

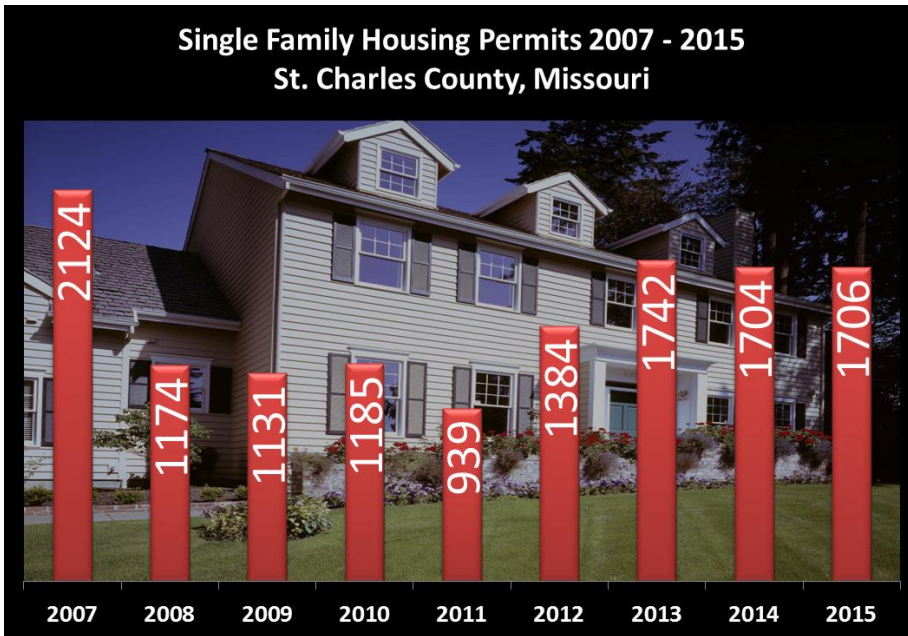
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“NEW NORMAL” IN LOCAL HOUSING CONSTRUCTION MARKET

Third consecutive year of new single family housing permits hitting 1,700 in St. Charles County



ST. CHARLES COUNTY, MO - For the third consecutive year, new single-family housing permits issued in St. Charles County, MO, were in the 1,700 range, according to annual statistics just released by the County’s Community Development Department.

Total single-family housing permits were 1,706 for 2015, 1,704 for 2014 and 1,742 for 2013. Prior to the national housing bubble bursting, permits totaled 2,124 in 2007 and fell to their modern low of 939 in 2011.

“We see 1,700 as something of a new normal for the time being in our

community,” said St. Charles County Executive Steve Ehlmann, adding, “but we still believe the area can return to the 2,000 annual range in the future.”

The top five communities for new home construction in St. Charles County were Wentzville with 596 single family permits issued, O’Fallon with 357, St. Charles City with 171, St. Peters with 143 and Lake Saint Louis with 123.

Ehlmann pointed out approximately 50 percent of all single-family housing construction in eastern Missouri happens in St. Charles County, according to statistics from the Home Builders Association of St. Louis. “For more than 30 years, St. Charles County has established itself as the leader in new home construction in the St. Louis region. That remained true during the recent recession and it is still true today,” he said.

Obvious growth areas include Wentzville, parts of O’Fallon, St. Paul, Foristell and unincorporated St. Charles County. However, Ehlmann was especially pleased with the Villages of Provence development in an older neighborhood in St. Charles.

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