

# 2015 Construction Value Sets Another Record In SF

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — It was another record year for building in South Dakota's largest city.

Sioux Falls issued more than 12,000 building permits this year, with a total value of more than \$675 million. That beat last year's tally of just under \$620 million worth of construction, the *Argus Leader* newspaper reported.

The construction includes everything from new homes and apartments to commercial buildings.

"Our strength lies in our incredible diversity," Mayor Mike Huether said. "We are booming all over town, across all construction sectors, and with so many, many projects."

It's the third consecutive year for record

construction valuation in Sioux Falls. Home renovation and remodels were the biggest reasons for this year's increase, accounting for about 80 percent of the total permits.

New single-family dwellings are up about 1 percent from last year, and town house permits are up 16 percent from last year.

A June 2014 hail storm also was a factor in this year's increase, with more than 5,700 roofing permits approved. That's more than double what's approved in a typical year, according to Building Services Director Ron Bell.

Huether predicted the city will continue to grow, and that "2016 should be rock solid, too."

## Man Hurt In Lincoln Gas Line Fire Has Died

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Authorities say an 82-year-old man injured in a Lincoln fire has died.

Lincoln police say Georgiy Kuznetsov (GYOR'-gee kooz-neht-SAHF) died Monday afternoon at a Lincoln hospital.

City fire inspector Damon Robbins says a caregiver found Kuznetsov inside the house around 11:30 p.m. Saturday. Kuznetsov was outside the house and covered in a blanket when firefighters arrived.

Robbins says that inside the home, a 2-foot flame was shooting from a broken gas line, and the stove had apparently been moved. There was no apparent damage to the building.

## Nesses

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in hundreds of suggestions, a proposal to make Yankton the entrepreneurship capital of the state was ultimately chosen.

He added that it was a great sign seeing how the community took to the idea.

"When we had our contest, we had 508 people submit ideas of things they'd like to see or variations of things," he said. "That, in itself was phenomenal. There are people in this town that are truly interested in seeing Yankton develop and grow into something better than today. If we can get that type of support, we're going to be successful."

Larry Ness was the keynote speaker at the kickoff of Onward Yankton on April 1.

Diane Ness said she's enjoyed seeing the effect the Onward project had on the community.

"It's exciting to see people talking about it," she said. "It's really spurred people to think."

Larry said he sees Onward Yankton as a response to an air of negativity he's witnessed regarding progress.

"There's been some negative people in this town," he said. "They have been an impediment to the progress of this town for the 32 years that I've been here, and I'm tired of it. I think the community is tired of it. We need to get things going. It benefits everyone in the town — it isn't just businesses benefitting, but it's the people that work at those businesses. It's the people that shop at these businesses, and consequently, that's why I'm involved in it, because I want to see things happen that are good for our town."

Larry said a desire to build

the community is helping the program press on into 2016.

"There are so many people in town that really want to get things moving," he said. "It's been a lot of effort, and we've got a long ways to go to show positive results, but we've got committees assigned, we're trying to develop a plan to get other people and businesses involved, and I am really looking forward to that project moving forward. It's going to be great for Yankton if we can just get it going."

### CLUB FOR YOUTH

Late this summer, work began on what will become the new home of the Yankton Boys & Girls Club, thanks in part to donations from the Nesses.

Diane said they've been involved with helping the program in its mission for the last couple of years after having an opportunity to see the operations for themselves.

"We toured the one here and the one in Brookings and saw how excited the kids were to be there and what a need there was for it," she said.

She added that she's impressed with the amount of involvement youth have in the program.

"What impressed me were some of the things those children are learning," she said. "They have nutrition programs, budgeting, manners, community service; they have arts and crafts, music opportunities, physical opportunities. They are teaching children things and they're not just there to babysit or play."

The Nesses have contributed \$2 million of their own money to the project. First Dakota National Bank has contributed another \$1 million.

Larry said the program

is a huge benefit to the community.

"We're really excited about what we see from Boys & Girls Club in the city of Yankton because it has and will improve the quality of life for the kids and their parents," he said.

Larry, who is also the CEO for First Dakota National Bank, said businesses benefit from having a program like this in town.

"As a business man, I know what happens when school gets out," he said.

"I've got employees wondering, 'Well, I wonder what my kid's up to now.' At 3:30, they aren't thinking about working, they're thinking about, 'I've got to take care of my kid.' Maybe they've got to go get their kids and take them to a babysitter or something like that. It relieves the stress for the parents, without a doubt, and makes them more productive for their employers. This is a win-win for everybody."

### NEWSMAKERS

Larry said that he and Diane have been more than happy to help contribute to the city's quality of life initiatives.

"These are two very important things for our town right now," he said. "We're pleased to have had a small part in the beginnings. ... This is an exciting time in Yankton for lots of reasons, and Diane and I are really pleased to see the support taking place for Boys & Girls Club, as well as the excitement that's being generated amongst younger people for Onward Yankton."

