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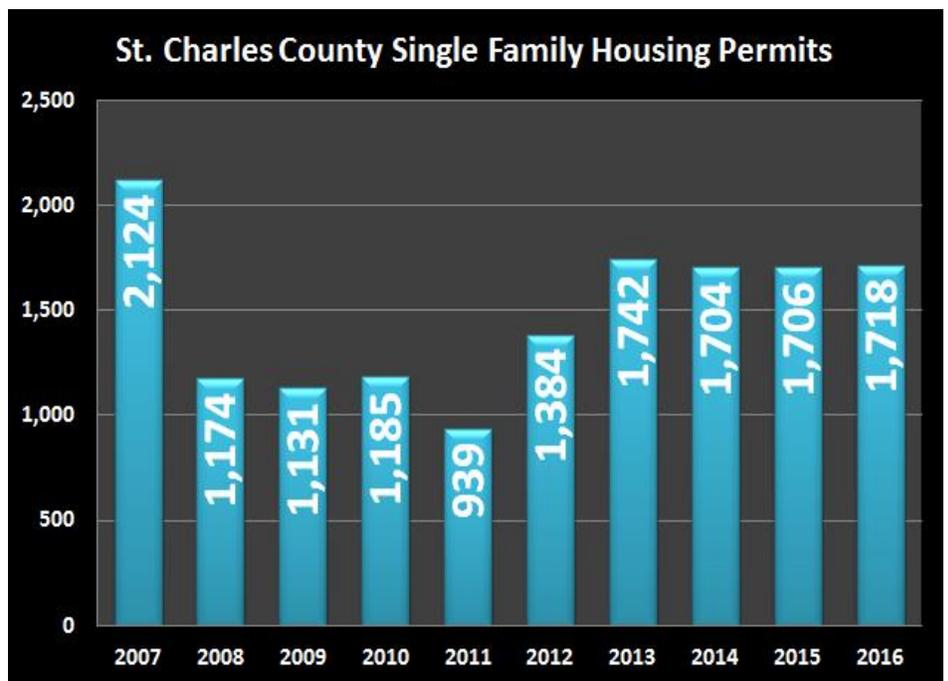
NEW HOUSING STARTS SHOW FOUR-YEAR TREND IN ST. CHARLES COUNTY

ST. CHARLES COUNTY, MO --- For the fourth consecutive year, single family housing permits totaled just more than 1,700 in St. Charles County, according to annual figures from the County’s Department of Community Development. For 2016, the County and municipalities issued 1,718 permits; 1,706 in 2015, 1,704 in 2014, and 1,742 in 2013.

Wentzville led the community for the fifth consecutive year with 636 single family housing permits issued in 2016. Second was O’Fallon with 381, followed by St. Charles City with 263 and unincorporated St. Charles County with 128.

“St. Charles County continues to lead the St. Louis region with approximately 50 percent of all new home construction,” says St. Charles County Executive Steve Ehlmann. “We have all clearly settled into a new, sustainable pattern.”

In 2007, prior to the recession, 2,124 permits were issued in St. Charles County. The historic high point was 2002, when there were 5,069.



“While most home builders are still focused on story-and-a-half and ranch style family homes, we also are seeing some diversity in the new housing,” says Mike Hurlbert, Director of the St. Charles County Department of Community Development. “Multi-family housing helps to better accommodate the needs of Boomers, Millennials and entry-level workers.” In 2016, 81 multi-family housing permits for 646 units were issued in St. Charles County. In 2015, there were 68 permits for 482 units, in 2014, 128 permits for 883 units, and in 2013, 74 permits for 333 units.

“We need to not only serve the existing population as they move through the stages of life,” County Executive Ehlmann says, “but ensure our community and region build enough diverse housing stock to attract the new residents we need to meet employment demands as the economy continues to grow.”

For more information about the local economy, please contact the St. Charles County Department of Workforce & Business Development at 636-255-6060 or visit <http://www.sccmo.org/Workforce-Business-Development>

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Founded in 1812, St. Charles County is one of the fastest growing counties in Missouri, and the state's third largest county in both population and economic share. St. Charles County consistently ranks one of the healthiest places to live in Missouri in the County Health Rankings report published by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. It is home to 12 scenic county parks encompassing more than 2,800 acres with additional land under development and more in reserve for future development.

With a population of 385,840, St Charles County is home to large employers including Citi, MasterCard Worldwide, Boeing and General Motors. It is ranked among the top 25 counties in the nation in high-tech job growth by the Progressive Policy Institute and consistently has the lowest unemployment rate in the Metropolitan St. Louis area.

St. Charles County employs nearly 1,100 in more than 30 departments and offices, who work to make the county an excellent place to live, work and shop.

For more information, please visit www.sccmo.org.