

PLANNING STAFF NEWS - TOM WARNE RETIRES

The Planning Department is saddened to announce the retirement of Tom Warne, Chief Building Inspector. Tom has experienced multiple health challenges in the past months and made the decision to retire. We will miss Tom's expertise and experience, but most of all a daily dose of his friendship and humor. The following interview was printed in the newsletter one year ago.



↑ The real Tom

← Tom receiving a chef created dessert which he won in a raffle.

Tom is a county native, born and raised in Humboldt, SD, and willing to admit it. In the beginning of his career Tom did a short stint at Morrells, worked at a whole sale supply company, and spent three years as a carpenter. "Some of the houses are still standing."

Tom pursued an education in drafting and civil engineering. He began his county career working for two departments - Planning and Equalization. Tom split his time working both as a draftsman and an appraiser. Luckily for the Planning Department the inspector job opened up and Tom left Equalization behind.



TOM WARNE



Under the category time served, Tom is the ranking member in this department, having started employment in January of 1981. Tom stated that the best part of his job "is being outdoors and working with different contractors. It's always interesting to see the new trends in house design". During the past 29 years Tom has seen the building code become stronger, resulting in better quality construction.

Tom also is involved in maintaining the county's GIS, the computer mapping system. Most people don't realize that the GIS was constructed from the original mylar maps. Tom drafted of every section in the county, including the municipalities and Sioux Falls. Now, he digitally adds all new plats and splits to keep the system current with the county's development. Thanks Tom, for consenting to the interview !

