

Press & Dakotan

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ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/VERMILLION PLAIN TALK
Construction on the new O'Reilly Auto Parts store in Vermillion is under way. The project is one of many currently in progress in Vermillion.

Vermillion Sees Many Fall Building Projects

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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VERMILLION – As you have driven around Vermillion the past few weeks and months you may have noticed there are a lot of changes going on. From renovations and remodels to new construction, it is clear Vermillion is a city on the grow: O'Reilly Auto Parts near Walmart, a new First Dakota National Bank on Cherry Street, an addition at Polaris and the cement plant, not to mention all of the new residential construction going on, Vermillion is building for the future.

According to executive director of the Vermillion Chamber and Development Company (VCDC) Nate Welch, it is all part of the strategic plan of the community.

"I think we often forget how much really great progress we have in this community and it is fun that you hit certain cycles where all of a sudden you get to see all that activity going on," he said. "Polaris is finishing their addition, which is 225,000 square feet which is an amazingly large building project. Next to them there are some new storage units in that area, it is an exciting time. At Bliss Point we have a number of houses that are going up and a few that are almost completed. There are duplexes on Cherry Street. It really is fun to consistently see activity going on."

What is unusual is all of this new construction is taking place in late October.

"We are doing a very good job at good consistent growth," Welch said. "With that consistent growth, sometimes you do hit that cool time when a lot of different streets and roads you go down in town you do see that new construction. That is really a great sign of a healthy community and a community that is moving forward. I don't know that I am surprised at the date they are starting, because I was aware of them going on, but it is nice to see them continuing and not slowing down in October. Better yet, to see them say 'I am not going to let the option or fear of cold slow me down.' That is a fun thing to see."

Welch said another fun thing to see is the growth in all

sectors of the community.

"When you look at all the different industries and construction, some of them are built with specific purposes, some of them are built for expansion and some of them are built with the specific purpose of expectation and forward thinking that we will be able to fill it," he said. "With all of that mix it helps us so next year we will see the results of that and, hopefully, have more projects going."

SHARING THE SUCCESS

Welch said a unique aspect of the community of Vermillion across the region is that almost everyone has a reason to have visited the community.

"When you think about it, Vermillion is one of the few communities in South Dakota that everyone has an experience with because of having the University of South Dakota here, because of having the DakotaDome, because of having state high school football, there is a reason to visit Vermillion, not to mention all the graduates that USD produces," he said. "So many people in South Dakota have a perception of Vermillion. Our job is to update that perception and as we update them, we are surprising them. They don't know all the changes that have been going on."

He said sharing the changes and how the community has grown is one of the fun aspects of his job.

"Think of how many people go on Highway 50 and all the little changes they get to see," he said. "When all of a sudden they really notice and see the changes. When Walmart goes up and all of a sudden Polaris is here, your perception of Vermillion changes and you realize you need to update your opinion of Vermillion. It is really fun not only to see a lot of in-town changes, but it is fun when you have activity on the north side of town because it isn't just a sign of growth, it is also a great way for people to see the changes in Vermillion."

Welch noted that people are pleasantly surprised by what they are seeing.

"One of the reactions that we are seeing – that I wasn't expecting – has been genuine happiness for the town," he said. "You meet so many

people who see the potential of the community and when they see that growth they get genuinely happy for you. It is like seeing that person you were cheering for succeed and grow. When you have people who have a special place in their hearts for Vermillion and they see it growing, not only are they pleasantly surprised, they are genuinely happy for you."

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

"I think that Vermillion has had fantastic potential, it has had great leaders that have had a great vision for the community, but what is great is we are starting to realize that potential and starting to believe that we can do it," Welch said. "There is real validity to believing that you can do it. You have to be able to execute, to have that strategic plan to look forward, but sometimes it starts with believing we are a town that has a lot of potential."

Adding that development of people is a huge component of growth, Welch said Vermillion is in a very unique position.

"We do have a unique community with the University here where it brings a lot of people in, but at the same time a lot of people leave the community each year," he said. "So, how can we set up a system when someone comes to town for whatever reason it might be, that they can be engrained into the community as quickly as possible and want to stay. That will make a difference."

He said a key to that success will be identifying what roles are needed.

"In a community different people serve different purposes," Welch said. "You do have to have a community of optimistic engaged citizens. They have to be able to see the challenges and surmount them. That really starts with engagement and really having people feel engaged, whether that is with a church or a community organization. On the Chamber side, we want to be that nucleus for the business community, for the professional community, because we like carrying that burden of helping promote the community. The development really does start from within and it is not a quick turn. It isn't a year change, it is a progress step-by-step change that takes commitment and it takes everybody understanding what their role is and committing to it."

After identifying the needs and roles of the community then it is time to help businesses grow.

