

Value of 2012 building permits levels off

Written by Elizabeth Barrett

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Business projects estimated to cost \$3.1 million

Based on estimates of project costs in building permits issued in 2012, Gothenburg business and residence owners spent or plan to spend \$5,199,947.

The amount is less than half the estimated valuation in 2011, which included a doctor's clinic, a downtown building renovated by Nebraska Salt & Grain and new bins and improvements at All-Points Cooperative, the airport and Eastside Animal Center, but more than the 2010 figure of \$2.9 million.

Building permits for new business construction and renovation in 2012 is estimated at \$1,350,000.

City clerk Connie Dalrymple, who keeps track of building permits, said a positive number—even though it's lower than the previous year—is still good news.

"It indicates whether or not the community is experiencing growth," Dalrymple said.

At a time when many rural towns are losing business and population, Gothenburg is growing.

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Renovations and/or additions to businesses made up the lion's share of the total at \$2,305,600.

Six businesses applied for building permits for the following projects:

Five-Star Flooring moved into a new building still under renovation.

Year	Total	1996	1997
2012	\$3,139,967	\$18,698,136	
2011	\$11,874,000	\$4,271,767	
2010	\$2,959,460	\$4,716,710	
2009	\$8,498,890	\$1,375,920	
2008	\$2,252,084	\$496,549	
2007	\$9,501,925	\$1,905,627	
2006	\$2,977,765	\$52,292	
2005	\$1,429,533	\$291,330	
2004	\$5,214,390	\$280,375	
2003	\$1,494,602	\$293,084	
2002	\$17,257,432	\$713,968	
2001	\$1,137,957	\$732,045	
2000	\$1,401,553	\$1,251,251	
1999	\$3,940,121	\$858,629	
1998	\$5,913,831		
1997	\$4,560,048		

Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District expanded existing space and constructed a new building.

The Travel Inn installed a motel pool pump.

All Points Cooperative built chemical storage.

Chris Healey renovated a building at 1001 Lake Ave. into offices (including the Gothenburg Area Chamber of Commerce)

Gothenburg Livestock added holding pens.

Building permits for new business construction added another \$850,000.

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The biggest single project in 2012 is a new restaurant, Nebraska Bar & Grill, which is estimated to cost \$750,000 and will be built north of Comfort Suites.

Also under the new construction category is a warehouse for a bee-keeping business that adds \$100,000.

A look at new housing costs reveals that the estimated price of new homes in 2012 is higher than normal, Dalrymple said.

Building permits for five houses totalling \$1,438,520, were issued.

The average cost per home is \$287,704.

No permits were requested in 2012 for the building of duplexes or triplexes.

Building or changing 13 garages added up to \$221,197 and construction of seven sheds or other storage structures totalled \$68,346.

The owners of six residential properties applied for building permits, estimated to cost \$66,473, to improve structures.

Local residents also spent about \$44,210 to build or improve 12 patios, decks or carports.

Fourteen fences accounted for an estimated \$31,479 in construction.

Four categories are listed under miscellaneous and contribute \$174,122 to the total.

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Concrete poured at Pony Express Chevrolet and Gothenburg Public Schools, two homes, a church and for a play scape and the installation of two pergolas totalled \$136,555.

Twelve permits, issued for the installation of sprinkler systems, added \$35,257.

Moving six structures totalled \$2,310 and 10 properties were demolished. They included three houses, a barn, garage, motel, elevator and sheds.

There were eight requests for building permits in the signs and canopies category.

In 1982, when The Times began tracking the value of building permits, the total was a mere \$858,929.

Valuation from city building permits peaked at \$18.6 million when Frito-Lay came to town 17 years ago.

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