



Community Planning and Economic Development Department

# Media Advisory

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*Minneapolis City Goals:* A Safe Place to Call Home □ Jobs & Economic Vitality □ Eco-Focused □ Livable Communities, Healthy Lives □ Many People, One Minneapolis □ A City That Works

## City of Minneapolis Celebrates Sale of First Group of Green Homes North Homes

**What:** On Friday, March 28, at 2:30 p.m., the City of Minneapolis and Green Homes North program partners will celebrate the sale of its first group of Green Homes North homes. The event will be held at the first green home sold, a highly energy efficient home located at 3858 Sheridan Avenue North in the Victory Neighborhood of North Minneapolis.

The home was designed by Jay H. Isenberg, AIA of Peyser, LLC and Phil Rader architect of NVizeon, Inc. and built by Ben Akhigbe of Benoz Homes, Inc. The home was sold to Robert Smith, music professor at St. Olaf College, on December 31, 2013.

Brandon and Anita Knez purchasers of the second Green Homes North home designed by Jay H. Isenberg, AIA of Peyser, LLC and Phil Rader architect of NVizeon, Inc will also participate in the celebration. Their green home is located at 4150 Upton Avenue North, Minneapolis. They closed on February 27 making them the fourth purchasers of a Green Homes North home.

The second and third Green Homes North homes sold are located in the new Hawthorne EcoVillage, a developing North Minneapolis neighborhood committed to strong natural systems, healthy people, and a vibrant community. Both homes located at 424 and 428 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue North respectively were built by Habitat for Humanity and sold in late January. Designed by University of Minnesota architecture students and faculty, 424 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue is a netzero home. Netzero meaning that the total amount of energy used by the building on an annual basis is roughly equal to the amount of renewable energy created onsite.

The celebration will include brief comments by City of Minneapolis Housing Director Tom Streitz, City Council President Barbara Johnson, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency Assistant Commissioner of Single Family Housing Mike Haley, Hennepin County Commissioner Linda Higgins, and Green Homes North homeowners Robert Smith and Brandon and Anita Knez.

**When:** Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m.

**Where:** 3858 Sheridan Avenue, North, Minneapolis, MN  
(home of Mr. Robert Smith)

**MORE:**

Green Homes North is a City of Minneapolis initiative to build 100 affordable, quality, sustainable homes over five years across North Minneapolis to help revitalize some of the neighborhoods that were greatly impacted by the foreclosure crisis and the 2011 tornado. Green Homes North homes range in price from \$150,000 - \$210,000; offer 1,500-1,800 finished square feet, 3 bedrooms, 2-3 bathrooms, open concept designs, quality finishes, full unfinished basements, and green building features. Homes are constructed to the Minnesota Green Communities Standards as developed by the State of Minnesota.

Twenty-seven homes are under construction or completed. Eighteen more homes are planned to break ground in 2014. For more information on Green Homes North visit the [City's website](#) or watch this brief [video](#) about the program and the diverse neighborhoods of North.

Green Homes North is a partnership between the City of Minneapolis, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, Family Housing Fund, and the Twin Cities Community Land Bank.

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