek Watershed.

**Shannon Carey**

Ron Worley Jr., president of Worley Builders Inc., hosted members of the Beaver Creek Task Force in his Lexi Landing development Friday. The group tested a new program designed to educate construction site personnel on the importance of silt fencing.

Exposed dirt from construction sites contributes heavily to silt in local creeks and streams. Dirt and silt choke out wildlife and carry pollutants to the creek. Construction sites unprotected by erosion controls lose soil at astonishing rates.

Silt fencing holds silt runoff back from the creek, protecting both the creek and the site from excessive erosion.

The program targets subcontractors, such as painters, plumbers and electricians, workers who do not install or maintain silt fences.

Led by Adopt-A-Watershed Coordinator Ruth Anne Hannah, task force members provided coffee and doughnuts for the subcontractors. Written

silt fence information was given in both English and Spanish. Interactive displays were also bilingual. The group gave out shop rags printed with bilingual silt fence information.

Educators kept the coffee break short to minimize lost work time.

Worley said he wants to keep his site compliant with runoff regulations.

"We're trying to be a neighborhood-friendly development," said Worley. "We want to have a low impact on surrounding properties while still providing homes."

Worley recommended that other developers allow the Beaver Creek Task Force visit their developments with this program.

"Then, everybody would be on the same page. Education is very important," he said.

"Ron has bent over backwards to help us," said Knox County Watershed Coordinator Roy Arthur. "He has done everything that we've asked, and we thank him."

Worley said engineer Ken Church, a former TDEC employee, has been instrumental in helping maintain erosion controls at Lexi Landing.



Plumber Oliver Russell reads a silt fence interactive display during a Beaver Creek Task Force educational "coffee break."

(Photo by Shannon Carey)

"He's very helpful in helping us monitor the site," he said.

Lexi Landing is located off West Emory Road and offers a variety of floor plans between \$90,000 and \$150,000.

Info: Beaver Creek Task Force, 947-9124. Lexi Landing, 922-2600.

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