

Building for all

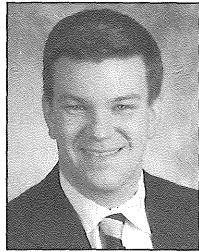
Winkler wants to give everyone the chance to succeed

By **SONJA HEGMAN**

Rep. Ryan Winkler (DFL-Golden Valley) might have a law degree, but he is probably also skilled enough to renovate just about any

house on his own.

The freshman representative has never hired a general contractor for renovations because he loves doing the work himself. That, and he learned carpentry from his father, who is a



Rep. Ryan Winkler

contractor by trade.

Winkler's favorite house architecture is 1950s ranch-style. He and his wife, Jenny, have worked together on house projects, but won't get into the cycle of buying, renovating and selling. They are slowing down a bit with a newborn in the family. Isaac joined 2-year-

old Edward five days before Election Day.

With a bachelor's degree in history from Harvard, Winkler is a history buff and likes a movie "if it's good, not boring," also preferring movies with more of a historical spin. He also travels to Sweden at least once a year to visit his wife's family.

Coming from a long line of Norwegian farmers who homesteaded in Bemidji in 1908, Winkler said he "grew up with a strong sense of community" and felt that would be a benefit as a representative. He said his background in public policy issues gave him another reason to seek the seat vacated by two-term Rep. Ron Latz, who successfully ran for the Senate. Winkler managed Latz's 2004 House campaign.

A lawyer for the last six years, Winkler worked with the Metropolitan Council on transportation issues and has also represented watershed districts, inner-city projects

DISTRICT 44B

2002 population: 36,939

Largest city: St. Louis Park

County: Hennepin

Top concerns: Education, transportation and health care

in Minneapolis and works as a software company's lawyer. He plans to sponsor bills related to education and technology.

Education, transportation and health care are the areas Winkler wants to work on for his district. He said they all are equally important. With a lot of redevelopment in his district, Winkler sees the light rail system as an integral part of the "quality of life in Minnesota." The state's economic growth is also vital, he said, and education, transportation and health care are all a part of that.

"We need to make sure all Minnesotans have the opportunity to succeed," he said.