

Background Information

Initial Awareness

In May of 2007 the writer (John F Mann, PE) became aware of problems with roof truss connections while reading an article (online) published April 22, 2007 in the Island Packet newspaper (<http://www.lowcountrynewspapers.net/archive/node/31127>). The article described problems with connections of "valley" roof trusses installed on houses in the Sun City development in Bluffton, South Carolina.

Previous Comments

After email message and phone discussion about issues discussed in the article, the reporter (Ginny Skalski) provided specific information about valley truss connections for further review. In May of 2007, the writer submitted (via email) preliminary comments based on available information. As far as the writer is aware, those comments were not used by the Island Packet for further reports.

In September of 2007 the writer posted, on the Island Packet web site, several extensive comments about roof truss design in general and the specific problems discovered in Sun City. Those comments, which were viewed by many readers, do not appear to be available any longer on the Island Packet site.

In November 2009, the writer posted extensive comments, on the Island Packet web site, in response to another Island Packet article ("Trusses improperly fastened on homes"; 11-15-09).

Also in November 2009, the writer submitted (via email) a letter to editor of the Island Packet, with the basic advice that "Concerned homeowners should hire an independent, qualified professional engineer, licensed in South Carolina, to evaluate design and construction of the entire roof truss system." There is no indication that the letter was published.

In May 2010, the writer posted comments on the Island Packet web site in response to a letter, published in the Island Packet (4-28-10), by Ryan Rasmussen, identified (at end of letter) as "national engineering manager" of PulteGroup. The writer also sent an email message to two Island Packet reporters with comments about recent articles they had each recently written (separately) about roof truss installations in Sun City. No response was received from reporters.

