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## Green building lauded

by Michelle Miron  
 Managing Editor

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SHOREVIEW — The city has received a Minnesota Construction Association award for Best Green/Sustainable project in honor of its \$5.5 million new maintenance center completed last December.

"We're happy and a bit overwhelmed by that," said Public Works Director Mark Maloney. "We weren't expecting that."

At the Feb. 7 City Council meeting, Maloney presented photographs comparing the center before and after renovations, while architect Dave Olds of Buetow & Associates and construction manager Earl "Doc" Smith of EDS Builders Inc. (both St. Paul-based companies) also spoke briefly.



Building materials used for the maintenance center coordinate with other city-owned buildings nearby. - Submitted artwork

The project expanded the facility from 41,500 square feet to 52,500 square feet and added a second story. Features lauded as "green" include natural lighting in several areas including a vehicle storage area; lighting control systems; a thermoplastic roof that both collects heat and traps and conveys rainwater for vehicle washing; restoration of adjacent shoreline on Lake Martha; efficient heating and cooling systems; upgrading of fencing and a retention pond; tree transplanting; and installation of a porous concrete parking lot that helps collect 95 percent of surface stormwater for treatment.

Mayor Sandy Martin noted that the project, which reclaimed 83 percent of the materials used in the former building, is the only maintenance center in the state to achieve certification in Leadership in Environmental Energy and Design (LEED), the ecology-oriented building program run by the U.S. Green Building Council. Project leaders are now seeking "gold" LEED status, which has even higher standards. Martin attributed part of that accomplishment to requests from the city's all-volunteer Environmental Quality Committee.

"We listened and they were heard, and we have a great building as a result," she said.

Maloney said the center competed for the MCA award against several larger projects statewide.

"Getting LEED is really, really tough," commented Smith. "And if you get recognition from the Minnesota Construction Association, that really speaks volumes."

He said the center came in under budget partly because of the highly competitive bidding process: some 160 contractors threw their hats in the ring.

Among other building highlights mentioned at the meeting: materials and style fit in with other buildings in the Victoria Street city complex; a salt storage building was converted from a concrete bin to a larger facility; outdoor storage areas are better organized; the cafeteria/conference room was expanded to better accommodate the department's more than 40 staffers; kitchen and bathroom areas were upgraded; a wash bay for vehicles was added and a fueling area was upgraded.

Councilwoman Ady Wickstrom asked Olds whether the center could be subject to collapsing from snow weight, a situation affecting several other buildings in Minnesota this winter. Olds' reply: "This building is structurally ready for what Mother Nature can throw at it."

The owner of an average-value \$262,000 home in Shoreview is paying about \$5.85 annually for the center, split equally between utility funds and property taxes.

According to its Website, the non-profit MCA provides networking, business development and education opportunities for workers, educators and students involved in the construction industry.

In other actions at the meeting:

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- At the behest of resident Susan Rengstorf the council considered a request for the creation of an organic community garden at 1170 Lepak Court adjacent to the city's Housing Resource Center. Rengstorf is part of a new group called the Shoreview Garden Committee (part of the Shoreview Green Community) that has scouted potential locations for a 10-plot garden and identified the property as best, partly because of its easy access to water. She said the group is requesting city assistance in plowing, fencing and otherwise maintaining the property, but first would like approval to use the land. Martin said the council would discuss potential costs with city staff. "We're interested," she said. "The devil is in the details."
- Martin reminded residents that the annual Taste of Slice event, to be held from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 24 at the Community Center, will offer food samples from local restaurants, a silent auction, prize drawings and a preview of this summer's Slice of Shoreview festival.
- Martin asked residents to shovel off and clear passage to fire hydrants near their residences, or to notify Public Works if hydrants are buried.
- Martin noted that because of parking lot cameras, the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department has identified some perpetrators who have broken into cars at the Community Center parking lot, but the problem persists. She urged visitors to lock their car doors and take out or hide valuables.
- Wickstrom plugged an Environmental Quality Committee meeting about buckthorn at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17 at the Community Center, and a Great River Greening clean-up event from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. March 26 at Snail Lake Park. Some 200 volunteers are needed; more info is on [www.greatrivergreening.org](http://www.greatrivergreening.org).
- Wickstrom said she and Councilman Terry Quigley recently attended a meeting on the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Project in Maplewood. The Ramsey County League of Local Governments is coordinating local efforts to help service members and their families with community support, training, services and resources. Those interested can e-mail Wickstrom at [ady@adwickstrom.com](mailto:ady@adwickstrom.com) or visit [beyondtheyellowribbon.org](http://beyondtheyellowribbon.org).
- Wickstrom has been appointed to Ramsey County's Grant Review and Evaluation System (GEARS) committee that evaluates capital and operating grant applications and ranks potential projects for the Counties Transit Improvement Board to review.
- Martin reported a "good turnout" at a Feb. 7 meeting of the Shoreview Human Rights Commission program on religious diversity.
- Councilman Ben Withhart reported that the Lake Johanna Fire Department has reduced its average emergency response time by four minutes by adding additional crews.
- Wickstrom said Metro Transit plans this spring to replace several bus shelters in Shoreview that had been removed for various reasons.
- The council unanimously approved an amendment to a planned unit development on Serene Court initiated by Lexington Estate Townhouse Association Three Inc. The move will effectively turn ownership of the complex' private roads over to the city, which will take over maintenance. Maloney estimated that the street, already built to city standards complete with curbs and gutters, will require re-paving in the next five to 10 years at a cost of \$44,000. "We don't want to lead people to think we're going to be adopting all these private streets," commented Martin. "This one meets all of our criteria, but not all townhome associations are going to fall into the same category."
- Wickstrom recommended that the city begin posting its legal notices on its website in addition to printing them in the Shoreview Press.

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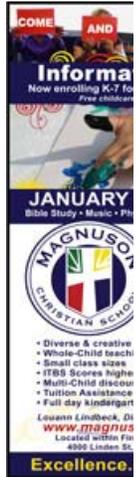
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