

Top Transactions



SUBMITTED PHOTO: SPACECRAFT INC.

This four-bedroom, four-bath Lake Minnetonka home at 5958 Hardscrabble Circle in Minnetrista sold after just five days on the market for \$2.236 million.

Lake Minnetonka home sells in five days

Editor's note: The Top Transactions feature focuses on the latest top home sales in the Twin Cities area. Finance & Commerce checks certificates of real estate value filed for residential transactions as well as data from the Northstar Multiple Listing Service, county records and other sources.

BY ANNE BRETT

Special to Finance & Commerce

5958 Hardscrabble Circle, Minnetrista

When a real estate agent says an existing home looks like new, you can expect a certain measure of exaggeration.

Listing agent Scott Stabeck isn't kidding, however, when he says the house at 5958 Hardscrabble Circle in Minnetrista looks far newer than others built along Lake Minnetonka in 2001.

It was in such great shape that it was on the market just five days before Kenneth and Elizabeth Holec snapped it up for \$2.236 million. They

closed Nov. 19 according to sale records made public this month.

"It was decorated to the nines," said Stabeck of The Stabeck Group of Lakes Sotheby's International Realty in Minnetonka. He credited Minneapolis interior designer Cynthia K. Larson for the polished look, but added the home's story went beyond staging.

The late custom builder Jeffrey Gustafson, founder of Wayzata-based Stonewood, had finished the home in 2001 for his own family, then sold it in 2004 to Gary Westerberg and his wife for \$2.05 million.

A major fire forced the Westerbgs to bring in Stonewood again to remodel in 2008. The result is a crisp, cottage-inspired lake home with four bedrooms, four bathrooms and 6,863 square feet of finished space.

An online photo tour and video show a main level that puts a twist on the usual open floor plan, with vaulted and beamed ceilings and large windows creating a sense of space, but well-defined areas offering inti-

mate spots for conversation, study or dining. A large main-floor master suite provides accessibility and privacy. The open stairwell leads to an open loft space overlooking the foyer.

The walkout lower level uses high ceilings, huge windows and French doors to create the feel of a main floor with a more traditional open floor plan.

The space features a large dining and entertainment area, a kitchen, bedroom suite and outdoor living space leading to 100 feet of north-facing shoreline.

Eventually a widower, John Westerberg remained in the home and moved ownership to his children and their spouses, John and Leslie Westerberg of Plymouth and Ann and James Mhyre of Dallas. When the family was ready to sell, they interviewed several agents before choosing Stabeck.

Marty Siegel of Coldwell Banker Burnet in Edina represented the buyers, who couldn't be reached for comment.