

COMMUNITY OUTLOOK – EUREKA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

A look over the past year at the activities of the Eureka Community Development Company (ECDC) shows a variety of activities and projects that were spearheaded by the group.

Training topics were suggested by community members, speakers were found, and ECDC sponsored several. V.J. Smith presented two sessions that dealt with customer service and listening skills; they were entitled “The Magic of the Extra Step” and “Replenishing the OhZone”. Pastor Ryan Gage taught a parliamentary procedure class “How to Lead a Meeting” and it will be repeated on November 19. ECDC has paid all costs associated with these sessions and all who attended did so at no charge. “Succession Planning” will be offered in January.

Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University is a 9-week course facilitated by Pastor Gage on Sunday afternoons January through March. This personal finance course will be sponsored for the third year beginning in January 2016. There is a charge for the textbooks, workbooks and supplies.

Another 3-year program coordinated by ECDC is “Rooster Rush” through the SD Dept. of Tourism. Through a grant program ECDC receives t-shirts and posters, then distributes them to local businesses as a tourism tool during pheasant season.

Encouraging graduating students to “return home to work, raise a family, retire” is done through the Care Package program. For the third year ECDC is sending care packages to EHS graduates from the past 2 years. These include letters from community members, information about Eureka, an issue of the NW Blade, and beef jerky from Kauk’s Meat Market.

The annual meeting in 2015 featured Holly Hoffman as both a speaker and a facilitator. Through the program that evening community members were able to give their input, volunteer for specific areas of interest, and meet in those groups to set a course of action. Those action planning groups are still active.

The website at www.eurekasd.com has sections that list information about businesses, events, the city, organizations, housing, and other areas. This is done as a courtesy for those who would like the information listed and it is used by people throughout the country and world.

The Eureka Facebook page is form of social media that has attracted a wide following, especially among EHS graduates. Pictures of the area and listings of events are common daily entries. That site is Eureka South Dakota.

The Welcome Bag project is a way to let people new to Eureka know about the local businesses and organizations. Pamphlets, business cards and promotional items are collected from local entities, assembled into bags, and distributed to new residents. People need to know what goods and services are available so they can support local businesses.

Offering a free copy service to all local organizations results in many thousands of copies made throughout the year. Scheduling meetings for the conference room allows organizations to use the handicapped accessible area on a first come basis, and it can be reserved months in advance.

Over the course of the year, the Eureka Community Development Company has worked with many businesses and potential businesses; some are local and others have an interest in being in Eureka. Help with sources of financing, business planning, locations, and legalities are common areas of help. ECDC works with individuals wishing to purchase existing businesses as well as establishing new ones. Because of the confidential nature of the dealings, the public generally does not know when these things are happening.

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