



# 2013 HOME IMPROVEMENT



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Photo by Michael Jacobson

In renovating an old farm house, Amy and Max Meagher removed several walls on the main floor, creating an open floor plan, including their new living room.

## Meaghers enjoy country living in remodeled farm house

*House renovation proceeds in stages*

By Michael Jacobson

The lure of country living – and the need for more space for their growing family – led Amy and Max Meagher to gut and completely renovate an old farm house, located near the outlet of Lake Koronis.

The Meaghers – both Paynesville natives, Max being a 2002 PHS grad and Amy being a 2004 grad – have been married since 2006 and moved back to Paynesville in 2008. Max remodeled a starter house on Minnesota Street for them, but it was just a two-bedroom house. With two young boys, Jamison, 3, and Tyson, almost 2, and a third child on the way (due in April), they needed more space.

They also wanted room outside for the kids to play without having to worry about traffic on a busy city street, so liv-

ing in the country was a plus. “Amy and I both grew up in the country,” said Max, “so we were both used to that.”

They sold their house first, since they didn’t want to have two mortgages, and then started looking for another house. “We were in between, looking for houses,” explained Max, “and had never found anything.” About a year ago, they looked at the farm house, part of a farm owned by Amy’s dad and brother.

It needed a lot of work, but it had great space/size and a perfect location...close

to the river, close to the lake, right on the bike path, Amy’s sister just up the hill, her parents just a mile away, and Max’s parents just across the lake.

“We felt the house had potential,” said Max, who was still reluctant, knowing how much work would be required. “There was just a lot of work to do.”

They had to give notice to the renters so took possession last May. Max – who worked as a carpenter during summers in high school and college and then full-time for a year and a half after college –

started the demolition in mid June.

Sometimes working 20-hour days between the house and his job at school – activities coordinator and head football coach – Max, with the help of friends and family, most notably his dad, Mike, filled three 30-yard dumpsters and two 15-yard dumpsters tearing out walls, wiring, windows, etc. It took a month to complete the demo. “It wasn’t really a fun summer,” said Amy.

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