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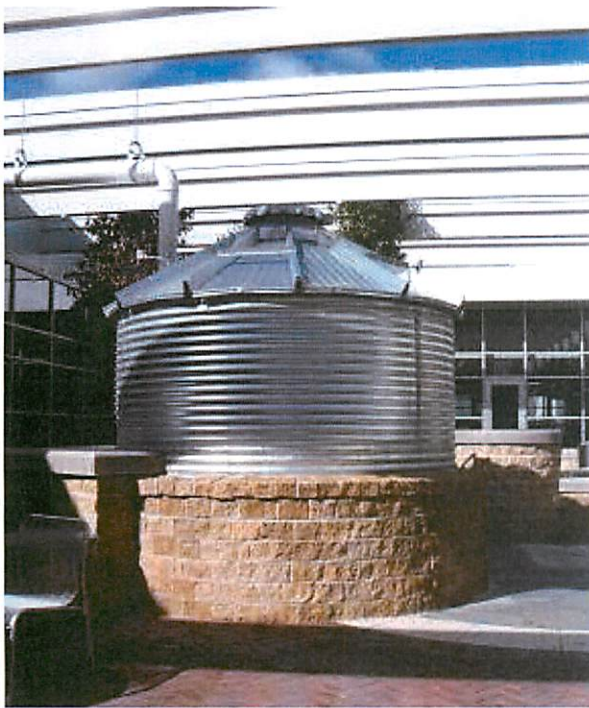
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## New Skokie police station wins green certificate



By Brian L. Cox Special to the Tribune July 5, 2011 at 4:35 p.m.



This cistern outside the new Skokie police station collects rainwater, which is used to irrigate the property. The cistern is among the features that earned the village a green building certification. (Photo for TribLocal by Brian Cox)

Most police stations have holding cells, booking rooms and a firing ranges, but the new Skokie police facility is probably one of the few with a 4,500-gallon cistern that collects rain water from the roof for reuse in irrigating plants and grass.

The cistern is just one of many environmentally friendly features built into the new police station that allowed the building to earn Gold LEED certification as established by the U.S Green Building Council, and the Green Building Certification Institute.

“It’s been a long time coming,” said Dane Smith, assistant to the Skokie chief of police. Smith has been working on the new police station since 2005, when the village did a space needs study. He was also

part of the team that worked to ensure the building at 7300 Niles Center Road would contain as many environmentally friendly “green” initiatives as possible.

“The police department and the village are very proud of the fact we were able to achieve this,” Smith said of the Gold LEED certification. “It’s consistent with the village’s ongoing mission to be energy efficient.”

There is “low-e glass” throughout the building to take advantage of natural light, which minimizes the need for electricity. The roof is made from a white membrane that reflects heat in the summer to make cooling far more efficient and keeps heat in the building during the winter.

Floor and ceiling tiles throughout the building are made from recycled materials, and there is even an environmentally friendly procedure for disposing of the lead bullets taken from the firing range. All the plants in and around the building are native to the area, and rainwater collected by the courtyard cistern is reused to irrigate the entire site.

“One of the features that draws people attention is the cistern in the courtyard,” said Smith. “It basically collects rainwater from the roof and the water is reused to irrigate the entire site. It’s an energy efficient, resource efficient use of the property. It’s a visual focal point as well as a LEED and green focal point.”

He said the LEED Gold certification was based on the building’s green design and construction features including water-efficient landscaping; water-use reduction; use of recycled content and regionally sourced materials; heat mitigation; use of low-emitting paints, coatings, carpet systems, composite wood and other materials; maximization of open space and optimal energy performance.

“I think the employees are taking a greater appreciation of the green initiatives ... now that they’ve been introduced to the concept,” said Smith. “It’s been kind of an educational experience for everybody here.”

The 80,000-square-foot building opened last fall and cost approximately \$30 million to construct, including the price of the land, but Mayor George Van Dusen said it is a building for the future.

“The community can be very proud of the new Skokie Police Headquarters achieving Gold LEED certification,” he said in a statement. “The construction and design of the new building required extensive analysis, planning and effort and will serve the Police Department and Skokie residents for years to come.”