"When it comes to the development of the businesses entrepreneurship, it is helping people figure out what businesses do you want to start?" Welch said. "What business do you want to grow in? How do we get good, strong businesses that can grow for them and take care of their employees and be great places to work? That is what it comes down to. We are not going to be able to create 10,000 CEOs out of here, but we are going to be able to create good, strong companies that we can support both them and their employees. We want to invest in those companies

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OBITUARIES

William Jacobsen

William C. (Bill) Jacobsen, 83.5, of Sturgis, passed away at home surrounded by his family on October 29, 2015.

Bill was born on April 29, 1932, to Alice and Randolph Jacobsen of Yankton. He shared fond memories of growing up in Yankton, like chasing the ice wagon in summer for cast-off chips and playing along the Missouri River. He served in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict and finished his education at Yankton College and the University of South Dakota.

A blind date led to a happy and long marriage to Kay Unger. They had three children; all were told at one time or another they were "Number One."

Bill spent most of his career as a high school principal, but always referred to himself as a teacher. He served as a Mason, Shriner and Lion and delivered Meals on Wheels.

Retirement led Bill and Kay to their ranch on Nemo Road. For many years they walked through the woods, golfed and played duplicate bridge. They enjoyed family gatherings where Bill taught his grandchildren how to hand feed wild birds, play Russian rummy, perform magic tricks, and tell wonderful tales. Bill had adventure in his soul.

Bill is sadly missed by Kay, his wife of 56 years, his daughter, Pam Mitchell, her husband Gary and children Tegan, David, Bill and Mara, his daughter Kristine (C.C.) Downs, her husband David and son Max, and his son Brad Jacobsen, his wife Renée and children Nikki, Sam, Ben and Jak.

Bill is also survived by his siblings Marge Berke, Margaret Engen, Sue (Larry) Good, Tom (Jean) Jacobsen, Steve (Chris) Jacobsen, Becky (Terry) Thunker, and sister-in-law Beverly Unger, along with many nieces and nephews. Bill was preceded in death by his parents, Kay's parents Floyd and



Jacobsen



Orpah Unger, his siblings Jack Jacobsen, Janice Powell and her husband John, and brothers-in-law Jim Berke, Bruce Unger and Jim Engen.

Bill lived a long, happy, and fulfilled life. Years ago, when asked what he wanted on his tombstone, he thought for a bit and replied, "He was kind."

Memorials may be sent to the Shriners Hospital for Children, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or Hospice of the Northern Hills. A private memorial service will be held at a later date.

An online guestbook is available at blackhillsfuneral-home.com.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
October 31, 2015

Werner Kitzler

Werner W. Kitzler, 73, of Vermillion passed away on Thursday, Oct. 29, 2015, in Rochester, Minnesota.

Funeral arrangements are pending with Kober Funeral Home of Vermillion.

SACRED HEART PARISH

BAZAAR & DINNER

Sunday, November 1, 2015
10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sacred Heart Parish Center, 509 Capital St., Yankton

Serving delicious turkey dinner with stuffing, mashed potatoes & gravy, choice of salads, bun, dessert & beverage

Family Fun Games For All Ages at Link Auditorium including Bingo 12-2PM

Take Out Meals! Raffle! Games! Religious Book Sale! Bakery Booth & More!

6th Grade to Adult \$10, 3 Yrs.-5th Grade \$5, Children 2 Years & Younger Free

Yankton Youth Soccer Association

is currently accepting registrations for Indoor Club and Outdoor Club Soccer. Registration is open now through November 15, 2015 for players in the U10 thru U19 age groups. Please go to www.yanktonsoccer.com and register today.

Fees are as follows:

U10-U14 Boys & Girls Indoor Club	\$15
U10-U14 Boys & Girls Outdoor Club	\$25
U10-U14 Boys & Girls Indoor and Outdoor	\$35
U16-U19 Boys & Girls Indoor Club, Outdoor Club and Spring Rec... ..	\$50

Please note that the above fees are YYSA fees only and there will be additional tournament fees collected by the individual club teams. If you have any questions please feel free to call any YYSA board member whose numbers can be found at www.yanktonsoccer.com/contact.

This is an attempt to lessen the amount of work the club coaches and managers have to do to collect registration fees from the parents at tryouts.

The family of Marcella Kolda wishes to express their appreciation to all who have comforted and cared for their mom during her recent illness and passing. Especially the staff of Sacred Heart Hospital, 4th floor nursing and ER, Avera Sister James Care Center, Cabin unit, and Sunset Manor Irene, SD. Thanks also to the staff and volunteers of Sacred Heart Parish, the emergency responders of Yankton, Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home, and the many friends and visitors. Your kindness and compassion have been appreciated during this time of sorrow.

Thank you,
The family of Marcella Kolda

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