

# Building industry grows greener

## Local Habitat house one of first to hit new standard

By Michelle Brooks

mbrooks@newtribune.com

Community networking, German ingenuity and new technology converged in a unique venture this spring, which is now featured in Sunday's Parade of Homes and also at the first Greening Midwest Communities Conference on Oct. 19-20.

The building industry has taken a step ahead of government regulations, setting higher standards for efficiency and environmentally

friendly activities. The River City Habitat for Humanity home at 802 E. McCarty St. will be among the first projects in the country to meet those more "green" standards, said project chairman Ken Thoenen.

"We took it from the past 100 years and will be able to give it another 100 years of life," Thoenen said.

Techniques and materials that will improve this home's efficiency include lower ceilings, taking advantage of south facing natural light, sealing the basement with a vapor barrier, insulating the rafters, adding a stud wall for insulation space, reusing stone from the razed next-door home in landscaping, fin-

ger-jointed studs, and geothermal heating and cooling, energy star appliances and a rain barrel.

"Green is the holistic approach to the house," Thoenen said. "It's more than just energy. It's about a high-performance type of house."

Even air quality is important.

The homeowner plays a big role in the success of a green home, Thoenen said. This Habitat family will benefit from a homeowner's manual developed by the University of Missouri Extension Center explaining what features the home has, why and how the systems work.

Education also is the goal of  
Please see Green, p. 3



Stephen Brooks/News

Habitat home on McCarty Street is part of the Green Build 201 ct.

participating in the Parade of Homes and the conference.

"It's more than green; it's the science behind a home — to improve health, to save energy, for a better environment for future generations," Thoenen said.

Awareness is the goal of the conference too, what materials and techniques are available and how the industry can better work together, he said.

"We're bringing resources together to be more effective at green," Thoenen said.

"It seems that in this day and age, we all have to do more with less resources. It really makes good business sense, too."

Starting out in the building industry during the 1970s when solar power came and went, Thoenen said he is excited to see such uses returning. And reared by a German conservative, he learned the value of being creative and using what



Stephen Brooks/News Tribune

Work around the "green" rebuild home on McCarty Street includes geothermal heating and cooling.

one has to find a better way to do things, he said.

As for the Habitat project on

McCarty Street, Thoenen said he hopes that it will stand as an example of what can be done

in the Old Town area with other older homes.

www.hbacentralmo.com