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### 1107 Summit • 149,500

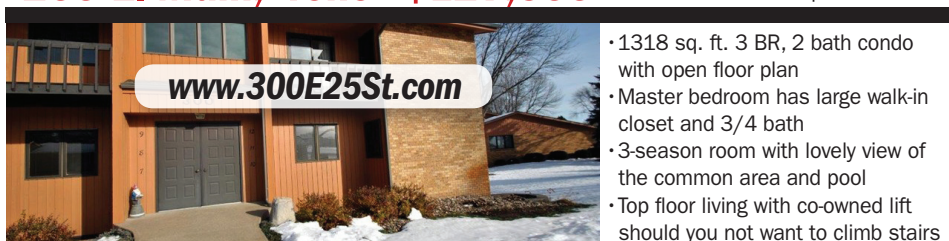
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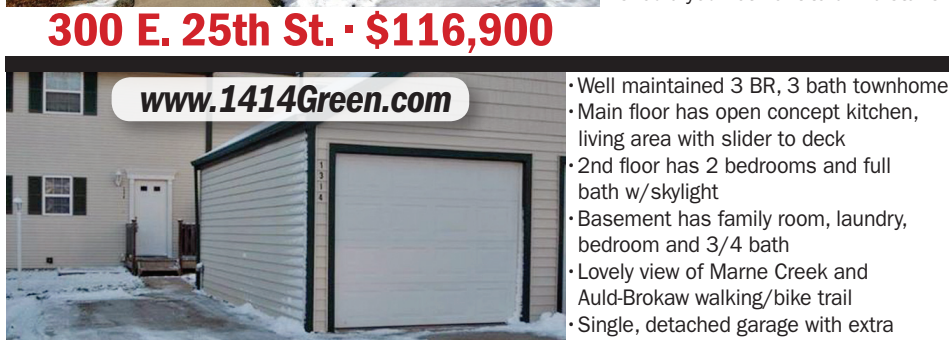
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- Single, detached garage with extra parking pad

## Muggsys

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the business and pave the way for a new hot spot.

The beginnings created promise. But soon, competitors moved in throughout Yankton. Places like Little King Restaurant, Quizno's, Blimpie Subs & Salads and Subway entered the ranks of the sandwich game.

"A number of people said that restaurants were a 90 percent failure factor," John said. "People said, 'You can't make it. You won't do it. There's no way.' When Subway came, people thought they were going to run us out of town. Now, all are gone but Subway, and here we are."

It was things like fresh, quality ingredients and good service that kept people coming back, John said. It was the tradition of Muggsy's that defied all odds for 28 years.

"We were the 'Cheers' of the eatery industry — the place where everyone knows your name," John said. "We tried to do that with our customers and create that kind of atmosphere. I want to let people know that they were greatly appreciated."

As Muggsy's grew in popularity, several media outlets began showcasing the eatery's subs. Maxim magazine rated Muggsy's steak and cheese sandwich as 10th in the country, among cities like New Orleans, New York and Los Angeles, in 2004. That coverage drew even more attention as people from across the Midwest came to taste the rating for themselves.

"We are very grateful and appreciative to have had those features done on us,"

John said. "That attributed to our success over the years. If we can get someone to come in, we have no trouble retaining them or bringing them back. Just get them in the door and give them the warm welcome and great food."

Along with the media coverage came recognition from several celebrities throughout the years including South Dakota natives like Tom Brokaw, Adam Vinatieri and Ted Nugent, not to mention other sports icons like professional boxer Thomas Hearns and professional basketball coach Billy Donovan.

All of these notables are remembered and included in the Muggsy's Door of Fame, a tradition of documenting notable people who have eaten at Muggsy's over the years.

"These people always made a point to stop in and get their picture taken," John said. "Not only have we known these people, we have gotten to be friends with a lot of them. These wonderful opportunities would not have been extended to us had we not had Muggsy's and had it not been as successful."

The Murray's say they fielded quite a few offers in the last few years from people willing to buy the place, but many interested parties wanted the building more so than the business, John said. They even looked at selling the location and continuing the business downtown. Although they don't plan on starting a new shop, both John and Pam admit they were fighting to keep the current shop intact.

"Our preference was to keep Muggsy's how Muggsy's is," Pam said. "The new owner" has the basics. It has worked all these years, I say keep it the same."

Both John and Pam have made themselves available

to the new general manager, who has been in the food business for a while, according to Pam, and understands the complexities of running an eating establishment.

On their last day on the job (Dec. 22), John and Pam were sad to go but excited to start their new adventure.

"It hasn't really hit us yet," Pam said. "Once you do it and walk out the door the last time, it was hard to say goodbye. It's exciting and bittersweet."

With a new-found flexibility for family time and dotting on their new grandchildren, the Murray's will be taking some much-needed time off for rest and relaxation. But they are by no means ready to retire. The couple plans to soon hit the pavement in the search for a new career.

Although the couple is saying goodbye to a new chapter, they will cherish the memories made at Muggsy's.

"We want to thank our immediate family for their loyal support and our family of customers," Pam said. "It is because of them. I always say, 'The customers must be doing something right, because they keep coming back.'"

After their many years of service, both John and Pam are proud to have had their success be remembered as a legacy of Yankton.

"What an honor it has become for us to be mentioned in the same sentence as Tastee Treat, Charlie's Pizza and the Black Steer," John said. "These are icons. This is Yankton. The pinnacle of the best of the eatery business, and now people would put us in that category. That was a big tribute and a thrill to me. That's when you knew you had something that brings them back."

Follow @alwooc01 on Twitter.

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